International Baccalaureate recognition in Germany

Please note that the general requirement of IB changes when Kultusminister Konferenz - Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen evaluates the system yearly. The current version in this document is released in June 2023 for IBD graduates who hold IBD from 2025.

International Baccalaureate Diploma (or official Transcript of Grades from the IBO Cardiff/UK office). Since the diploma certificates are only issued in August each year, the official "Transcript of Grades" issued by the IBO in Cardiff can be used provisionally for the study application.

1. An “International Baccalaureate Diploma/Diplôme du Baccalauréat International” issued in accordance with the regulations of the “International Baccalaureate Organization(IBO)/Office du Baccalauréat International” shall be recognized as a university entrance qualification if it has been obtained after attending at least twelve years of full-time education in ascending year groups, and if the following requirements are met:

    a. The six examination subjects taken for the “International Baccalaureate Diploma/Diplôme du Baccalauréat International” (IB) must include the following subjects, referred to here by their official IB title:

        i. two languages at level A or B (of which at least one advanced foreign language as "Language A"[1] or "Language B HL” [2]),

        ii. One natural science subject (biology, chemistry, physics),

        iii. Mathematics (Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches or Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation[3])[4]

[1] As of examination year 2013 Language A: Language and Literature or Language A: Literature. For pupils who cannot receive lessons in their mother tongue at their school, a corresponding school supported self-taught course can be recognized as Language A: Literature SL.

[2] Applies as of examination year 2013

[3] Qualifications in Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches SL or Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation SL obtained in examination year 2021 shall be regarded as subject-specific university entrance qualifications for technical universities and universities providing access only to courses of study not falling within the mathematical/scientific/technical field. Exception: qualifications obtained at the schools listed in Appendices 1 and 2 meet the relevant requirements in the subject of mathematics. Consequently, the IB Diploma issued to pupils in accordance with this agreement shall be recognized as a general university entrance qualification.

[4] Up to and including examination year 2020, Mathematics SL (prior to 2006 Mathematical Methods) or Mathematics HL or Further Mathematics in conjunction with Mathematics HL.

iv. one social science subject (History, Geography, Economics, Psychology, Philosophy, Social Anthropology, Business and Management, Global Politics).

v. The 6th Subject may be one of the above mentioned subject or from one of these : Art/design[5], Music, Theatre Arts[6], Film, Literature and Performance, a further modern foreign language, Latin, Classical Greek, General Chemistry, Applied Chemistry, Environmental Systems[7], Computer Science, Design Technology, World Religions, Sports Exercise and Health Science, Digital Society.

b. Of the three "International Baccalaureate Diploma/Diplôme du Baccalauréat International" subjects taken at "Higher Level", the subjects must be either a language subject, Mathematics, or a natural science subject (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) according to number 1a), 1st to 3rd indent.[8]

c. All subjects must have been studied continuously as part of the "IB Diploma Programme", i.e. in two ascending year groups.

d. Pupils must have obtained at least IB grade 4 in the six compulsory subjects. If an IB grade of 3 has been obtained in only one subject, this can be compensated for if a minimum IB grade of 5 and a minimum total of 24 points have been obtained in another subject of at least the same level of difficulty

e. German qualification holders attending an IB school abroad that does not offer German as a subject must provide proof of competence in German before starting Higher Education in Germany; the details are governed by federal state provisions.

2. Additional requirement applies

Requirement	Result	Exception
Mathematics in HL AND Language/ Natural Science in SL	Direct Entry to all fields of study	
Mathematics in SL AND Language/ Natural Science in HL	Direct Entry to non Mathematics/Natural Science and Technology* related fields	Direct Entry to all fields of study for schools listed on page 5-7

[5] Referred to as Visual Arts since May 2000
[6] Referred to as Theatre as of examination year 2009.
[7] Referred to as Environmental Systems and Societies as of examination year 2010
[8] Applies from exam year 2025; up to and including the exam year 2024, the version of the agreement dated 24 March 2022 applies

*Mathematics/ Natural Science related: astronomy, biology, chemistry, nutritional sciences, geography, earth sciences, computer science, nanosciences, neurosciences, pharmaceutical technology, physics, environmental sciences

Technology related: Architecture, civil engineering, mining, bioengineering, chemical engineering, printing technology, electrical engineering, energy engineering, vehicle and traffic engineering, building equipment, geodesy, disaster control and aid, food technology, aerospace engineering, mechanical engineering, mechatronics, media technology, nautical engineering, optical technologies, physical engineering , spatial planning, ship technology, security, systems technology, technical healthcare, environmental protection and waste disposal technology, process engineering, surveying, supply technology, materials and materials science, industrial engineering

Non- Mathematics/ Natural Science and Technology related: Medicine (including dentistry and veterinary medicine), pharmacy, psychology, humanities and social sciences, artistic courses, economics, social sciences, law, sport

3. If the conditions under paragraph 1 have not been met, in order for recognition as a university entrance qualification to be granted, the pupil must successfully pass an additional examination in accordance with the "Framework Decree on the Recognition of Foreign University Entrance Qualifications, Preparatory Courses and the Assessment Test" (Resolution of the Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of 15/04/1994, as amended). Recognition as a subject-specific university entrance qualification is also possible on the basis of successful completion of a one-year higher education course in a country whose school leaving certificates qualify graduates for entrance to university in Germany directly or after successful completion of a one-year course of study.

