



# Diploma Programme

**The  
IB Diploma Programm  
at the  
Albert-Schweitzer-Gymnasium  
  
Wolfsburg**

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## What is the IB Diploma?

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme is a two-year educational curriculum designed for students in upper secondary school aged 16 to 20. It concludes with the awarding of the "IB Diploma." Since its establishment in 1968, the programme has been administered by the non-profit International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), headquartered in Switzerland. The IBO oversees the centralized final examinations and awards the qualification upon successful completion.

Offered predominantly in English, the IB Diploma is recognized in over 110 countries as a direct qualification for admission to universities and colleges. Globally, there are more than 5,000 IB World Schools, including approximately 80 in Germany. While the majority of IB schools are private, the number of public high schools (Gymnasien) in Germany offering the IB Diploma for highly motivated and internationally oriented students is steadily increasing.

To obtain the diploma, students must complete six subjects over the course of two years, culminating in a final examination.

These six subject groups include:

1. **Group 1: Language A:** A literature course (in the student's first language),
2. **Group 2: Language B:** A foreign language,
3. **Group 3:** A social science subject,
4. **Group 4:** A natural science subject,
5. **Group 5:** Mathematics,
6. **Group 6:** A creative arts subject or an additional subject from Groups 1–4.

Apart from Language A (Literature) and Language B (foreign languages), the medium of instruction for all other courses is English. To earn the full IB Diploma, students must select one subject from each group, ensuring that three are taken at higher level (HL) and three at standard level (SL).

In addition to these six subjects, students must complete the interdisciplinary course **Theory of Knowledge (TOK)**, which explores elements of philosophy, critical thinking and scientific methodologies. Furthermore, students are required to write an **Extended Essay (EE)**, a research paper of approximately 4,000 words. TOK and EE constitute two core components of the IB curriculum, forming the program's foundation.

The third core element is **CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service)**. CAS involves creative, physical, and social activities carried out over the two-year period outside of regular classes. Unlike academic subjects, CAS focuses on personal development and fostering social engagement.

For more information about the IB Diploma, visit the official IBO website: <https://www.ibo.org>



## Perspectives and Benefits of the IB Diploma

Graduates of the IB Diploma Programme hold a globally recognized qualification that facilitates access to universities and colleges in over 110 countries, including Germany.

Prestigious universities regard the IB Diploma as evidence of advanced learning skills, academic competence, and the ability to work independently. While this has long been an important criterion for international admissions committees, it is also becoming increasingly relevant in German universities, particularly as the number of English-taught programs continues to grow. In scientific and academic fields, students are required to engage with seminars and publications in English, or collaborative international group projects. The IB Diploma enhances the prospects of being admitted to a desired study program or university, both nationally and internationally, by providing certified language and subject-specific qualifications.

Moreover, major corporations worldwide view the IB Diploma as an excellent credential, especially when earned in combination with a national qualification such as the German Abitur. This is particularly valued by international companies that operate across borders and prioritize multilingualism and cultural competence in their workforce.

Lastly, the IB Diploma's rigorous approach to learning serves as exceptional preparation for university, often leading to shorter study durations and above-average success. The program's structured requirements, strict deadlines, and rigorous assessments help students develop discipline, dedication, and self-management skills early on.

A list of countries and universities that recognize the IB Diploma for admission purposes can be found at:

<https://www.ibo.org/university-admission/find-countries-and-universities-that-recognize-the-ib/>



## The IBO Mission Statement

*The IB develops inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through education that builds intercultural understanding and respect.*

*We value our hard-earned reputation for quality, for high standards and for pedagogical leadership. We achieve our goals by working with partners and by actively involving our stakeholders, particularly teachers.*

*We promote intercultural understanding and respect, not as an alternative to a sense of cultural and national identity, but as an essential part of life in the 21st century.*

*All of this is captured in our mission statement:*

*The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.*

*To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.*

*These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.*



## The IB Diploma at Albert-Schweitzer-Gymnasium Wolfsburg

Since 2023, the IB Diploma Programme has been offered at Albert Schweitzer Gymnasium in grades 12 and 13. It is integrated into the structure of the German upper secondary school system.

