



**ST. JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION  
INTERNATIONAL MALAYSIA**

**DIPLOMA PROGRAMME  
HANDBOOK 2017**

## **WELCOME TO SJI INTERNATIONAL MALAYSIA**

Welcome! In choosing the IB Diploma, you have selected a programme that is going to help you become more knowledgeable, more skillful, more organised, more independent and more globally aware. This aligns with an important part of the IB Mission Statement, which states that:

“The International Baccalaureate Organisation aims to develop enquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect”.

Although the IB Diploma Programme has many special characteristics, perhaps most important is that the DP aims to educate the whole person, leaving all doors open and no doors closed. The Diploma Programme allows entry into the best universities in the world. The DP provides a holistic education; as well as academic excellence, its students have intercultural understanding, are internationally minded and care for their community. The DP demands special approaches to learning; it develops skills, not just the learning of information in order to pass exams.

Last but not least, the IB encourages in students a set of highly meaningful attributes known as the “Learner Profile” (see P.3). These attributes align very well with our Lasallian core principles of quality education, faith in the presence of God, respect for all persons, an inclusive community and concern for the poor.

In addition to your DP subjects, you will be given the opportunity to participate in SJII Malaysia’s rich extra-curricular activities programme.

On beginning your journey at SJII Malaysia, you will be given assistance in choosing the “package” of subjects you wish to study and when you join Year 12 you will be assigned to a “tutor group” with an experienced tutor. Your tutor will meet you every school day either at an assembly or in a tutor room, will take attendance and will communicate with your parents and subject teachers about your progress. In short, your tutor will watch over you, guide you and will become an important person in your life at SJII Malaysia.

Enjoy your time in the Senior School at SJI International Malaysia!

Mrs. Maureen Fitzgerald

IBDP Coordinator

## THE IB LEARNER PROFILE

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognising their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. IB learners strive to be:

ATTRIBUTE	DESCRIPTOR
<b>Inquirers</b>	We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.
<b>Knowledgeable</b>	We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.
<b>Thinkers</b>	We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.
<b>Communicators</b>	We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups
<b>Principled</b>	We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.
<b>Open minded</b>	We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.
<b>Caring</b>	We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.
<b>Risk-takers (Courageous)</b>	We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.
<b>Balanced</b>	We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, spiritual and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.
<b>Reflective</b>	We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

## THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA

The IB Diploma is a very well established and widely respected two-year programme of study for pre-university students. The IB Diploma qualification is recognised by universities around the world and a strong performance in the Diploma can gain a student access to some of the very best universities in the world.

The IB Diploma is an academically rigorous and demanding programme. It is also holistic and wide-ranging, encouraging activity, community involvement and internationalism as well as academic excellence. It requires and helps to develop extremely effective approaches to learning. The nature of the coursework and examinations at the end of the course encourages inquiring, independent and skills-based learning. The IB Diploma therefore offers the opportunity of a first class education in the widest sense.

***Every student must comply with the three central “Core” requirements of the Diploma. These are:***

1. A 4,000 word Extended Essay on a research subject of the student’s own choice.
2. Theory of Knowledge, a course designed to encourage students to think, evaluate and question the knowledge they have, how they acquired it and what influences it.
3. Participation in “CAS”, comprising Creativity (e.g. involvement in performances, exhibitions, concerts), Activity (e.g. involvement in sports teams, learning new sports, expeditions) and Service (e.g. involvement in local and maybe overseas community service projects).

***Every student must also study six academic subjects, one selected from each of the following groups:***

Group 1 – Studies in Language and Literature

Group 2 – Language Acquisition

Group 3 - Individuals and Societies

Group 4 - Sciences

Group 5 - Mathematics

Group 6 – The Arts or another subject selected from groups 1 to 5

***Three*** of the six subjects must be taken at “higher level” (HL) and ***three*** at “standard level” (SL).

The Diploma Programme can be illustrated by the model overleaf with the learner (the student) at its centre.



Each of the six subjects consists of a “theory” component, which follows a prescribed syllabus taught in class and examined at the end of the course, and an internally assessed coursework component, which allows the opportunity for both teacher and student to input to the course of study.

### ***How is the Diploma assessed?***

At the end of the two-year programme students take examinations, which are externally marked by IB examiners, in each of the six subjects. The additional coursework component is marked by teachers and marks verified by IB moderators. As a result of the exam performance and coursework, the student will be awarded a numerical grade for each subject ranging from 7 (excellent) down to 1. Therefore, the six subjects taken together yield a possible maximum of 42 points.

In addition, the Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge course together can contribute a combined score of up to three extra Core points.

