



American International School of Zagreb

Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
 Authorized by the International Baccalaureate

Pathways to Graduation

At AISZ we offer a broad range of courses with opportunities to challenge students to meet their academic goals, interests and abilities. Currently all AISZ courses in Grade 11 and 12 are International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Courses (IB DP). Students have the option of taking these courses at Standard (SL) or Higher Level (HL).

There are three pathways to graduation at AISZ:

<i>AISZ HS Diploma + IB Diploma*</i>	<i>AISZ HS Diploma + IB Course Certificates</i>	<i>AISZ HS Diploma + SAT/ACT</i>
6 IB Courses (usually 3 Higher level, 3 Standard level) Full Extended Essay Theory Of Knowledge (TOK) Creativity Activity Service (CAS) <i>IB Exams in May of their Graduating year</i>	6 IB Courses Any mix of SL/HL (3 SL + 3 HL <i>recommended</i>) Modified Extended Essay Option: Theory Of Knowledge (TOK) Creativity Activity Service (CAS) <i>IB Certificates: students must take IB Exams in May of their Graduating year</i>	6 IB Courses Any mix of SL/HL Modified Extended Essay Option: Theory Of Knowledge (TOK) Creativity Activity Service (CAS) <i>Students are recommended to take SAT or ACT</i>
Accepted Worldwide Required for: NL(Research and UC), UK, GER, CH, DK, SWE	Accepted in: NL(Applied Sciences), UK Tariff points/some foundation year, CAN, US	Accepted in: US, CAN, some Private EU, some UK, some NL(Applied Sciences)

**To be eligible for the Bilingual diploma, students must study Literature in two different languages or choose to take Literature in a subject other than English.*

The IB courses at AISZ offer a broad and balanced choice of subjects. All students can choose subjects from six groups, building a course of study, which provides them with the opportunity to engage in a variety of disciplines. As well as completing IB courses, all AISZ students who meet our Graduation requirements will leave school with an AISZ High School Diploma.



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The American International School of Zagreb (AISZ) High School Diploma

All students who meet AISZ Graduation requirements are eligible to achieve the AISZ Diploma. This is an American High School Diploma, and in order to graduate students must have gained credit for the following courses from Grades 9 - 12. Typically each course per semester is worth 0.5 credits in High School.

Course name	Credits
English	4
Mathematics	3
Sciences	3
Social Sciences	3
World Languages	2
Physical education	2
Art	1
Electives	6
Total credits	24
Grade 11 - 12 Service learning and Extended Essay	Pass

Students who are not taking the full IB Diploma, but successfully complete the TOK course earn graduation credits for elective courses. All students who wish to graduate with an AISZ Diploma must complete the Grade 11 - 12 Service learning programme - this is known as CAS.

AISZ Diploma students are expected to complete all internal subject course requirements in order to graduate. Students may opt out of taking the final IB external examinations for their courses, but this will result in no IB certificate being issued by the IBO.

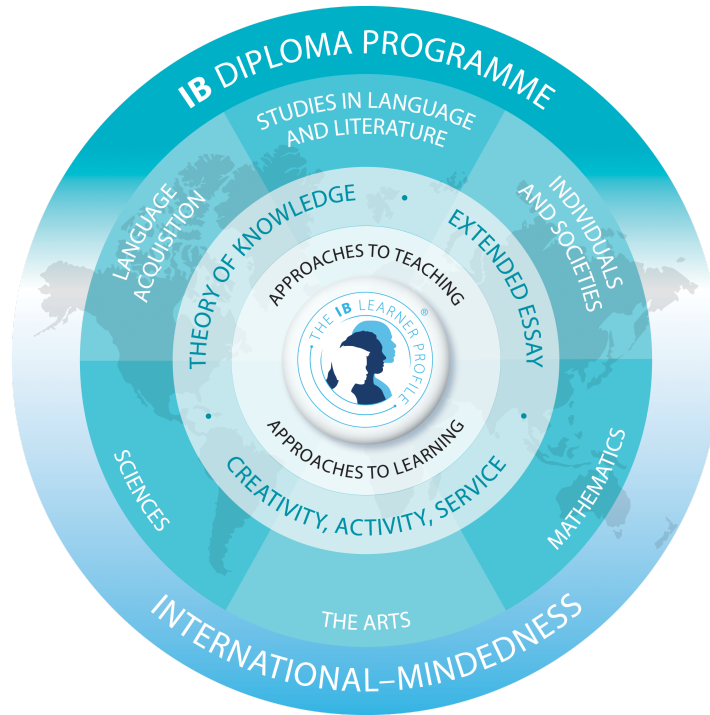
The AISZ High School Diploma is awarded by AISZ to all students successfully completing IB and non-IB programmes.