While international students with strong English skills, whose native language is not German, may pursue the IB Diploma as their primary qualification, German students are required to prioritize the Abitur. For them, the IB Diploma can only be obtained as a **dual qualification** alongside the German Abitur (double diploma).





## Subjects offered in the Diploma Programme

At the Albert Schweitzer Gymnasium, the following subjects are offered as IB examination subjects:

These subjects are mandatory for all Diploma students:

- **German:** German A Language & Literature or German B (for advanced learners)
- **English:** English A Language & Literature or English B (for advanced learners)
- **Mathematics:** Analysis and Approaches
- **Chemistry (bilingual):** Chemistry
- **History (bilingual):** History

Students may choose their sixth examination subject from:

- Visual Arts or
- Theatre or
- Spanish (Spanish A Literature or Spanish B) or
- Literature in the student's first language (school supported self-study course)

Core subjects:

- Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course
- Extended Essay (EE)
- CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service)



## Assessment in the IB Diploma Programme

Over the two-year preparation period, students complete an **Internal Assessment (IA)** for each subject. These assessments contribute approximately 20–30% to the final IB examination grade. The nature of the IA depends on the subject:

- In German and foreign languages, IAs consist of oral examinations.
- In Chemistry, History, and Mathematics, IAs take the form of a written research paper (Investigation) of approximately 2,000 words.
- In creative subjects, the IA combines practical and written components.

The final **External Assessments (EAs)**, which account for 70–80% of the final grade, are administered in May of grade 13. All examinations are set centrally by the IBO and are assessed externally by IBO certified examiners .

Each IB assessment includes multiple exam components (Paper 1 and Paper 2), with durations ranging from 60 to 150 minutes.

IB subjects are graded on a scale from 1 to 7, with 7 being the highest score. The maximum score achievable for the full IB Diploma is 45 points, which is attained by earning 7 points in each of the six subjects ( $6 \times 7 = 42$  points) and 3 additional points from the Core components (TOK and EE). CAS activities must be documented to pass, though they are not graded. To successfully complete the diploma, students must achieve a minimum of 24 points overall.

If the minimum score is not achieved, students may retake individual components of the exams in November.



# The “Single Diploma” for International Students: The International Profile

International students who are not native speakers of German can participate in the IB Diploma Programme at Albert Schweitzer Gymnasium and graduate with the IB Diploma instead of the Abitur.

Prerequisites for participation include strong English proficiency as well as a high degree of independence, reliability and commitment.

These students begin the IB preparatory year (Pre-IB) in grade 11, during which they take additional hours of **German as a Foreign Language (DaZ)** while also attending regular classes and bilingual courses in History and Chemistry.

By the end of grade 11, students are expected to have acquired at least B1 proficiency in German. Students who enter grade 11 as complete beginners in German must take supplementary private German courses to reach the required level within that year.



# Subjects in International Profile/international students

The **International Profile** offers two combinations, depending on a student's level of English proficiency.

- 1. English A (Advanced English or Native Speakers):**  
 This profile is designed for students who are native speakers or have excellent English skills. They take a literature course in English (**English A – Language & Literature**).

