



**Ecole Internationale de Genève
International School of Geneva**

La Châtaigneraie



Secondary School

Curriculum guide

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme | Y12 - Y13

La Châtaigneraie

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2017-2019



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The International Baccalaureate 2017– 2019

Introduction

The options process for the International Baccalaureate programme involves four stages:

Stage 1 : Considering your plans for post-secondary education. Will you go on to study at university or college ? If so ...where ?

Stage 2 : Designing an IB programme that fits your needs.

Stage 3 : Finalising your programme with your teachers and getting signed up for your chosen courses.

Stage 4 : Signing and returning the Options Form

This booklet will guide you through stages one and two of the process – considering your future plans and making your choices. After this you will need to discuss your proposed programme with your registration teacher. He or she will guide you through this and the final stage of the process – getting your final programme signed by your teachers.

Stage 1. Your post-secondary education plans - What do you want to do after you leave La Châtaigneraie?

You may at this point already have some idea of what you want to do. If you are planning to go to university, it is very important that your IB programme supports your eventual course of study at university to the extent that can be foreseen now.

General details are given below for universities in four areas – 1) the UK, New Zealand, Australia, and the Netherlands (English speaking university courses). 2) North America, 3) Switzerland and Francophone Europe. At the end of each section contact details are given for the university counsellor that deals with that area. It is highly recommended that you take the time to discuss your choices with the appropriate university counsellor. If you intend to go to university outside of these areas, you should discuss your choices with the IB Director of Studies. This is very important as some countries impose restrictions on the contents of a qualifying IB Diploma package.

If you are planning not to go to university immediately, the guidance counsellor again will be able to give you information and advice about gap years or training programmes.

Useful information concerning the IB program and university recognition around the world is available at www.ibo.org/universities

IB Director of Studies: Robyn Tyner : robyn.tyner@ecolint.ch

The United Kingdom

Also covering Ireland and Australia

The University Counsellors for the UK are:

Mr Ben Colliard ben.colliard@ecolint.ch
Mr David Wynne-Jones david.wynne-jones@ecolint.ch

The IB Diploma is highly regarded in the UK, Ireland and Australia where it is considered the equal of all national pre-university qualifications. Most international schools and many local independent and state schools have introduced the IB Diploma and related programmes, either alongside or as an alternative to national and other curriculums.

The IB & University Applications

- **The IB Diploma** is a recognised entry qualification for universities in the UK, Ireland and Australia. Undergraduate degree courses require the full Diploma as a basic condition of entry. In the UK, offers commonly include specified minimum performance in key subjects (usually in the Higher Levels).
- **IB Courses** (formerly known as Certificates) are also recognised for entry into non-degree courses such as the UK Higher National Diploma (HND) and UK Foundation programmes. Please contact the university counsellors for more details, as offers tend to vary depending on students' packages.

University Entry Criteria

Universities demand varying criteria for different courses and each university will have its own particular requirements for its individual programmes (please see the [Guidance sections on the school website](#) for more details, including on how to search for courses). To decide if these criteria will be met, admissions tutors ask for applicants' profiles and academic results thus far. **For the UK this includes:**

- **The results of any external examinations** (e.g. IGCSEs). *These must be declared in full.*
- **Students' predicted grades in their IB subjects, plus TOK and EE.** *These are made by subject teachers and supervisors and are based largely upon students' performance in Year 12.*
- **A personal statement.** This is roughly one page long and must be focused mainly on academics.
- **A reference from the appropriate university counsellor.** This will explain the school's context, incorporate remarks from subject teachers and comment on the student's academic strengths, study habits and perceived suitability for the course, allowing for a comprehensive recommendation.

Application requirements for Irish and Australian universities vary somewhat, so please contact the counsellors for details. (N.B. Mrs Jacobson is currently handling applications to study in The Netherlands.)

Course Entry Criteria

Certain degree courses require specific subjects to have been studied at IB Higher Level (Standard Levels are sometimes accepted, but with higher grades). Some examples of these requirements are given below. This list is intended as a guide only; there are exceptions. If you have a specific course/university/country in mind already you should conduct some

research now using the websites listed below. **If you have any questions or doubts, please contact the university counsellors before choosing your IB subjects.**

- [UCAS](#) – the UK's centralised universities admissions service, including course searches
- [CAO](#) – Ireland's centralised universities admissions service, including course searches
- [StudyinAustralia](#) – the Australian Government's central portal for international students

*Some courses do require a specific level in maths (e.g. you will not be able to study Economics at the LSE unless you have HL Maths), but **for many courses there is no specific requirement. Opting for an unrealistic level in maths, or indeed in any course, is likely to compromise your overall Diploma points total which will harm your chances of gaining admission to university.***

One last but important note. Students tend to be happier at university if they choose degrees based on their academic strengths and interests, rather than starting with a fixed idea of what or where they want to study in and then choosing inappropriate IB subjects just in order to meet the admission requirements.