Thus, the maximum and ‘perfect’ Diploma score is 45 points. A total score of below 24 points means that a student will not be awarded the Diploma. 24 points is the minimum for a ‘pass’ (though “terms and conditions” do apply). Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) is not awarded points, but a satisfactory performance in these areas must be recorded in order for the Diploma to be awarded.

## DO THE SUBJECTS I CHOOSE AFFECT WHAT I CAN STUDY AT UNIVERSITY?

The DP closes no doors and leaves all doors open. After all, most students at your age do not yet know what they would like to do after school. It is very wise to choose your subjects on the basis of your strengths and your subject enjoyment. However, if you already have an idea of what you might like to study at university, it is worth keeping a few things in mind. Universities are very keen on IB students and look on them favourably. However, some courses do have pre-requisites and some require you to gain not only a specific number of total points, but particular scores in individual subjects. The following information might be useful to you in choosing your subjects.

Architecture – Mathematics and/or Physics at HL may be required; Visual Art is required for some programmes. A portfolio is usually required.

Economics, Business, or related subjects – Mathematics HL or SL may be required (Mathematics Studies SL may not be accepted). While Economics at IB level may not be specifically required it would be expected or preferred for an Economics course. Business Management at IB level is not usually required.

Engineering – Entry requirements vary significantly. At some universities HL Mathematics and HL Physics are often required or preferred (HL Mathematics and Chemistry for Chemical Engineering, possibly Physics at either level as well).

Law – There are no specific requirements but evidence of analytic skills and reading/writing skills are essential. English A would be preferred. A student interested in law would usually have a natural interest in the Humanities.

Medicine – Chemistry and Biology at HL (Physics may be accepted instead of Biology for some courses). Some programmes also have Mathematics and/or English requirements.

Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy – Students would be expected to have Mathematics and at least one Science (Chemistry, Biology or Physics) at SL. Students interested in these fields usually have a natural interest in Biology.

Psychology, Science or related subjects – one or more HL Science subject and/or Mathematics SL may be required.

Visual or Performing Arts or Music - IB Visual Art/Theatre/Music may not be required but will be preferred and expected. Students are usually required to submit a portfolio or are auditioned.

You should also check out university course requirements online. For Malaysian universities, visit the individual websites. For UK universities, entry requirements for all programmes at all universities are listed on the UCAS website ([www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)) under Course Search. US universities generally do not require any specific courses for entry, although there may be exceptions for certain programmes, such as Engineering, Pre-

medicine and Finance. Australian and Canadian entry requirements vary; you can check requirements on the individual websites.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING AT SJII MALAYSIA

At SJII Malaysia we believe in active teaching and learning. We believe in academic rigour leading to academic excellence, but we do not believe in simply memorising material for examinations. Classrooms at SJII Malaysia will be engaging, lively environments where students enjoy what they are learning and know what they need to do to improve.

Our education will be constructionist, in other words we believe in building new learning on previous learning and prior experience. Of course we want our students to excel in examinations, but at the same time we want them to be able to apply the skills and knowledge they learn inside and outside the classroom. We want our students to develop the quality of self-motivation and to find out for themselves how they learn best, through employing a variety of teaching strategies. We want them to be able to make connections between the different subjects, and between the topics within the subjects that they study. By using a variety of assessment vehicles and methods of feedback, we want our students to be absolutely clear about what to aim for and how to achieve their targets for improvement. Finally, we want our students to interact meaningfully with others, for example by collaboration in group activities and by practising academic honesty. To achieve this, our teachers will be experienced, passionate and energetic IB practitioners.

The IB has specifically outlined a set of approaches to teaching and learning, which align very well with the SJII Malaysia educational vision. The IB aims to develop a broad set of skills that can be summarised as:

**Research skills** – how to research information in constructive ways, how to identify worthwhile sources of information, how to conduct research ethically and how to use information honestly

**Communication skills** – how to speak, read, write and use media effectively and productively

**Social skills** – how to interact with others in a meaningful way, for example during collaborative group work and extended projects

**Thinking skills** – how to analyse, explain, evaluate, discuss, make links and see the big picture

**Self-management skills** – how to work independently, effectively and in an organised manner

This means that teachers will also use a broad set of pedagogical approaches, including:

**Inquiry** – Whilst we know that information has to be imparted, we are aware of the power of students finding things out and coming to conclusions by themselves rather than always being told.

**Emphasizing concepts** – Teachers will emphasise understanding of concepts, so that students can make links and see the big picture, rather than seeing each lesson as an individual entity that can be pushed to one side as soon as it is over.