<i>subject</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Hrs/week</i>
English A Language & Literature (C1)	<i>Higher Level</i>	5+2
German B / DaZ Niveau (B1)	HL	5
History	HL	3+1
Math Analysis and Approaches	Standard Level	3+1
Chemistry	SL	3
-theatre -Visual Arts -Self-study literature course (muttersprachlich)	SL	3 +1 1 (plus self-study)
TOK / EE	Core	3

- 2. International Profile with English B:**

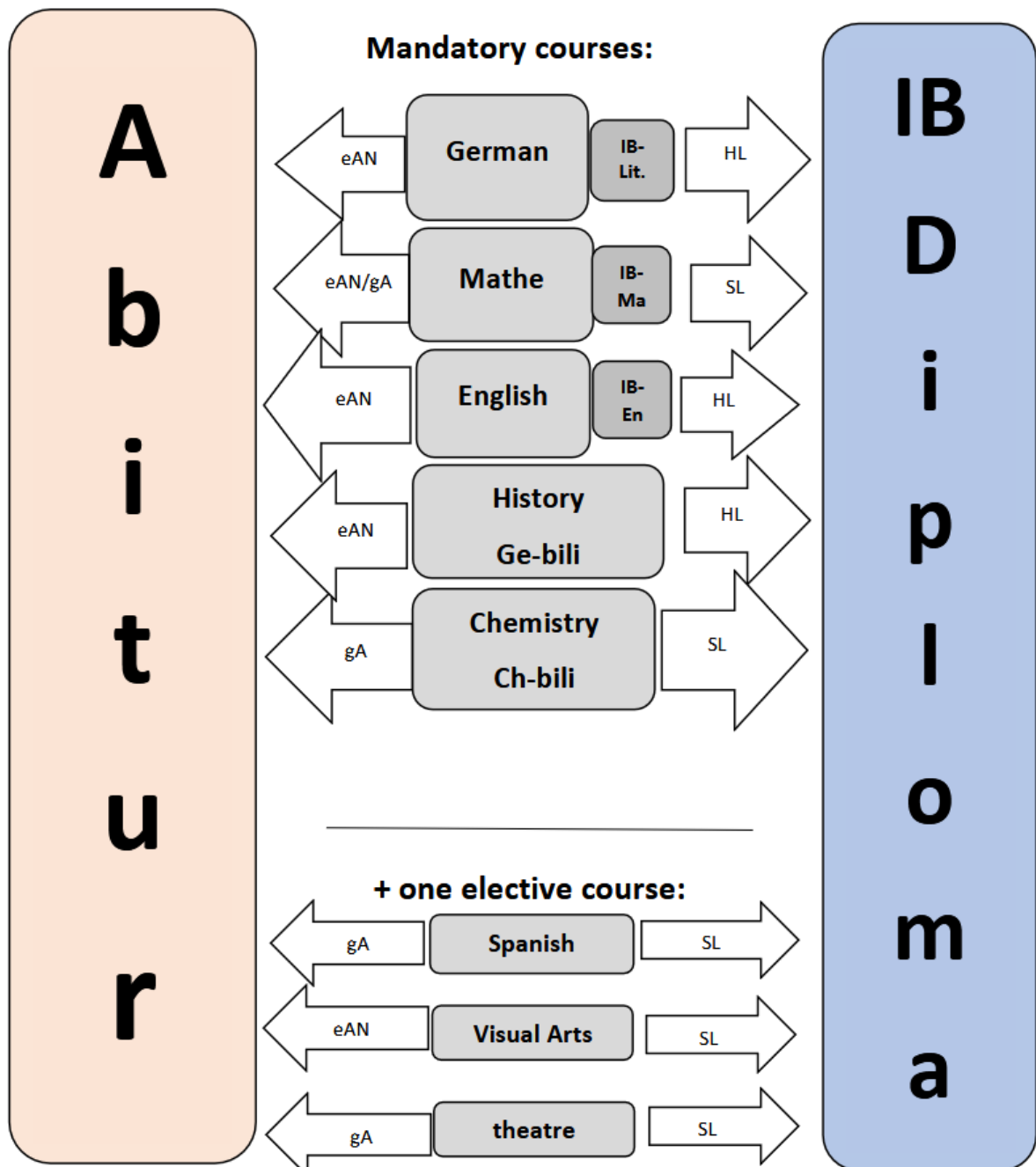
This profile is tailored to students who have learned English as a foreign language and show proficiency on level B2. They are required to take a literature course in their first language as their sixth subject. Preparation for this **school-supported self-study course** is facilitated by the school's SSST supervisor, but the success primarily relies on the student's own initiative. Materials for self-study can include online courses or private tutoring, as outlined in the IBO's official self-study guide. Associated costs must be borne by the student's family.