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International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP)



The IB Diploma Programme (DP) is a rigorous pre-university preparation programme designed for 16 to 19 year olds. The programme culminates with students sitting external examinations, the results of which may allow students to gain access to universities all over the World. In the 50 years since the Diploma Programme was created, its graduates have been well-prepared for university. For more information follow this [link to the IBO website](#).

The IB Diploma is a two-year programme with an international curriculum designed to give students learning experiences that emphasize *critical thinking, intercultural understanding, open-mindedness, principled action and respect for the diversity and commonality within the human family*. Students take courses from six groups of subjects, *gaining disciplinary strengths with methodology, knowledge, and conceptual understanding*. The Diploma Programme coursework is graded according to a criterion-based system, with well-defined levels of achievement addressing performance of knowledge, mastery, conceptual understanding, and skills pertinent to *both personal learning and subject-specific and disciplinary learning*.



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Students completing the IB DP are expected to study a maximum of six courses, **three at standard level (SL) and three at higher level (HL)**. The courses are selected from the groups as shown below. All courses are scored on 1 - 7 scale:

- SL courses pass with a 3,
- HL courses pass with a 3, **total of 12 points** (444, 534, but nothing below a 3)
- In order to pass the IB Diploma, students are expected to score a minimum total of 24 points, including 12 points at HL and 9 points at SL.
- As well as completing the six, academically challenging IB courses, IB DP students are also required to complete the IB Core requirements - [Extended Essay \(EE\)](#), [Theory of Knowledge \(TOK\)](#) and [Creativity, Activity and Service \(CAS\)](#).
- Students wishing to achieve a Bilingual Diploma must prove academically literate in two languages, the most common way of doing this is by taking two Language A courses. All other Diploma requirements are the same.

AISZ is an IB World School, fully authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organisation and the certificates are issued by the IBO from Geneva in September following Graduation. IB qualifications, and examination results are recognized and accepted by Universities around the World. There are many benefits for Universities accepting students with IB qualifications, [details of which can be found by following this link](#).

Internal expectations for IB Diploma students

- In accordance with the IB Learner profile, students are expected to attend school and class regularly and engage fully with the program;
- Students may begin G11 with 4 HL courses but will be required to drop one to SL before the end of semester 1, grade 11;
- AISZ may require the student to reduce the course load/ change levels should the student consistently be achieving level 2 or 3 in summative assessments;
- In beginning the program at AISZ, students agree to meet all internal and external IB deadlines and failure to do so will result in IB Program Probation.
- At the end of each quarter, students' points total for all classes should reflect the minimum IB passing requirements for the Diploma (min 24 points, including 12 HL points). If a student is not meeting these requirements the following process will be put into place:



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- a. **Academic action plan:** action plan will be coordinated by mentor/ IB DPC or HS Counselor as appropriate. Action plans typically run for 6 weeks and students are expected to show evidence of academic progress within this time. Parents will be involved in the process.
- b. **Academic probation:** in cases where minimum IB passing requirements are not met (min 24 points, including 12 HL points) academic probation is coordinated by the HS Principal and may result in the school withdrawing the student from the IB Diploma program.

IB Certificates

Students who do not wish to take the full IB Diploma, may choose **any combination of IB courses from the six groups**. All IB Course Certificates will be issued by the IBO in Geneva. In order to gain certification students:

- Must complete all internal and external IB assessment requirements for their chosen courses.
- Are expected to maintain at least a passing mark of a 3 for all Certificate courses.
- A modified EE and CAS are compulsory, and TOK optional; students have the option of earning IB Certificates for these courses if they complete all the IB requirements.

What courses are offered at AISZ?

Group	Subjects	Prerequisite for course
1	Language A Literature : English, Croatian, French or German (with enough demand), Chinese Self-taught: only available to students whose native language is not offered at AISZ	Completion of Grade 10 course in Language A choice
2	Language B Acquisition : English, French, German. German Ab initio, French Ab initio	Completion of Grade 10 course in second Language choice
3	Individuals and Societies : History, Economics, Psychology, *Environmental Systems and	Completion of Individuals and Societies 10



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	Societies SL	
4	<u>Sciences</u> : Biology, Chemistry, Physics, *Environmental Systems and Societies SL	Completion of Science 10. <u>Teacher recommendation required for HL physics</u>
5	<u>Mathematics</u> : Mathematics Analysis & Approaches HL/SL Mathematics Applications & Interpretations SL	Course recommendation made by Grade 10 teacher
6	<u>The Arts</u> : Music, Visual Arts	Course recommendation made by Arts 10 teachers. <u>Teacher recommendation for HL Music</u>

* *Environmental Systems and Societies is a cross-disciplinary course that can count for either Group 3 or Group 4, or BOTH, allowing students to take two Group 6 subjects (for example, Music AND Visual Arts)*

Notes

- Further guidance, including detailed course descriptions are available through this link: <https://ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum/>
- For Group 6, students may choose a second subject from any other group instead Visual Arts or Music.
- Pamoja classes are independent study; they will be taken online with no direct AISZ teacher supervision. Pamoja courses are a two year commitment and paid for by the family.
- Self taught Literature will require students to find a tutor. We can help to find a suitable tutor, but cannot guarantee we will find someone for you depending on the language you wish to study.

