



Takapuna Grammar School is an authorised school for the Diploma Programme. These are schools that share a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that Takapuna Grammar School believes is important for our students. Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer the diploma.

Takapuna Grammar School began to offer the IB Diploma programme to Year 12 in 2013.
What is the IB Diploma all about?

The IB Learner

The IB programme encourages students to become:

| The IB Learner's Profile | |
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| Inquirers | their natural curiosity has been nurtured and they actively enjoy learning |
| Thinkers | they exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to solving complex problems |
| Communicators | they receive and express ideas and information confidently in more than one language |
| Risk-takers | they approach unfamiliar situations without anxiety and have the confidence to explore new ideas |
| Knowledgeable | they have explored themes that have global significance and have acquired a critical mass of knowledge |
| Principled | they have a sound grasp of the principles of moral reasoning and have acquired integrity, honesty and a sense of justice |
| Caring | they show sensitivity towards the needs and feelings of others, and have a sense of personal commitment to helping others |
| Open-minded | they respect the values of other individuals and cultures and seek to consider a range of points of view |
| Well-balanced | they understand the importance of physical and mental balance and personal well-being |
| Reflective | they give thoughtful consideration to their own learning by constructively analysing their personal strengths and weaknesses |

"IB students are internationally aware citizens with open minds and open hearts. All IB students learn a second language, together with the skills to live and work with others both locally and internationally. But this international perspective is not gained at the expense of their own language or culture. Indeed we believe that the only way to appreciate another language or culture is to be confident first in your own. Our programmes are not exam driven: results are important of course, but the best results are attained by allowing students to develop their learning and engage in the curriculum. IB students are at the centre of our programmes. Students are taught to think for themselves and to drive the learning process. Teachers like that: students thrive on it."



The Subjects

IB Diploma Programme students study six courses at **higher level (HL)** or **standard level (SL)**. Students must choose one subject from each of groups 1 to 5, thus ensuring breadth of experience in languages, social studies, the experimental sciences and mathematics. The sixth subject may be an arts subject chosen from group 6, or the student may choose another subject from groups 2 to 5.

Higher level courses represent around 240 teaching hours over two years and Standard level courses represent around 150 teaching hours over two years

Examples of the sorts of subjects that may be studied are:

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| Group 1 | Literature: English; Chinese |
| Group 2 | French, Japanese, Spanish ab initio |
| Group 3 | Business and Management, Economics, Geography, History |
| Group 4 | Biology, Chemistry, Physics |
| Group 5 | Mathematics, |
| Group 6 | Theatre Arts, Visual Arts |

Three core requirements:

The extended essay (EE) is a requirement for students to engage in independent research through an in-depth study of a question relating to one of the subjects they are studying.

Theory of knowledge (TOK) is a course designed to encourage each student to reflect on the nature of knowledge by critically examining different ways of knowing (perception, emotion, language and reason) and different kinds of knowledge (scientific, artistic, mathematical and historical).

Creativity, action, service (CAS) requires that students actively learn from the experience of doing real tasks beyond the classroom. Students can combine all three components or do activities related to each one of them separately.

Assessment

All subjects (with the exception of CAS) are assessed using both internal and external assessors. The **externally assessed** examinations are held in November. Each exam usually consists of two or three *papers*, generally written on the same or successive weekdays. The different papers may have different forms of questions, or they may focus on different areas of the subject syllabus. The grading of all external assessments is done by independent examiners appointed by the IB.

The nature of the **internal assessment** varies by subject. There may, example, be oral presentations, practical work or written works.



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Internal assessment accounts for 20 to 50 percent of the mark awarded for each subject and is marked by a teacher in the school. A sample of at least five per subject at each level will also be graded by a moderator appointed by the IB for external moderation.

Points from 1 -7 are awarded in each of the six subjects studied. Up to 3 additional points are awarded depending on the grades achieved in the Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge. Therefore the maximum possible point total in the IB Diploma is 45.

To gain a diploma students must

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| gain a minimum of 24 points of a possible 42 points in their six subjects |
| gain a minimum of 12 points from their Higher Level subjects and a minimum of 9 points from their Standard Level subjects |
| complete all of the requirements for the EE, CAS and TOK |

Failing conditions that will prevent a student from being awarded a diploma, regardless of points received, are:

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| non-completion of CAS |
| more than three scores of 3 or below |
| plagiarism |

7 questions

1. Can I also sit the Scholarship exams?

Yes you can. However it will need to fit into the IB assessment schedule as well. Sometimes there will be variations in the material studied.

2. How do I get into University?

The 2012 University Entrance requirements under IB are “An applicant will be deemed to be eligible for admission if they have been awarded the full International Baccalaureate Diploma (24 points minimum)”. There are other requirements for particular courses. For example for a B Health Science you need 29 points, for B Commerce 27 points and for a B Science 25 points. There are no other requirements for these courses.

3. What do I do in Year 11?

In Year 11 you do NCEA Level 1. At the end of the year you can opt into either IB or NCEA.

4. Can I change to NCEA in Year 13

Yes you can, remembering you will still need your NCEA Level 2 literacy requirements and that might determine what subject combination you take. You can't go into IB from NCEA at Year 13.