University Course	Essential IB Subjects	Suggested IB Subjects
Architecture	HL Maths and/or HL Physics (one can be taken at SL but both at HL is advantageous) HL/SL Visual Arts	
Business/Management		HL Economics SL Maths (sometimes)
Computer Science	HL/SL Maths (HL is usually required by the more competitive degree programmes)	HL Physics
Economics	HL Economics HL/SL Maths (HL is usually required by the more competitive degree programmes)	
Engineering	HL Maths HL Physics	HL Chemistry (for certain courses)
Environmental Sciences	HL Geography HL Science(s)	
International Business		HL Economics HL/SL Languages SL Maths (sometimes)
Law		HL History HL English A Literature
Literature		HL English A Literature
Medicine / Vet Medicine	HL Physics/Chemistry/Biology (two sciences are required at Higher Level) HL or SL Maths	
Modern Languages	HL Languages	
Natural Sciences	HL Physics/Chemistry/Biology (two sciences are required at Higher Level) HL or SL Maths	
Psychology	HL Biology Chemistry (a second HL science is preferred by competitive degree courses)	HL Chemistry SL Maths
Visual Arts	HL Visual Arts	

The Netherlands

Applications to study courses in the English language in The Netherlands are currently looked after by:

Mrs Krista Jacobson krista.despotovic-jacobson@ecolint.ch

The IB Diploma is well regarded in The Netherlands, where it is considered the equivalent of the Dutch VWO Diploma. Most international schools and many local independent and state schools have introduced the IB's various programmes, either alongside or as an alternative to national and other curriculums.

University Courses in the Netherlands

We advise students wishing to apply for degree courses studied in the English language. Before speaking to the university counsellors, it is a good idea to research which courses are available in English on [Studyfinder](#) (the only complete database of English-language degree courses in The Netherlands). You should also have a thorough read through [StudyinHolland](#) and visit individual universities' websites (several of which are hyperlinked below). Finally, [Nuffic](#) is another useful website that is worth a visit.

Costs are on the rise in The Netherlands and entry to programmes is becoming much more competitive (as applications have risen in recent years, especially following the increase in tuition fees in the UK). Also, the entire application system is being revamped in 2016; what follows should be read with that in mind.

Liberal Arts and Sciences Courses

These broad multi-disciplinary degree programmes are very similar to those available in the United States. They are offered in English at the following institutions (and maybe others; check [Studyfinder](#)).

[Amsterdam University College](#)
[Erasmus University College](#)
[Leiden University College \(The Hague\)](#)
[University College Maastricht](#)
[University College Roosevelt](#)
[University College Tilburg](#)
[University College Utrecht](#)
[University College Groningen](#)

These institutions have no specific subject entrance requirements for their programmes, but often expect students to have achieved **32 points** or more in their IB Diploma. Many courses also require Maths Standard although it may not seem relevant to the course. University Colleges have their own campuses but are part of larger universities who accredit their degrees (e.g. University College Maastricht is an extension of the University of Maastricht; indeed, the two share the same website).

Tuition & Costs: It costs €1,800 to €3,500 per year for tuition for EU citizens and those from Switzerland and Norway. Fees are higher for other nationals, often above €8,500. Living costs are currently estimated at €8,000 per year.

Applications By: Generally February to April, depending on the institution

Specialist Degree Courses

The universities below offer a variety of undergraduate degree programmes in English (including Business & Economics, History, Biomedical Studies, etc.). Other universities also offer courses in English; please check [Studyfinder](#) for a comprehensive list. Finally, please be aware that not all Dutch universities offer all of their courses in English, however, the overall coverage is really quite broad.

[Erasmus University Rotterdam](#)

[University of Groningen](#)

[University of Maastricht](#)

[University of Tilburg](#)

[University of Twente](#)

[University of Utrecht](#)

Applications

Most Dutch universities should still require the following as part of an application:

- A completed online form
- A curriculum vitae (résumé)
- A letter of motivation (personal statement)
- One or more essays or work samples
- A letter of recommendation
- Proof of proficiency in English
- A certified school transcript
- Payment of their application fee

You may also have to register with [Studielink](#).

2) North America including Canada

The United States

The IB program and the diploma are familiar to North American universities and IB diploma candidates are held in high regard. However, in the United States, the admissions process is done by “holistic review”, and it is not simply scores and grades that determine admission. Admissions decisions are released in December and April when a student is in Year 13.

North American universities ask candidates to file extensive application materials describing both academic merits and other aspects of their lives and development. The most important criteria for admission are the candidate’s school record as demonstrated by the student’s **year end** grades in Years 10 – 13, teacher and college counselor recommendations, and the student’s own essay. Standardized tests such as the SAT, SAT Subject tests, Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and/or the ACT, are usually also required. IB predictions are less important for admission, but final IB scores are being scrutinized with greater intensity by US colleges and admission offers may be withdrawn based on final results.

SAT Testing Recommendations

Year 12 – PSAT in October required for National Merit Scholarship consideration! SAT in January and May, followed by SAT subject tests in June.

Year 13 – SAT in October or November. More SAT subjects tests as needed in December and even January!

I recommend that all students take the SAT THREE times; not more, not less.