What courses are offered ONLINE - Pamoja Education?

The following IB classes are all offered online through [Pamoja Education](#). Pamoja is an online learning platform. The cost of each Pamoja course varies and is paid for by individual families in addition to the school fees. In order to be successful with online courses students need to be highly organised and motivated. Students taking Pamoja classes will not have an assigned AISZ teacher to guide them, all teaching takes place through Pamoja.

IB Group	Classes Available Online
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Group 1: Language and Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English A Language and Literature SL/HL
Group 2: Language Acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• French ab initio• Mandarin ab initio• Spanish ab initio• Spanish B SL
Group 3: Individuals and Societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business and Management SL/HL• Economics SL/HL• Information Technology in a Global Society SL/HL• Philosophy SL• Psychology SL/HL
Group 5: Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mathematics SL/HL*• Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches SL/HL• Mathematics: Applications and Interpretations SL/HL
Group 6: The Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Film SL

**Although Pamoja offers courses in all 4 Mathematics, this is not an option we would normally recommend.*

How are course selections made at AISZ?

During Semester 2 of Grade 10, students will meet with the IB Coordinator and College Counselor to learn about the graduation pathways available for them and complete an expression of interest form. All Grade 10 parents are invited to a special Course Selection Evening at the start of Semester 2, to learn about the options. After the parent meeting, students and parents will be asked to make their initial selection. The initial selection form will allow AISZ to assess which courses are likely to run the next year and allow AISZ to begin planning the schedule. Students will make their final course selection due two weeks later, during this time, all students are expected to speak with the course teacher. The IB Coordinator will share students' initial selection with teachers and will provide more guidance/ suggest alternative courses as appropriate. This is an important step to ensure students have the highest possible chance of success in Grades 11 and 12. After the final course selection is made, students and parents will meet with the IB DP



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Coordinator and School Counselor to discuss and agree recommended courses selections.

During the entire process, students are encouraged to ask for advice if they are uncertain about any aspect of the programme, it is also highly recommended for students and parents to research any specific course requirements for university entrance. This is especially true if the student is looking to study in Germany, Switzerland or Austria.

Advice for Students and Parents

Making decisions for course selection in Grade 11 and 12 is a complex, multistage process. Here is some advice:

- Speak with course teachers for details of each course and general advice for each subject
- Read the course descriptions on the [IBO website](#) before any selecting courses
- If possible, research university programme course entry requirements
- Choose a broad and balanced selection of courses, it's always a good idea to keep your options open.
- Consider and research the difference between Higher Level and Standard Level courses carefully, talk to the course teacher and ask for advice
- Note that the same subject may not be taken twice at different levels
- See the DP Coordinator for advice if the student wishes to study a language or course not offered, which may be available through Self Study or an Online Pamoja course

Inclusive Access Arrangements

Inclusive assessment arrangements are available for candidates with assessment access requirements. These arrangements enable candidates with diverse needs to access the examinations and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the constructs being assessed. If you would like to discuss Inclusive access arrangements, please see the IB Coordinator for the IB document 'Candidates with assessment access requirements'. This provides extensive details on all the inclusive assessment arrangements available to candidates with learning support requirements. The IB has published several documents explaining their position for students with learning needs. These documents are available from the IB coordinator. For candidates affected by adverse circumstances, the documents General regulations: Diploma Programme and the Handbook of procedures for the Diploma Programme provide details on access considerations.



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AISZ will do as much as possible to ensure equal access arrangements and reasonable adjustments are available to candidates with learning support needs, however any arrangements for students on the IB Diploma or IB Certificate Pathways must be in line with the IB regulations.

Can a student change courses?

Students are able to change the level of courses with semester 1 of grade 11. It is highly recommended that any significant course changes, e.g a student changing from Art to Chemistry, is made within one month of starting grade 11; any later than this and the student is at risk of having a significant amount of work to make up. If the student wishes to change the level of a course (HL to SL or SL to HL), there can be more flexibility with the switch. In cases where a student is discontinuing enrolment in the IB Diploma Programme, a student may switch a course at the end of the first semester in grade 11, after the second semester in grade 11 or before the start of the first semester in grade 12. These will be the only times that students in IB courses will be allowed to change courses. All courses will be fixed after October break of grade 12. This is to ensure the student is able to be entered for IB examinations and earn enough credits for Graduation.

All course changes must be agreed with the IB Coordinator, School Counselor and supported by course teachers and parents.

Sources of information

This guide was based on the 2017 - 2019 AISZ IB Handbook and information available through the IBO website.