4. The average grade for an "International Baccalaureate Diploma/Diplôme du Baccalauréat International" is calculated in the country in which the qualification is issued. This shall be subject to the procedure set out in the "Agreement on Determining the Overall Grade for Foreign University Entrance Qualifications" (Resolution of the Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of 15/03/1991, as amended) together with the following IB-specific rules

   The average grade (N) is calculated based on the total number of points (P) obtained in the "International Baccalaureate Diploma/Diplôme du Baccalauréat International", and on a maximum score (Pmax) of 42 and a minimum score (Pmin) of 24. Any bonus points obtained are included in the calculation. Total scores between 42 (Pmax) and 45 (highest possible IB score when including the maximum available 3 bonus points) are deemed equivalent to the German grade 1.0.

The conversion takes place according to the following formula:

$$N = 1 + 3 \frac{Pmax - P}{Pmax - Pmin}$$

where

N = average grade to be calculated

P = total score received for IB diploma

Pmax = 42 points (IB total score without bonus points)

Pmin = 24 points (lower benchmark)

N = 1.0 (where $42 \leq P \leq 45$)

5. The IBO shall regularly update the Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs about any changes to the final examination (requirements, content, organization), and shall give the German Schools Inspectorate the opportunity to inspect the work being done by the schools. If there is a need for consultation, or at the request of one of the federal states, the Advisory Committee of the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) shall assess whether the criteria for recognition of the IB are still met.
6. This resolution shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs.

Pupils at the international schools listed below who have taken Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches SL or Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation SL can, on the basis of a special agreement with the IBO, be granted a general university entrance qualification.
(State: 01.10.2023)

Hong Kong:

No.	School Name	School Code	Start of validity
1	German Swiss International School	006164	May 2023
2	Discovery College	003544	May 2024

China:

No.	School Name	School Code	Start of validity
1	Nanjing International School	001127	May 2022
2	Dulwich College Shanghai Pudong	003057	May 2022
3	EtonHouse International School, Suzhou	002717	May 2022
4	Suzhou Industrial Park Foreign Language School	051650	May 2022
5	Suzhou Singapore International School	001459	May 2023
6	Changchun American International School	003457	May 2023
7	Nord Anglia International School Shanghai, Pudong	002593	May 2023
8	Yew Chung International School Pudong Shanghai	006318	May 2023
9	International School of Tianjin	001409	May 2024
10	Shanghai American School	001207	May 2024
11	Canadian International School of Hefe	051749	May 2024

Germany:

No.	School Name	School Code	Start of validity
1	International School of Braunschweig-Wolfsburg	007026	May 2021
2	Nymphenburger Schulen	006478	May 2021
3	International School Mainfranken	049981	May 2021
4	Strothoff International School Rhein-Main Campus Dreieich	006277	May 2021

5	UWC Robert Bosch College	049998	May 2021
6	Schuldorf Bergstrasse / State International School Seeheim Jugenheim	050262	May 2021
7	Leibniz Gymnasium | Dortmund International School	004496	May 2021
8	Leonardo da Vinci Campus Nauen	004360	May 2021
9	St. George's The British International School Munich	060142	May 2021
10	Thuringia International School	002860	May 2021
11	International School of Ulm/Neu-Ulm Management GmbH	002884	May 2021
12	Felix Klein Gymnasium	003647	May 2021
13	Franconian International School	003168	May 2021
14	International School of Augsburg	002880	May 2021
15	International School of Neustadt	002881	May 2021
16	ISF International School Frankfurt Rhein-Main	003156	May 2021
17	ISR International School on the Rhine	003698	May 2021
18	St. George's The British International School Cologne	002808	May 2021
19	accadis International School Bad Homburg	006072	May 2021
20	Heidelberger Privatschulcentrum	052128	May 2021
21	Cologne International School	004869	May 2021
22	St. George's The British International School Duisburg-Düsseldorf	006857	May 2021
23	Berlin British School GmbH	001377	May 2021
24	Dresden International School GmbH	001388	May 2021
25	Frankfurt International School	000007	May 2021
26	International School Ruhr	049069	May 2021
27	International School of Dusseldorf	000065	May 2021
28	SIS Swiss International School Regensburg	050384	May 2021
29	Nelson Mandela State International School Berlin	002330	May 2021
30	Heidelberg International School	002692	May 2021
31	Metropolitan School Frankfurt	004506	May 2021
32	Friedrich-Ebert Gymnasium Bonn	000973	May 2021
33	International School Hannover Region	001171	May 2021

34	International School of Stuttgart	001046	May 2021
35	Berlin Brandenburg International School	000822	May 2021
36	Leipzig International School	001202	May 2021
37	International School of Bremen	002807	May 2021
38	Metropolitan International School	049680	May 2022
39	Hittorf-Gymnasium	060877	May 2022
40	International School Campus	060396	May 2022
41	Berlin Metropolitan School	003754	May 2022
42	Schillerschule Hannover	006174	May 2022
43	Berlin I.S. - Stiftung Private-Kant-Schulen gGmbH	001220	May 2022
44	Schule Schloss Salem	000622	May 2022
45	International School of Hamburg	000115	May 2022
46	Munich International School	000169	May 2022
47	Internationales Gymnasium Reinsdorf	049647	May 2022
48	SIS Swiss International School Berlin	051071	May 2022
49	Internationales Gymnasium Geithain	051400	May 2022
50	Bavarian International School gAG	000823	May 2022
51	Bonn International School	000972	May 2022
52	Stiftung Louisenlund	003661	May 2023
53	Helmholtz-Gymnasium Bonn	049804	May 2023
54	Berlin Cosmopolitan School	004882	May 2023
55	Metropolitan International School	049680	May 2024