As of May 2016 the SAT will consist of 2 main sections: Evidence Based Reading and Writing and Math. There is a new optional 50 minute essay that will be required by some colleges but not all. Only the first two sections are fully considered by US admissions officers. Please consult www.collegeboard.org for information and registration. The SAT can be taken at the College du Lemman in Versoix and our LGB campus in Geneva. LGB is a closed test center available ONLY to Ecolint students, so students must enter 59-816 as the Test Center Code for LGB! **Our high school code also called a CEEB code is 796 280.** You need this for SAT registration and your college application! Do NOT use the LGB high school code!

Alternatively: Year 12 – ACT in December and April. Students who are very good in Science may wish to consider the ACT. The ACT consists of 5 sections: English, Math, Science, Reading and Writing. The essay is now a longer 40 minute piece. Please consult www.actstudent.org for information and registration. The test can be taken only at the LGB campus. All US colleges accept the ACT or the SAT. Many colleges are now test optional or test flexible. We have provided a list in our Naviance Document library. A complete list can be found at www.fairtest.org

Students whose mother tongue is not English will most likely need a TOEFL score. To register for the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) please go to www.ets.org/toefl

Universities differ in the weight they give to these tests. Special talents and accomplishments (community service, music, arts, athletics, work experience and others) are of interest and importance to North American universities. Entrance to top US colleges is extremely competitive (below 10%) and even students with very high IB and SAT scores may not be selected. However, there is great variety in the United States and there are options for everyone!

Some students at La Châtaigneraie have fulfilled the graduation requirements of the International School of Geneva by the end of Year 12. Therefore they may complete their secondary education and apply to college in the United States, but this is not recommended. Candidates completing Year 13 have earned almost a year of credit beyond the minimum required for North American university acceptance. Most American universities consider Higher Level courses to be the equivalent of Advanced Placement qualifications.

Don't forget to request your Naviance code and log in to <http://connection.naviance.com/chataigneraie> for more information. Naviance is a college counselling software that provides information on historical acceptances to various colleges, provides SAT requirements and helps students choose colleges that will be the "right fit" for them.

Canada

Canadian universities love the IB diploma and readily accept students who have obtained it. They also like to see IGCSE scores, and they will also accept some students with IB certificates only. Canadian universities will also scrutinize the academic transcript of **year end** grades from Years 11 – 13 and use IB predictions in determining admissions. Do NOT send SAT or ACT scores to Canadian universities.

Canadian universities will sometimes specify subjects that are required in the IB diploma. IB Chemistry is required for most Science degrees. This is usually only the case for courses in Engineering, Math, all of the Physical Sciences, and Commerce/Management. It is important that you read the website of each university! The Guidelines provided in the UK section

concerning courses and choices are an excellent model, although Canada is **sometimes** more flexible.

Engineering: Math Standard (at a minimum), Chemistry, Physics

Commerce/Management/Business: Math Standard or Math HL.

Math: Math Standard (at a minimum), sometimes Physics and or Chemistry

Physical Sciences and many other Bachelor of Science degrees: Chemistry, Math Standard (at a minimum), a second science.

A great resource is www.studyincanada.com

College Counselor: Krista Despotovic-Jacobson, krista.despotovic-jacobson@ecolint.ch

3) Switzerland, France & Belgium

The IB is partially recognized at **universities in Switzerland** but it is necessary to earn at least 32 points (excluding bonus points) and to choose your three Highers and three Standards carefully. One of the higher level subjects has to be either Mathematics or a Science (Biology, Chemistry or Physics). Maths Studies Standard Level (MSSL), Computer Science, Group 6 subjects (Theatre, Music, Visual Arts) and trans-disciplinary subjects (Environmental Systems & Society) are not recognized as qualifications for admission. Business Studies is accepted by some universities, if you are interested in this option, please contact B. Hoesli. One has to be aware that the admission criteria for IB graduates, in Switzerland, often changes without much notice.

Please check if there is an additional document attached to this one.

Students will be required to present as part of their application either a French proficiency test (such as the DELF B2) or successfully follow and complete the pre university summer language course at the university, or to take a French exam before the start of their studies at the university. Some Universities accept the Swiss nationality as proof of French proficiency.

E.P.F.L. in Lausanne requires one year of extra preparation for IB diploma holders, the foundation year called Cours de Mathématiques Spéciales (CMS) and an entrance examination at the end of the course, if the candidate has less than 38 points at the IB (without bonus points). For admission to EPFL you will need to choose Mathematics, a Modern Language (A or B) and a Science (Chemistry or Physics) as your Higher Level subjects, or Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics as your Higher Level subjects, and proof of French proficiency. **CMS at EPFL** will require at least 32 points (without bonus points), proof of French proficiency, and either Mathematics, a Modern Language (A or B) and a Science (Chemistry or Physics) as HL or Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics as HL and an excellent personal dossier. Swiss nationals, with the right IB subjects and amount of points should be admitted at CMS.

Any **Haute Ecole Spécialisée** (HES) will probably require 32 points at the IB, carefully chosen IB subjects, depending on the area of tertiary studies, and a year of professional work, related to the futures studies. Either Mathematics or a Science (Biology, Chemistry or Physics) should be taken at Higher Level.

Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL) usually requires 28-30 points and as one of the Higher level subjects: either Mathematics, Economics, Business Studies or any Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics). Maths Standard (MS) is preferred to Maths Studies (MSSL), however a good mark at MSSL is acceptable. Extracurricular activities, CAS and work experience/internships are very important. Internships in hospitality are a must.

Hautes Ecoles d'Art, the Art schools require an IB diploma. Visual Arts at IB is absolutely necessary as an impressive portfolio has to be submitted, followed by art exams and interviews.

IB Courses (certificates) can be compared to a “Diplôme de Culture Générale” in Switzerland, and will not be accepted by the Universities or the HES.

In France, recognition of the IB as a qualification is not usually a problem but it all depends on the area of study and the particular university, as the universities have a great deal of autonomy and each one can make its own requirements. A French proficiency certificate (DELF B2) will be necessary.

In Belgium the IB diploma is usually very well accepted and there are no particular requests regarding subjects.

University Guidance Counsellor: *Beatrice Hoesli* : beatrice.hoesli@ecolint.ch

4) The Rest of the World

The IB Diploma is recognised in many universities in countries around the world. It is important that you research the entrance requirements of individual universities and colleges as they may vary considerably. Some specify what subjects must be studied, some do not recognise certain subjects within a Diploma.

IB Director of Studies : *Robyn Tyner* : robyn.tyner@ecolint.ch
Krista D. Jacobson, krista.despotovic-jacobson@ecolint.ch

Stage 2a : Designing an IB Programme that fits your needs.

Diploma Programme or Courses Programme ?

The International Baccalaureate Diploma programme is both a two-year post-16 curriculum and, for those who gain sufficient marks in the examinations and other forms of assessment, a university admissions qualification. The IB represents a balance between a broad curriculum, requiring the candidate to study a range of subjects drawn from a variety of disciplines, and the possibility of some degree of specialisation in the choice of subjects.

The IB is a very rigorous programme. Everyone embarking on the IB diploma should be aware of the demands it makes and be prepared to sustain the necessary effort. Some students may have a more positive experience with a Courses programme, which allows greater concentration on areas of strength. Undergraduate schools in the United States also do not always require a diploma as an entry requirement. However a Courses programme may not meet the entry requirements for universities in Switzerland, the EU (including the UK) and Canada.

Some students may complete the secondary graduation requirements of the International School of Geneva at the end of Year 12: in such a case, students normally apply for admission to US undergraduate schools for the September following Year 12. The graduation requirements of the International School of Geneva are given in the "Parent and Student Handbook" on the School website.

Stage 2b. Starting to construct your IB Diploma programme

The IB Diploma programme is structured like the graphic on the front cover of this booklet.

At the centre we find the distinguishing characteristics of the diploma programme - Creativity, Action and Service (CAS), the Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge. These are compulsory elements for students following the diploma course.

CAS The CAS programme provides a healthy counter balance to the academic demands of the IB. CAS encourages students to do work which benefits others and helps them gain international understanding and awareness. It helps to develop a sense of self-reliance, commitment and responsibility. Students who are certificate candidates need complete 50% of the diploma requirements of CAS each year in order to satisfy the graduation requirements of the International School of Geneva. **CAS Coordinator : Vicky Seymour :** victoria.seymour@ecolint.ch

The Extended Essay is an in-depth study and 4000 word research paper on a limited topic within an IB subject. It can also be done across disciplines by choosing to write it as a World Studies Extended Essay. Its purpose is to provide diploma candidates with an opportunity to engage in independent research at an introductory level.

Coordinator : Robyn Tyner

Theory of Knowledge. Theory of Knowledge is a course in critical thinking which aims to increase students' understanding of what they have already learned and to help them reflect upon it. ToK is offered in both French and English. School credit is awarded. TOK grades are considered in the calculation of the honour roll.

Coordinator : Robyn Tyner

The Academic Subjects

Around this central core, the academic subjects are arranged in 6 groups. Students following the Diploma programme must choose 6, two-year courses. The subjects offered at La Châtaigneraie in each group are listed towards the end of this booklet.

Some additional notes regarding course choices

a) Would you consider a Trans-disciplinary Subject?

Trans-disciplinary courses satisfy the demand for a course in two of the six groups in the IB diploma.

Students are still required to study 6 subjects and so choosing this course introduces a further free choice into the programme.

Environmental Systems and Society is a standard level course that satisfies the demand for a group 3 and a group 4 subject. The course material covers ecosystems, human population, resource use, biodiversity, pollution, global warming and environmental philosophies.

Students wishing to choose this course should note the following:

- It will not be accepted by Swiss universities
- The course does not qualify a candidate for a bilingual diploma.
- A diploma candidate may not write an extended essay in a trans-disciplinary subject.
- It is only available at Standard Level.
- It does meet the criteria for both Group 3 & Group 4 and can be used to allow a student to study 2 arts subjects in Group 6.

b) Language courses taken on a tutorial basis.