<i>subject</i>	<i>IB Diploma</i>	<i>Hrs/week</i>
English B	HL	5+1
German B	HL	5
History	HL	5+1
Math Analysis and Approaches	SL	3+1
Chemistry	SL	3
Language A: self-study literature course	SL	1 (plus self study)
TOK / EE	Core	3

## "Double Diploma" for German Students

German students can only earn the IB Diploma in combination with the Abitur (double diploma). To achieve this, the following profiles and course combinations are available at Albert Schweitzer Gymnasium:

### Double Diploma: Abitur und IB-Diploma



## Double Diploma: Sprachliches Profil

<i>Abitur</i>	<i>Fach</i>			<i>IB-Diploma</i>	<i>Std./Wo</i>	<i>IB extra/Wo</i>
<b>P1</b>	<b>En</b>			<b>HL EnA/EnB</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>P2</b>	<b>De</b>			<b>HL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>P3</b>	<b>Gebili</b>			<b>HL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
P4	Ma/Sn			SL	3	1
P5	Chbili			SL	3	
P-	Sn/Ma			SL	3	
	Seminarfach bili			TOK/EE	2	
Abi	Ku	Mu	DS	(SL)	1,5	
Abi	Re		Phil		1,5	
Abi	Po				1,5	
Abi	Sp				2	

## Double Diploma: Künstlerisches-musisches Profil:

<i>Abitur</i>	<i>Fach</i>			<i>IB-Diploma</i>	<i>Std./Wo</i>	<i>IB extra/Wo</i>
<b>P1</b>	<b>Ku</b>			SL	<b>5</b>	(1)
<b>P2</b>	<b>De</b>			<b>HL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>P3</b>	<b>Gebili</b>			<b>HL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
P4	En			<b>HL EnB</b>	3	1
P5	Ma/Chbili			SL	3	1
P-	Ma/Chbili			SL	3	
	Seminarfach bili			TOK/EE	2	
	Po			-	-	
	Mu	DS		-	1,5	
	Re	Phil	WN	-	1,5	
	Sp			-	2	

## (Double Diploma: Gesellschaftliches Profil:)

<i>Abitur</i>	<i>Fach</i>			<i>IB-Diploma</i>	<i>Std./Wo</i>	<i>IB extra/Wo</i>
<b>P1</b>	<b>Gebi</b>			<b>HL</b>	<b>5</b>	(1)
<b>P2</b>	<b>De (En)</b>			<b>HL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>P3</b>	<b>Ek/Po</b>			<b>-----!</b>	<b>5</b>	
P4	En (De)			<b>HL EnB</b>	3	(1)
P5	Ma/Chbili			SL	3	1
P-	Ma/Chbili			SL	3	
P-	Sn (DS/Ku)			SL	3	(1)
	Seminarfach bili			TOK/EE	2	
	Ku	DS	FS	-	1,5	
	Re	Phil	WN	-	1,5	
	Sp			-	2	



To facilitate a full double qualification, most IB courses are “combined classes” attended by both Diploma and Abitur students collaboratively. These courses are designed to meet the requirements and curricula of both the Abitur and the IB Diploma. As a result, students can register for both the state Abitur exams and the IB Diploma exams at the end of the two-year program. While the overlap between the two programs allows for some synergy, double diploma students must still complete additional work units and demonstrate a high degree of self-responsibility.

Unlike the Abitur, the IB Diploma does not involve regular exams during the two years. Instead, each IB subject requires an individualized assessment, such as a term paper or an oral exam. A detailed calendar helps the students track the submission deadlines for the IB assessments. The calendar is carefully knitted to distribute the workload of the double qualification evenly across the two years. However, it is essential for double diploma students to recognize that, despite these synergies, the program demands a significant workload and strong self-motivation.

