

THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME III LICEUM OGÓLNOKSZTAŁCĄCE IN GDYNIA

IB WORLD SCHOOL 000704



When you think of your future, what do you see? What are your goals? Do you see yourself studying abroad, at top universities all over the world? Are you eager to master fluency in the English language? Is the idea of breaking free from traditional education while exploring cutting-edge topics enticing? If you answered “**Yes**” to any of these questions, **IB** is for you!

The International Baccalaureate Programme allows students to embrace such a future, filled with possibility and boundless opportunities. Designed to challenge and inspire students, the IB offers a unique and enriching educational experience that fosters critical thinking, intercultural understanding, and global awareness. By immersing yourself in the IB, you’ll delve into a diverse range of subjects, explore complex ideas, and develop skills that will serve you well beyond the classroom. The programme offers a plethora of different courses, which can be taken at both a Higher Level (HL) and Standard Level (SL), allowing students to personally select and dive into subjects of their interest. Whether you are passionate about sciences, humanities, languages or art, the IB empowers you to pursue your interests and aspirations, preparing you for success in a rapidly evolving world. From an in-depth exploration of topics to hands-on experiences, the IB curriculum encourages students to become lifelong learners and responsible global citizens.

The IB provides benefits from all aspects, from a holistic approach to education which fosters critical thinking, to a tight community of rigorous learners from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and new perspectives. In the International Baccalaureate Programme, you are not only preparing for your personal future, you are shaping it alongside like-minded peers who share your passion for learning and making a difference.

SUBJECTS

When deciding to join the IB programme, students choose their own subjects: one subject from each group. Altogether, each student is studying 6 subjects. The subjects can be studied in either a 3HL/3SL or 4HL/2SL format.

In our school the following subjects are offered:

Group 1 - Studies in language and literature

Polish A: Literature

Group 2 - Language acquisition

English B HL

French B or ab initio

German B or ab initio

Group 3 - Individuals and societies

Geography

History

Philosophy

ESS*

Group 4 - Sciences

Biology

Chemistry

Physics

ESS*

Group 5 - Mathematics

Math Analysis and Approaches (AA)

Group 6 - The Arts or electives

Visual Arts

*ESS is an interdisciplinary subject - it belongs both to group 3 and group 4.

All students must take English B HL as a subject. If a student is not interested in taking Visual Arts, they must choose a subject from groups 2, 3 or 4.

IB CORE

Besides choosing your subjects, all IB students must also fulfill all of the main principles and the core requirements of the programme:



TOK

TOK, Theory of Knowledge, is an interdisciplinary subject that heavily relies on debates, in-depth analysis, a lot of varying philosophical problems, as well as just talking about all sorts of topics. TOK makes students think about concepts which are often assumed to be common knowledge, whereas in reality they still hide a lot of secrets. During the classes you can also learn about popular philosophers, their world views and the ways you can get knowledge.

EXTENDED ESSAY

The Extended Essay (EE) is an independent research paper written by IB students. When starting to write the EE, we first choose the subject and topic, after which we conduct experiments using the knowledge gained at school. The final piece of work must contain an analysis, an interpretation and conclusions regarding the topic of your choice. The Extended Essay is an efficient way to develop your investigation, analytic and writing skills, as well as to prepare students for further studies at an academic level.

CAS

CAS is an abbreviation from 3 words - Creativity, Activity and Service. The whole idea of CAS is to encourage us to develop our skills beyond the classroom. Every word stands for a different after-school activity.

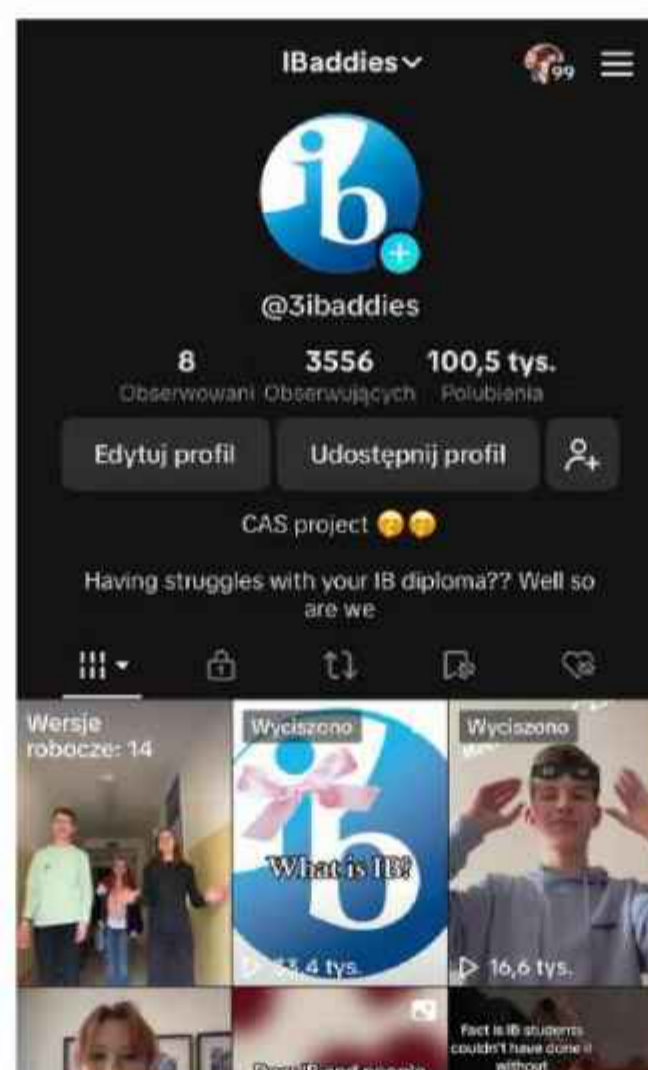
Creativity covers a very broad range of activities. Anything that may be classified as self development can be counted towards CAS. Writing poems, organizing debates, baking, sewing and much more. Creativity is a category that enables us to develop our interests.

