

Welcome to the IB program

You have chosen an international line of study with high academic standards that will give you excellent knowledge in your six areas of study. Some of the central principles within the IB are that students should be stimulated to develop their personality as well as their sense of empathy and altruism. The IB states in the Mission Statement:

The International Baccalaureate Organization 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 IBO 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.

We at Torsbergsgymnasiet are very proud to offer this programme to students in our region. We believe that the IB provides a splendid opportunity for ambitious students to acquire academic breadth and depth in an accredited upper secondary education that opens doors to colleges and universities in Sweden and throughout the world. Moreover, the diploma programme leads to excellent fluency in English.

Your IB years will prepare you well for both studies and work in the entire world. We wish you all the best.

The IB teaching staff / Margareta Eriksson, IBDP Coordinator
Torsbergsgymnasiet

IBO—its history and philosophy

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) is a foundation with its head office in Geneva, Switzerland. IBO was founded in the beginning of the 1960s but grew out of post war ideas. The founders aimed to convey the message to young people that all people are created equal, and that everyone can live in peace and concord without violence or war. This ideal remains a central tenet of what became the International Baccalaureate.

Today there are diploma schools in 143 countries, of which 28 are in Sweden. All IBO schools work according to a shared curriculum and toward the same goals. The Diploma Programme comprises two years of course work, but in Sweden and many other countries a preparatory year is offered (Pre-IB). In effect, our IB program is thus three years.

The IB program's status in the Swedish school system

The preparatory year (Pre-IB) is comprised of courses within the Swedish national curriculum. The two diploma years, however, are governed by the separate IBO curriculum. Swedish law regarding free education is maintained through public funding. Rules regarding the student stipend and attendance are the same for IB students and those in the national programs.

Learning strategies in the IB program

A typical IB student is both ambitious and committed. Studies are conducted full time, and we advise against time-consuming activities such as employment or driving lessons. A typical lesson is not as easy to describe since the IBO does not prescribe a particular pedagogical method but allows each IB school to choose and develop its own.

The IB program builds largely upon the student's skills in analysis and academic writing. The examinations are not principally a measure of specific course content and recall, but are based predominantly on reasoning with the knowledge one has accumulated. As this is how university courses are structured, our students are well-prepared for future studies.

IB teachers at Torsbergsgymnasiet

Teachers within the IB Diploma programme have extensive knowledge in their subjects, pedagogical skills as well as an ability to give instruction in English. Moreover, the IBO requires of all staff that they attend periodic workshops held in various countries. Workshop participation enables teachers to build international teacher networks, which in the end benefits our students.

The role of an IB teacher is somewhat different than that of teachers within Sweden's national programs. Since much of the student's work is assessed externally, our teachers have more of a supervisory role and do not themselves set the course grades.

The role of an IB teacher also includes being a mentor for our students. Regular meetings both in groups and individually ensure that the student's academic and social environments are conducive to ultimate success in the program.

Pre-Diploma Year

Pre IB is a preparatory year to the two-year diploma programme. Our candidates have achieved satisfactory grades at their previous schools and presumably will not encounter academic difficulty, but should the need for extra support and help arise, we will of course provide it. The preparatory year aims to build a solid base such that subsequent studies won't be insurmountable. All set courses are required and must be passed.

IB1

Prior to beginning the diploma years, each student's Pre-IB results will be considered. Any student lacking passing grades will be given an opportunity for re-examination in August. There are no grades at the end of IB1; instead, teachers submit status reports based largely on Mock Exam results.

IB2

Teacher recommendations form the basis for the Coordinator's decision to promote IB1 students to the final year. Further, an IB2 student must meet "in good standing" requirements before being registered for the final May examinations, namely that deadlines for Extended Essay (EE) and Theory of Knowledge (TOK) have been met, that CAS is being pursued satisfactorily, and that the projected grade points toward the diploma are sufficient.

More details are covered in our Assessment Policy document.

Basic information for IB students at Torsbergsgymnasiet

Grades are awarded by the IBO except for the Swedish national courses in Pre-IB which are set by course teachers. Grades are given according to the scale 1 to 7. Three extra points can be awarded for EE and TOK (see EE guide), leading to a possible maximum of 45. A minimum of 24 points is required to receive the IB diploma. Applicants to Swedish university must receive at least a 4 in their chosen subjects as well as a passing grade in Swedish. The IB grading scale is converted to the Swedish scale according to the following:

24=12,40
26=13,85
28=14,95
30=15,89
32=16,77
34=17,60
36=18,39
38=19,01
40-45=20,00

CAS stands for Creativity, Action, Service and is part of the IB core requirements. Detailed information is available in the CAS handbook which is distributed towards the end of Pre-IB.

Certificates

Students whose predicted grades are insufficient may be alternatively registered for certificates instead of a diploma.

Deadlines must be held. If deadlines are missed, the student loses *good standing* status and is in jeopardy of not being promoted or registered for final exams. Written deadline notices are handed out when deemed necessary.

Extended Essay (EE) is an "in-depth study of a focused topic" chosen by the student and supervised by an IB teacher. The supervisor helps keep the student on track and on schedule, and forwards a report, though not a grade, to the IBO.

External assessment Most student work and all exams are assessed and graded by examiners throughout the world.

Internal assessment Some student work is assessed and graded by the course teacher. The teacher's suggested grade is moderated and can be adjusted by the IBO to guaranty fairness globally.

Good standing means maintaining a minimum of 80% attendance, meeting deadlines, and achieving a status report (IB1) of at least 20 points.

Parental involvement is greatly appreciated, particularly since most of our students are boarders. Parents/guardians will be invited to pastoral care meetings twice yearly. Students 18 or over must actively inform the mentor if they wish to discontinue contact between school and parents.

Higher level (HL) and Standard level (SL) HL courses are given 240 hours whereas SL courses are given 150 hours. A student normally chooses three courses at each level.

Transparency Every assessed component in IB courses has clearly defined criteria. Teachers ensure that students understand these criteria both for achieving structure in studies as well as fairness in grades. The subject guide provides all pertinent information and is available for all to see.

Breaks follow the calendar of the national programmes at Torsbergsgymnasiet. Written requests for leave outside scheduled breaks must be approved by mentor (max 1 day) or headmaster (3 days). Reasons on the request form (see school website) will be scrutinized, as undue leave is detrimental to studies.

Assignments can be either short- or long-term, and all IB students must develop disciplined planning strategies. The school day is from 8 am to 4 pm, during which many assignments can be completed in the library or other study areas on campus.

Anti-drug policy Should suspicion regarding abuse or other involvement with illegal substances arise, the school is required to contact the county office of social services and/or the police. In serious cases, the student may be sent home.

Mock exams are practice tests that imitate the final exams. They are held in both IB years.

Retakes Students have only two chances to sit an exam they have failed in the years following their ordinary exam period, after paying a fee to the IBO through our Coordinator.

Field trips We strive to complement classroom study with field trips. The school normally pays for transport and tickets.

Career guidance officers are provided by the school to support our students.

Special activity days at Torsbergsgymnasiet usually include IB students, unless otherwise decided by the IB student council.

TOK stands for Theory of Knowledge and is one of IB's core subjects. Its goal is to enhance and support knowledge seeking in all subjects, and includes assessed oral and written activities.

Continuing Education The IB diploma meets application requirements both for Swedish and foreign universities. Applications must be copied and handed to the IB Coordinator no later than 15 April in the final year.

Important documents for IB students:
Diploma Programme General Regulations
Extended Essay Guide and timetable
CAS Handbook
Internal calendar
Criteria from Subject Guides
Language policy
Assessment policy

Additional policy documents are available through the school website.