



**St Leonard's College**  
An education for life.

# What is the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and why is it such a sought after tertiary pathway?

For the past four decades St Leonard's College has been offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Here, we share with you some of the most frequently asked questions to help demystify this exceptional educational offering.

## When was the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) established?

The IB Diploma Programme was first established in 1968.

## Why is St Leonard's College a recognised leader in the IBDP?



St Leonard's College was the **first Victorian school** and the **first Australian independent school** to adopt the IB Diploma in 1982, with 2022 marking 40 years of the IB Diploma at our College.



We're part of a global network of **over 5,500 schools worldwide** who offer the IB Diploma.



The IB Diploma is recognised in **over 160 countries** for university entry, including in Australia where IBDP students receive a notional ATAR.

## How is the IBDP different from other curriculums?

What sets the IBDP apart is its depth of study and critical thinking, along with its breadth of subjects and value of cocurricular activities.

## How does the IBDP offer an education for life?

The IB Diploma teaches students to:

- ✓ ask and answer challenging questions
- ✓ think critically and compassionately
- ✓ learn through and across disciplines
- ✓ develop research skills proven to help them in higher education and
- ✓ be active global citizens through their understanding of other languages and cultures

## So what exactly is the IBDP comprised of?



All students study **six subjects** across years 11 and 12.

Students must study English, an additional language, a humanities subject, a science and mathematics.

The sixth subject may be an arts subject: music, theatre or visual arts. Alternatively, students can select an additional language, humanities or science subject.

These six subjects represent the breadth of the diploma.

## What do the IBDP subject “levels” refer to?

**3 SUBJECTS** are studied at a **STANDARD LEVEL**

**3 SUBJECTS** are studied at a **HIGHER LEVEL**

The three higher level subjects are usually the student’s strongest or favourite subjects.

Higher level subjects allow students to explore standard level concepts at greater depth as well as additional content.

## What are the additional core components of the IBDP?

In addition to the six IB Diploma Programme subjects, all students must complete three core components:

**1** Theory of Knowledge

**2** Extended Essay

**3** Creativity, Activity, Service

## What is the Theory of Knowledge (TOK)?



Theory of Knowledge, or TOK, is taught one period a week. The subject explores why people think differently, recognising different viewpoints based on knowledge, perspectives, time and place. TOK regularly features in dinner time conversations because parents bring worthy views and experiences to TOK learning.

## What is the Extended Essay (EE)?



The Extended Essay is a 4,000 word research essay on a subject of the student’s choice. Each student is assigned a subject teacher/mentor to guide students through the process discussing expert knowledge. Many students include learning from their Extended Essay as part of the university application process.

## What is Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS)?



Creativity, Activity and Service, or CAS, represents the IBO's commitment to cocurricular activities, social action and balance in students' lives.

At St Leonard's College all our students participate in ACS sports and a great number participate in our music and theatre programs. These students are well on their way to completing the CAS requirement of their IB Diploma.

The College also offers many opportunities for students to volunteer and lead through service and awareness programs. We offer a wide range of social action initiatives that span local, national and international social justice projects.

We also encourage students to continue and seek further creative and service opportunities outside the College through sports teams and community activities.

## Why do universities value the IBDP?



Universities value IB Diploma Programme graduates as they demonstrate a high level of organisation, international-mindedness, critical and compassionate thinking skills and excellent oral and writing skills.

## Where can you learn more about the IBDP?



If you would like to know more about this fantastic learning program, please book a College tour by [clicking here](#) or contact our admissions office as we would love to hear from you. Further information can also be found at [ibo.org](http://ibo.org)