The International School of Geneva and the IBO encourage the development of mother tongue languages; however, the school is not able to include all the IB languages available within the curriculum. Students may register for other IB languages (Group 1 and Group 2 at both levels), but instruction is offered on a private tutorial basis and the costs are in addition to the standard school fees. Understanding that individual circumstances vary significantly, an approximation of the cost during the first IB year is CHF 6000. and CHF 4500 for the second year. There is also the possibility of studying a Language A SL on a “school supported” basis. Students and parents who wish to explore this possibility should contact the Coordinator of Languages. It may be possible to study a beginners Ab Initio Language on the same basis. This too should be discussed with the Coordinator of Languages Mr Richard Bourlet (richard.bourlet@ecolint.ch)

c) Group 1 and 2 Language Policy.

Group 1 is first language. Group 2 is second language. Students are required to study either two courses in different languages from Group 1, or one language from Group 1 and a second language from Group 2. The first of these options would secure a bilingual diploma.

A third language (from either group) may be taken in Group 6

The IB does not confirm which Languages will be available at which levels for examination until 1st September of each 2 year cycle (Sept 2016 for the May 2018 examinations). There is a small chance that a student who chooses a language other than English, French, Spanish and German may not be able to take their chosen course if the IB does not include it in the list. Make your choices freely and we will speak with you if a problem emerges.

Group 1

There are two courses offered in Group 1, each one targeting different skills. The Literature and The Language & Literature courses are set at both levels (Higher and Standard Levels). Normally the Group 1 Language would be the student's best language though not necessarily the mother tongue language. The most common languages of study at La Châtaigneraie are English and French but other mother tongue languages, such as Swedish or Dutch, are possible on a tutorial basis (see below).

Group 2

There are two levels of study in Group 2 – Language B and Ab Initio. Language B courses are available at Higher and Standard Levels, while Ab Initio courses are only at Standard Level. Language B HL courses include the study of literature while Language B SL courses do not. Students who have studied a language to IGCSE level, or its equivalent, are not normally eligible for an Ab Initio course in that language. Should a student wish to apply for such a course the matter will be considered by the Academic Review Committee.

Language	A:Literature HL	A:Literature SL	A : Lang & Lit HL	A : Lang & Lit SL	B HL	B SL	B Ab Initio
English	*	*	*	*			
French	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Spanish			*	*	*	*	*
German			*	*	*	*	*
Mandarin							*
Italian							*

The table above shows the courses offered by our Languages departments (subject to the normal criteria concerning courses meeting the requirements to run)

Group 1 and 2 courses may be available in other Languages, such as Dutch, Japanese and Swedish, in consultation with the Head of Languages, on a tutorial basis at extra charge. The school will check prior experience to ensure compliance with IB guidelines on Languages A and B.

Choosing the right second language is not as easy as one might assume. There are a host of important considerations not least current levels in second language being studied in Y11, the possible desire to acquire a new language, (i.e. *ab initio* German, Italian, Spanish or Mandarin), future academic intentions and practical needs as we live in a multi-lingual setting. It is therefore very important to think carefully about this choice and try to make the right choice which will meet future needs and also provide a healthy challenge.

It is also important not to marginalize a second language by requesting a level which offers no meaningful challenge. We as a school believe it is important to promote language acquisition and development and we encourage students to obtain a bilingual diploma by taking two Language As. Moreover it is equally rewarding when students use their IB years to obtain a competent level in a third language. We feel it is in the spirit of the IB to push towards excellence but also very much towards developing the whole person.

Our recommendation is to aspire towards a bilingual diploma if possible and if not then consider strongly taking on the challenge of a third language at *ab initio* level. We do not feel it is appropriate to seek a choice which does not provide sufficient challenge or help develop the whole person.

Therefore the following 3 guidelines should normally apply to both English and French as a second language.

1) Language B should only be chosen by students who have been studying that language as a second language up to Year 11.

2) Language A Literature and Language should be the choice of students who have successfully studied their second language as an A Language up to year 11. This choice will allow students to gain a bilingual diploma. Such students should not choose a Language B course.

3) If a student does not want to continue to study a language at the language A level (when they have done so successfully up to year 11) they should not drop to a B Level in the same language. Instead they should either :-

a) Select a language B course in Spanish or German if they have studied one of these languages up to the requisite standard. OR

b) select a new language at Ab Initio level (German, Italian, Spanish or Mandarin) and broaden their language skills in this way. A full two year commitment to the Ab Initio course will be required. A student cannot move to Language B in their second language in Year 13 from an Ab Initio course started in Year 12. Such Ab Initio courses will only run within the timetable if enough students chose it. If not then, the courses may only run at an additional charge to the family or families concerned.

Should a student wish to make a second language choice outside these guidelines, they should speak with their language teacher in the first instance. The request will then be considered by the Academic Review Committee. One outcome of such a referral might be to place the student into what we call the 'hybrid' class. This is a Language A Language & Literature class which studies the full Language & Literature syllabus, but in a way that makes a move to Language B in Year 13 possible. Students in the 'hybrid' class would, under normal circumstances, continue with Language & Literature into Year 13. However should a student in the 'hybrid' class wish to move to Language B in Year 13, for good reasons, they can make an application through the Academic Review Committee. Being in the 'hybrid' class does not mean a student has been accepted for a Language B in Year 13. Application has to be made to the Academic Review Committee. The 'hybrid' class exists to make such a move easier if it is approved. Students seeking a move to B in Year 13 will be expected to have worked hard in their Language A studies in Year 12. The deadline for the submission of such requests will be two weeks before the end of Year 12. Only students doing 2 A Languages can request a move in one of them to B.