## Earning Individual IB Certificates for German Students

Throughout the two years, double diploma students are closely supported by their subject teachers, tutors, and the IB coordinator. Regular feedback on academic progress ensures students stay on track. However, the top priority remains passing the Abitur. If a student’s ability to meet Abitur requirements is at risk, they may exit the IB program or limit their participation to **individual IB subject certificates**.

Instead of pursuing the full double diploma, German students have the option to earn individual IB subject certificates. This option is particularly appealing for subjects like Mathematics or Chemistry for students aiming to study in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics).

Additionally, earning an IB certificate in English Literature or History can be beneficial for students interested in developing university-level academic skills and expertise in international scholarly language.

# Admission Requirements and Enrollment

The following criteria must be met for admission to the IB Diploma Programme:

- Proficiency in English communication (language Level B2 or better)
- Strong academic performance in IB subjects during grades 10 and 11.
- Commitment and high motivation.
- Independent work skills, self-discipline and reliability.
- International orientation and interest in social and global topics.
- Participation in the **Pre-IB Program** during grade 11.
- Proficiency in German at level B1 (at entry into the programme in year 12)

Admission to the Pre-IB Program takes place at the beginning of grade 11.

Admission to the IB Diploma Programme takes place at the beginning of grade 12.



The infographic features a silhouette of a person's head filled with various attributes like 'KNOWLEDGEABLE', 'OPEN-MINDED', and 'INQUIRERS'. To the right is a circular logo with the text 'THE IB LEARNER PROFILE' and a silhouette of a person's head. Below the graphic is a detailed list of the 10 attributes and their descriptions.

## IB learner profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

As IB learners we strive to be:

<p><b>INQUIRERS</b> We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.</p> <p><b>KNOWLEDGEABLE</b> We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.</p> <p><b>THINKERS</b> We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.</p> <p><b>COMMUNICATORS</b> We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.</p> <p><b>PRINCIPLED</b> We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.</p>	<p><b>OPEN-MINDED</b> We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.</p> <p><b>CARING</b> We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.</p> <p><b>RISK-TAKERS</b> We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.</p> <p><b>BALANCED</b> We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.</p> <p><b>REFLECTIVE</b> We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.</p>
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The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities.

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## Costs of the IB Programme

The majority of IB Diploma schools in Germany and worldwide are private institutions that charge substantial tuition fees. Albert Schweitzer Gymnasium, however, is one of only three public high schools (Gymnasien) in Lower Saxony officially certified to offer and administer the IB Diploma Programme. As a public institution, the school does not charge extra fees for the IB Programme.

However, costs are incurred for registration and examination fees, which are payable to the IBO. For a full IB Diploma, these fees amount to approximately €550.

Upon registration for the IB Diploma at Albert Schweitzer Gymnasium, students are required to pay a deposit of €200, which is later deducted from the examination fees. The remaining fees are due in November of grade 13, when students register for the final exams.

In addition to examination fees, students are responsible for the cost of IB learning materials.



## IB Diploma Contact Persons

- IB DP Coordination: Ms Grabowski (Ms Eickhoff)
- CAS Coordination: Ms Brechler
- TOK (Theory of Knowledge): Ms Eickhoff / Mr Schüttler
- Extended Essay: Ms Madej-Stang
- German A (literature): Ms Meinecke
- English A: Ms Eickhoff / Fr. Wolf
- English B: Ms Eickhoff / Fr. Arkenau
- Spanish B: Ms Woelk
- German B (DaZ): Ms Böhm / Ms Mosel
- Chemistry: Ms Werner / Ms Wang
- History: Ms Grabowski /
- Maths: Mr Dr. Saubert / Mr Huyn
- Visual Arts: Ms Niemann
- Theatre: Ms Steiln

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