

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE



St Peter's
Cambridge
NEW ZEALAND

1. How do I pronounce Bacculaureate?

Back-a-law-re-it or IB Diploma for short.

2. What is it?

It is a highly regarded and respected pre-university international qualification. Students study for the Diploma in Year 12 and 13. It is a two year course.

3. What about NCEA?

NCEA is studied in Year 11 by all students and then students make a choice, NCEA Level 2 and 3 OR the IB Diploma. Both IB and NCEA students are able to sit Scholarship.

4. Flexibility?

Students can choose to not take a Group 6 Arts subject OR they can choose to take the ESS interdisciplinary course (fits in Group 3 and 4) which allows them to take another subject from another group (commonly students take a second social science or science. Alternatively, students could take a third language or a second Arts subject).

5. Which students will take the IB Diploma path?

The IB Diploma is suitable for those going on to university or tertiary education. It will suit those who are average and above average students. Students will need to be motivated, have a sound work ethic and have good time management skills.

6. What is so special about the Diploma?

The IB Diploma reflects the holistic philosophy here at St Peter's. It develops the well-rounded student and prepares them for an ever-changing future. The IB requires students study from each of the curriculum areas so they develop a wide understanding. Plus the qualification requires a course in the *Theory of Knowledge* which focuses on where knowledge came from, the different kinds of knowledge – scientific, mathematical etc and how it links to understanding the 'bigger picture.'

7. What about the extended essay and CAS?

The *extended essay* is also a requirement of the Diploma. It is a supervised piece of research (4,000 words) completed by every diploma student in the world. CAS is a programme of *creativity, action and service* and most St Peter's students are already involved in these areas. Students are asked to reflect on their experiences in a written journal as part of the diploma.

8. Exams or internal assessment?

Both. Each subject has between 20% and 30% internal assessment. Exams are at the end of Year 2 (Yr 13).

9. Higher Level (HL) and Standard Level (SL)

Students choose three subjects to study at Higher Level (HL) and three to study at Standard Level (SL). The hours of instruction, the difficulty of the content and type of assessment is different between HL and SL. The grading for HL and SL subjects is the same, with both levels resulting in a grade between 1--7.

10. Extra fees?

Fees have been set at \$800 per year. This covers exam entry and marking as well as a number of extra support materials for IB students (online text books and websites).

11. Scholarship?

If students can fit a scholarship(s) into their exam timetable in Year 2 then they can enter. Students sometimes choose to sit Scholarship exams in Year 1 (Year 12) and just focus on these, as there are no official IB examinations in the first year.