Students, currently choosing their IB subjects who would like to have a place in the hybrid class, should speak with their French or English teacher, and get their approval on the IB options form. Such students are likely to be in an A language class in year 11, but

finding some skills especially challenging, such as literary analysis or developing the sophisticated written skills of the native speaker. There may also be students who are in a Language B class who, wishing to push their skills on significantly, may seek a year of Language and Literature before focusing on the Language B exam in Year 13.

Further details are available from the school's Language Departments.

French : Olivier Revaz : olivier.revaz@ecolint.ch

English : Paul Johnson : paul.johnson@ecolint.ch

Spanish & German : Richard Bourlet : richard.bourlet@ecolint.ch

Other Languages : Richard Bourlet : richard.bourlet@ecolint.ch

D) Choices in Mathematics

Students may choose between Mathematics Higher Level, Mathematics Standard Level and Mathematical Studies Standard Level. Mathematics SL and Mathematical Studies SL are both standard level courses, representing 150 hours of instruction over the 2 years. Mathematics HL represents 240 hours of instruction. Mathematics SL and Mathematics HL include the study of functions, calculus, vectors, trigonometry and statistics and probability. The content of Mathematics SL is a subset of that of Mathematics HL. Mathematical Studies is a separate syllabus, covering number and algebra, geometry and trigonometry, logic, statistics and probability, and introductory differential calculus. The emphasis is on solving real world problems using a graphical calculator where necessary.

The choice of level depends on the student's aptitude in mathematics, on their past level of attainment and on their motivation for the subject.

Students opting for Mathematics HL need to have achieved excellent results in Mathematics in the preceding years and should be highly motivated. An A* or A at IGCSE level is considered a pre-requisite for study at this level. Such students are likely to be aiming to study mathematics, a science or engineering at university.

Students opting for Mathematics SL need to have achieved good results in the preceding years. Achieving a C on the extended IGCSE course is considered the minimum requirement for the course. Students taking this level may need mathematics as they are aiming for entry on to university courses which require a solid background in mathematics or because they intend to study at a university in a European country which does not recognise Mathematical Studies. If this may apply, students should seek the advice of one of the higher education counsellors.

Students may opt for Mathematical Studies for a number of reasons. They may not require Mathematics at a higher level for entry to university or may have found the subject challenging in the past. For some students opting for Mathematical Studies may have implications for their university choices This is particularly the case with students wishing to study in Switzerland, Germany and some other European countries. For students intending to study a non-science subject in the UK, this is not usually a problem. Students should seek the advice of one of the higher education counsellors if they are concerned.

The mathematics department makes a recommendation on the level that each student should follow based on their past attainment and effort. Where a student wishes to study at a higher level than the one recommended, they will need to submit their reasons in writing to the Head of Maths and discuss this with him. Such a choice in Mathematics may be referred to the Academic Review Committee if necessary. Evidence suggests that students who follow a higher level course than the one recommended achieve up to 2 points less in Mathematics. The amount of extra work needed to make manage in a higher level can also have an impact

on results in other subjects.

Often students are tempted to try out a harder level than the recommended level, giving themselves the option of dropping down at a later date. While we permit this option, students should be aware that after the first few weeks the content of each level is significantly different and a change of level thus demands a great deal of extra work. Level changes can also have an impact on other subject choices. All such changes must be made by October half term of the year 12.

e) Assigning Levels.

Courses in the IB are studied at either Higher Level (HL) for 6 periods a week or at Standard Level (SL) for 4 periods a week. The diploma programme includes 3 courses at Higher Level and 3 courses at Standard Level, as well as the Core of TOK, CAS and Extended Essay. If you are aiming for certificates, you are not constrained by this mix and may choose any course at any level.

Your decision as to which courses you will study at which level will be affected by two things:

- i) Your long term plans and possible university entrance requirements
- ii) Course availability in the timetable.

Please note that in Theatre Standard and Higher Level classes are taught together. This means that students taking Standard Level are required to attend all 6 lessons at some times during the year, when units common to both levels are being studied.

f) Bilingual diploma

A bilingual diploma is awarded for the successful completion of programmes that have one of the following characteristics.

- Two Group 1 A languages
- The study of a Group 3 or 4 subject or the submission of a Group 3 or 4 Extended Essay in a language other than the student's Group 1 A language.

The IB does not award additional points for the successful completion of a bilingual diploma.

g) The International Baccalaureate Career Programme (CP) (Campus des Nations) What is the CP?

As its name indicates, the CP is an International Baccalaureate Programme intended for students who are keen to develop their career opportunities in particular fields. Students entering year 12 in September 2015 at the Campus des Nations have the opportunity to sign up for specific career studies in **business** or the **creative industries**. The CP has three components: IB Diploma Programme courses, a professional qualification, and the IBCP core. The core includes community and service, a personal and professional skills course, language development and a reflective project blended together to enhance individual critical thinking and intercultural understanding.

