

IB Admissions Frequently Asked Questions

Admissions & Application Process

1. What are the admission requirements for the Full IB and Partial IB programs?

- Applicants should demonstrate strong academic performance (B+ average or higher), good work habits, and involvement in extracurricular activities. Partial IB is only available to Semiahmoo students.

2. When and how should my child prepare for IB?

- Preparation begins with building solid study skills and time management early. Pre-Calculus 11 is required for Higher Level Math, and students benefit from completing language prerequisites in person. Students may apply in Grade 10 for entry to the Full IB Diploma in Grade 11.

3. Are there tests or entrance exams for admission?

- There are no entrance exams for the programme. Students applying for IB Math HL must take a placement exam that tests their knowledge of Pre-Calculus 11 to qualify for the course.

4. What documents are required, and when do we apply?

- Applications open in mid-November, with forms available at www.IBSemiahmoo.ca/apply. Applicants will be notified by email by the end of January whether they are admitted.

IB Programme Information

1. What are the benefits of IB compared to the regular curriculum?

- IB students develop advanced critical thinking, research, and collaboration skills, and they're better prepared for university. Universities value IB students for their maturity, global outlook, and academic rigor. IB students who score a 5 or higher in their HL subjects are also eligible for course credit at many universities.

2. How does Full IB differ from Partial IB?

- Full IB requires students to take six subjects and complete the Core (Extended Essay, CAS, and Theory of Knowledge). Partial IB allows students

to take select HL courses for which they may receive university credit but not the IB Diploma.

3. How does IB compare to AP?

- AP focuses on individual subject mastery, while IB offers an interdisciplinary, cohesive program emphasizing global perspectives and personal development.

4. What courses does Semiahmoo's IB Programme offer?

- Semiahmoo offers courses across six groups: Language A (English Literature), Language B (Spanish/French), Individuals & Societies (History, Geography), Experimental Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), Mathematics (Analysis & Approaches), and Arts (Visual Arts). We also offer the IB Core Theory of Knowledge, CAS, and Extended Essay.

5. Is IB necessary for students applying to Canadian universities?

- While not mandatory, IB is highly regarded by universities like UBC and provides advanced preparation, with many institutions offering transfer credits for Higher Level courses.

Student Experience & Course Planning

1. What if my child struggles with the IB workload?

- IB is demanding, but students develop resilience, time management, and support networks. If the program becomes overwhelming, switching to partial IB or the regular BC program is an option.

2. Can IB students participate in Band or other electives?

- There is not space in the full diploma course load to take additional courses, including Band.

3. What if my child drops IB in Grade 12—will it affect university admissions?

- Withdrawing from IB in Grade 12 before submitting university applications will have minimal impact. However, if a student has already applied as an IB student and then drops there may be complications. In this case, early communication with university admissions offices is advised.