Activity means sport, all of it. While doing the DP, we don't have any PE classes - instead, we do sports on our own time. Whatever we want to do, whenever we want to do it. It doesn't matter if it's football, volleyball, swimming, horse riding, yoga or even long walks. Everyone can find something for themselves.

CAS also requires voluntary work. That's what the "S" stands for - service. The DP puts a lot of emphasis on the fact that helping others actually helps us. Doing some voluntary work may also be a good opportunity to make new friends.

For **CAS**, a lot of us are engaged in organizing the "TriMUN", which is a model simulation of a conference of the UN. It takes on the role of a forum for debates on the hottest topic for teens. Organizing a MUN requires a lot of preparation and a lot of group work effort. For us, it's a way to deepen those traits.

Throughout the 2 years of the IB, all students must fulfill at least 150 CAS hours. At first glance, it might seem a lot, but approaching it calmly, it's just 1 hour from each C, A and S, which is next to nothing. This way we fulfill CAS requirements and get some time for ourselves.



EXPERIENCES

Are you still not sure if IB's for you? Read our stories, experiences and reflections!

My experience with IB is definitely positive. The main factor which won me over when joining the programme is the possibility to make non-standard combinations of subjects.

Because of my interests, I chose mathematics and history as my higher level subjects. Those subjects are rarely paired up in the national curriculum, even though they provide a big variety of university majors to choose from. My choice allowed me to have more classes that are of actual interest to me - because of this I'm way more optimistic when going to school. Furthermore, I am thrilled by history as a subject in the IB. It's a whole different world when compared to the national history classes. There's way more details and analysis - I get the feeling that you can draw true timeless conclusions. I also think that the Extended Essay is a great opportunity to further develop my interests. Even though we have to write the essay in a more formal tone, we have the freedom to choose the topic, which will allow us to correlate the theme of the EE to our interests.

-Mateusz (Mathematics, History, English)



I was never a fan of Physics or Geography. Thanks to IB, I can solely focus on the subjects that I find interesting, Biology and Chemistry. I also really like the fact that we can make our own combination of subjects from which we will be writing our final exams. In my case it's Philosophy - in the national programme, writing the matura would be possible, but really difficult without changing my class. I also stumbled upon a great and open community of MYP students who warmly welcomed everyone new. I think that it's way easier for me to speak English - even though in the past I was in a bilingual programme, only now do I have the chance to fully immerse myself in English.

-Weronika (Biology, Chemistry, English)

For me, the IB is a chance and an opportunity to explore the world, broaden my horizons. Only last year, I was surprised with the news of moving to Poland, after living in the US for my entire life. Such a change left me heartbroken and perplexed, unsure of what my new life would be like. I never experienced the Polish educational system, and having to go through classes in Polish, a language uncomfortable to me, scared me. Fortunately, when I got into the IB program, all my fears subsided. The IB is a fantastic opportunity for international students, like myself, to go to school in a foreign country, while still learning in a familiar language, English. I've been able to take classes which I find interesting, such as math and physics, on a higher level, while also experimenting with subjects new to me, such as philosophy. So far, I've been loving IB, grateful for some of the best and most caring teachers I've encountered throughout my educational career. Subjects such as math are finally making sense, and I feel intellectually challenged without being overworked to the point where I have to study for an excessive amount of time at home. Overall, the IB has welcomed me with open arms, and I can confidently say that I feel comfortable studying in a foreign country. I'm very excited to see where this educational journey with the IB will take me, and am certain that it will only end with positive results.

- Alicia (Mathematics, Physics, English)



Already at a young age, one of my strengths was English. Choosing my higher levels, I was thinking about what I want to do in the future, not worrying about fitting in a tight frame of the national curriculum. Even though before starting the IB I studied biology and chemistry at an elementary level, I floated back to the surface mainly due to the huge help from the understanding teachers. One of the IB core elements, CAS, taught me how to manage my time. I thought that balancing school work and hobbies is impossible... turns out that it's not the CASE (pun intended). Thanks to the possibility to choose the subjects I'm interested in, I'm not wasting my time learning random pieces of information - I'm only learning what will actually be useful in the future. The IB is an extraordinary programme, which not only expands your knowledge and skill set - it broadens your horizons by adding new perspectives.

-Zachary (Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, English)

Before the IB, I was a student of the bio-chem profile. Because of this, I chose those two subjects as my Higher Levels. This gave me the opportunity to compare the two educational systems and I can say with confidence that I'm really happy with my choice. In IB we spend a lot of time analyzing how and why something works. We don't study thousands of terms just to forget them the next day and learn another thousands. Everything is sorted and designed in such a way that if you don't know something, you can surely figure it out using logic. Furthermore, we have a designated amount of time that we have to spend in the laboratory (and as our chemistry teacher says: "IB students have the priority" 😊). I also really enjoy the Polish A: Literature classes. In the 2 years of IB, we analyze 9 interesting books, which is nowhere near comparable to the amount of material in the national programme. These books are known worldwide and I would read them either way. At school we talk about them thoroughly, which may seem tedious, but it will definitely pay off later on and the final exam will be easy-peasy! 🍊🍊

-Ania (Biology, Chemistry, English)



More information regarding the International Baccalaureate can be found in the 'educational offer' tab on our school website <https://www.lo3.gdynia.pl/service/ibo/> or on the official IB website <https://ibo.org/>. You can contact the IBDP coordinator: ibcoord@lo3.gdynia.pl
We are looking forward to seeing you in the IB next year!