The IBCP helps students develop the communication and personal skills necessary for success. Surrounding the CP core is the requirement of a minimum of two IB Diploma Programme courses. The core bridges the rigorous requirements of the IB Diploma courses and the targeted career-related studies chosen by the student. At the Campus des Nations, students will be able to choose between a BTEC level 3 diploma in business or the same qualification in art and design. We also expect students to participate in value added elements of a career-related course of study such as work experience.



Why the CP at Ecolint?

Students at the International School of Geneva are part of the most diverse student body in the world. We want our students to have the freedom to choose paths which suit their interests and talents and which prepare them for the future of their dreams. The introduction of the CP at Campus des Nations alongside the IB Diploma on all our campuses, ASDAN in our ESP centres, and the Maturité suisse at La Châtaigneraie will allow us to provide every student with the best opportunity to succeed with us and in their lives beyond school. We like the flexibility of the CP, its international character and its focus on innovative teaching and assessment strategies. We welcome the opportunity to improve student readiness, not only for further academic studies, but also for the challenges of a career.

Is the IBCP right for you?

In year 11 students choosing courses do not need to know whether they want to become marketing strategists or video game designers, but they should feel excited about business or creative industries. Students will be learning specialist skills, but, of course, business acumen and creativity are in high demand in every sector. We are committed to developing specialist expertise and transferable understanding. Below are three reasons why the CP is an attractive qualification.

IBCP students have the freedom to choose to be assessed in the two or three Diploma Programme courses they love most.

Students can choose the subjects they enjoy best from our wide course offering. They might combine two languages; or Film and Design Technology; or Psychology and Economics. We will guide students in their course selection based on their interests and objectives. We believe that when students choose subjects they love engaging with, they are more likely to excel.

The IBCP recognises that knowledge is practical as well as theoretical.

Exams are not necessarily the best way for each student to showcase his or her knowledge. The CP allows for a great deal of portfolio work so that students get credit for what they can do throughout the year, and not predominantly for what they can write down in the exam. Teaching the CP will allow us to address better a variety of learning styles, allowing students to balance linguistic and analytical intelligence with creative skills, specialist knowledge, and practical know-how.

The IBCP encourages students to think like professionals.

The personal and professional skills course provides a forum for business and creative industry track students to work on projects together and develop their communication skills in both French and English. Guest speakers from industry will contribute to lessons and give feedback on projects. Work experience will further familiarise students with the realities of their chosen career.

BTEC, the professional qualification within Ecolint's CP is well recognised by professionals and universities around the world. We will offer one level 3 BTEC in Business and one in Art and Design. Each course comprises twelve modules which span two years of study. The courses modules range, in Art and Design from location photography to typography; in Business they cover topics as diverse as website design and marketing.

The CP prepares students for universities, for technical colleges and, also, beyond this, for their careers.

Further Enquiries

Ecolint's CP is a curriculum we believe in, but to find out more, please refer to: <http://www.ibo.org/programmes/career-related-programme> for the CP. To find out more about the professional qualification which will be taught as part of the CP, turn to: <http://www.edexcel.com> and search BTEC level 3 qualifications in either business or art and design.

To find out more about the IBCP, as it is offered by Ecolint, at the Campus des Nations, please contact me at alexandra.juniper@ecolint.ch

IB Choices available at La Châtaigneraie : please see Curriculum Guide for details

GROUP	Description
<p>GROUP 1</p> <p>First Language</p> <p>Language A</p> <p>Please see grid on page 8</p>	<p>Group 1 courses are designed to support future academic study by developing high levels of language competence. Literature plays a central role in all group 1 courses. Courses are suitable for students who have experience of using the language in an academic context. Language A courses and school supported self-taught options may be available in Languages other than those taught at school, by special arrangement at additional charge.</p> <p>There are 2 Group 1 courses</p> <p>Language A: Literature (SL/HL). are the courses that support mother-tongue entitlement in the IB and develop understanding of the techniques involved in literary criticism and analysis.</p> <p>Language A: Language and literature (SL/HL) is a new course, introduced to provide a particular focus on both literature and also language with an emphasis on cultural aspects. There are two parts of the course, one relating to the study of language and the other to the study of literature.</p>
<p>GROUP 2</p> <p>Second Language</p> <p>Language B or Ab Initio</p> <p>Please see grid on page 9</p>	<p>Language B (SL/HL): are language acquisition courses for students with some background in the target language. While learning this additional language, students also explore the culture(s) connected to it. Standard and Higher levels are differentiated by the recommended teaching hours, the depth of syllabus coverage, the study of literature at HL, the level of difficulty and the demands of assessment and the assessment criteria. The range of purposes and situations for which and in which the language is used in the language B courses extends well beyond those at ab initio.</p> <p>Language ab initio (SL) : is a language acquisition course for students with little or no experience of the language. Students who have studied the language at an IGCSE level or equivalent are not normally eligible for Ab Initio Language in the IB.</p>
<p>GROUP 3</p> <p>Individuals & Society</p>	<p>All students must study at least one humanities subject. At La Châtaigneraie the following subjects are offered: Geography, History, Economics (offered in both English and French) or Business Studies (students cannot take both), Environmental Systems and Society.</p>
<p>GROUP 4</p> <p>The Experimental Sciences</p>	<p>Again all students must study at least one science. The following courses are offered: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Science (SL only), Computer Science and Environmental Systems and Society (SL only).</p>
<p>GROUP 5</p> <p>Mathematics</p>	<p>All students must follow a mathematics course. There are three levels offered: Studies, Standard and Higher. Maths Higher & Standard may be offered in French.</p>

GROUP 6	Students may follow a course in the Arts (Music, Theatre, Visual Arts,) if they wish. However they may also use their group 6 choice to take another choice from Groups 1 to 4, i.e. a second science or humanity, or a third language. Students may take 2 Aesthetics subjects if they wish, but this would require the student to take Environmental Systems and Society. as a transdisciplinary subject in Groups 3 and 4. Please note that in Theatre Standard and Higher Level classes are taught together. This means that students taking Standard Level are required to attend all 6 lessons at some times during the year, when units common to both levels are being studied.
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Stage 3 . Making your Choices and Timetabling your Programme

The IB Options Form asks you to select your IB programme without the constraints of any pre-blocking. Your choices must give you a legal diploma package (a subject from each group spread across 3 Higher and 3 Standard Levels), and must comprise subjects for which you have been accepted by your teachers.

The school will do its best to timetable your choices, however not all combinations of subjects may be possible due to timetabling constraints. We ask you to submit a second choice if you are choosing Standard Level in Group 3 and or Group 4 subjects, or if you wish to study an Ab Initio Language. If a course fails to attract a sufficient number of students it may be withdrawn. If this arises the school will inform the student concerned and ask that an alternative choice is made.

How can I be sure that a new course is right for me?

It is possible to visit a course that you have never studied before. If you would like to arrange a classroom visit, please see the IB Director of Studies.

There is some flexibility in the courses at the start of year 12. Course changes are permitted up to the October half term, providing that a space exists in the desired course, the change fits in the timetable, and the programme of study meets the requirements for an IB Diploma. Course changes are managed through the Head of Year.

What are the Next steps ?

i) an interview with your Registration Tutor

Your registration tutor will discuss your plans with you and offer guidance. You will need to make an appointment to see them. The meeting will take about 10 minutes.

ii) checking with the Tertiary Advisors

You should make sure that the subjects you have chosen will be acceptable for the courses, colleges and countries that you wish to apply for. There are constraints that may have an impact on the freedom of choice that you have. You must find out before you choose. This is very important and may take some time.

iii) getting the support of your teachers for your choices.

You should get the signature of the teachers who take you for the subjects you wish to study in your Year 12 programme. You must ask your own teacher to sign you up, you should not go to a different teacher in that department. They may make one of three responses. They may accept you, they may reject you (this would be most unlikely), or they may accept you after having shared some concerns with you. If they have concerns they will write them on the application form in section D, after having had a discussion with you. This does not mean that you cannot take the subject, but it does mean that there are things that you will need to do in order to be able to make a success of it. A student who has many such comments will be counselled by the Coordinator of Year 11 and/or the IB Director of Studies.

If you wish to study a subject that you do not currently study you should approach the Head of the relevant Department and the Head of Year 11 for a signature. If you do not know who to approach, your Registration Teacher can help you.

Subject teachers reflect carefully on a student's ability level and approach to learning when they are asked to sign somebody up. They want to provide students and their parents with the best guidance for the future. If they have doubts about a student's suitability for a course, this advice should be taken seriously and in a constructive light. They are not just being awkward.

Your registration teacher will sign off on your options form to confirm that the package you have chosen meets the IB's requirements for a Diploma programme. All options forms are scrutinised by the University Counsellors of the regions you have expressed interest in on your form, to review the suitability of your choices for the courses, universities and countries you are interested in. If there is a problem they will ask you to meet with them.

iv) Review

A student whose approach to learning is a serious cause for concern, may be placed under review in the final months of Year 11 in order to help them develop the skills essential for IB study. A student who does not meet the conditions of their review may not be offered a place in Year 12.

Stage 4. Parent and Student signature

The final thing to do is for both student and parents to sign the form in Part A. The signature means that you are agreeing to the important statement in Part A, and that you have understood any concerns and reservations that might be linked to continued study in a subject.

The Cost of IB Examinations

The International Baccalaureate Office charges the following fees for the IB examinations. This cost is passed on to parents, with the addition of Swiss VAT, by the school, as follows

For the IB Diploma	
component	fee in CHF
Registration Fee (for Diploma or Certificates entry)	203
Extended Essay	107
Theory of Knowledge	54
CAS	13
Individual Subjects charged at CHF 140 each. Thus for 6 subjects	840
Sub Total	1217
plus VAT at 8%	1314.36

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January 2016

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For IB Courses	
component	fee in CHF
Registration Fee (for Diploma or Certificates entry)	203
Individual Subjects charged at CHF 140 each. Thus for 6 subjects	840
Sub Total	1043
plus VAT at 8%	1126.44