**Differentiation** – Teachers will use a variety of teaching strategies and approaches, so that their students' different needs and ways of learning can be addressed.

**Development of independence** – By the nature of tasks set and by high expectations, teachers will help students to develop their self-management skills.

**Assessment** – teachers use a variety of assessment methods to reveal ways in which their teaching approaches can constantly be moved forwards, in order to maximise their students' learning achievements.

## THE IB DIPLOMA AT SJII MALAYSIA

As mentioned earlier, students wishing to take the IB Diploma must select *SIX* subjects: *THREE* at HIGHER level (HL) and *THREE* at STANDARD level (SL). The standard of performance required may be very similar between HL and SL courses, but HL courses are likely to be more extensive in scope and depth. Thus, HL courses are allocated more teaching time and are generally thought to be 'more demanding'.

The subjects must be selected as follows, one from each of the following six groups:

### 1. Studies in Language and Literature

*Language A: Literature* – This is usually taken in the first language of the student or the language in which the student is most competent.

**OR:**

*Language A: Language and Literature* - This may or may not be taken in the first language of the student or the language in which the student is most competent, but will be taken in a language of which the student has a good command. The student will be a native or near native speaker.

### 2. Language Acquisition

*Language B* – This is a foreign language, which the student has previously studied, and which offers the opportunity for them to build and develop existing skills and knowledge.

**OR:**

*Language ab initio* – This is a foreign language that the student has never previously studied, or has limited experience in, which reflects their aims and interests.

### 3. Individuals and Societies (the “Humanities”)

### 4. Sciences

### 5. Mathematics



**6. The Arts** – This may be Music, Visual Arts **OR** may be another subject selected from one of the above groups. At SJII Malaysia this will mean another subject from Groups 3 or 4 (please note that students cannot take two Mathematics subjects).

In addition to the six subjects, all Diploma students must also study a course in Theory of Knowledge (TOK), write an Extended Essay (EE) and comply with the CAS requirement.

# REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS WISHING TO TAKE THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME AT SJII MALAYSIA

The IB Diploma is a rigorous and demanding academic course. We need to be sure therefore that students will be able to cope with its demands.

**In accordance with the school's Admissions Policy, students wishing to enter the school should display the following attributes:**

- Academic ability: SJI International Malaysia is a high achieving academic school. As such, we expect all students to meet certain minimum academic levels, as shown by both their results in our own admissions assessments and their previous school report grades.
- An ability to access the curriculum in English
- A positive attitude to learning
- The ability to benefit from a high achieving environment
- Willingness to participate fully in all that the school has to offer

Prospective students will attend an interview with the Principal. The students' qualifications will be taken into consideration and they will be required to take English, Mathematics and Non-Verbal Reasoning tests. If a student is an overseas applicant, these tests can be administered at the student's current school.

We take a holistic approach to our admission process and we value what a student is involved with outside the classroom, as well as their academic grades. The interview is a key part of their admissions process.

All Senior School students will be members of the SJII Malaysia community and all will be expected to make a substantial contribution to it. All students will participate actively in the life of the school beyond the classroom and display an evident degree of constructive energy.

## HOW WILL I MANAGE MY PROGRAMME?

Remember you will be assigned to a “tutor group” with an experienced tutor, who will communicate with your parents and subject teachers about your progress and will watch over and guide you.

When you start your extended essay, you will be assigned a personal supervisor who will consult with you during the writing of your essay, and you will be provided with a timeline which will help you plan the stages of your essay.

You will also be assigned to a CAS Advisor who will guide and monitor your CAS achievements.

In addition, you will receive regular reports. You will receive two detailed reports and two progress reports each year.

The school will also provide you with a calendar called the “academic planner”, which will outline all the important times of the year when coursework assignments will take place and when other academic events such as examinations, or CAS interviews etc., will be scheduled. This will help you plan your study timetable in advance and ensure that you will not be taken by surprise by unexpected tasks. Interim deadlines will be set for regular homework and other pieces of work and your teachers will give you regular feedback so that you will know what you need to do to improve.

Finally, internally administered examinations will be held at the end of Year 12 and internally administered mock examinations will be held before the final IB examinations in Year 13.

A 7 – 1 grading system, where 7 is high and 1 is low, will be used for achievement.

## SJII DIPLOMA OPTIONS FOR 2017

The table below shows the subject choice options that will be available for the Diploma Programme beginning in 2017:

GROUP	NAME	CHOICES AVAILABLE AT SJII MALAYSIA
1	Studies in language and literature*	Language A: literature, in English Language A: language and literature, in English
2	Language acquisition*	Chinese B, Malay B, Chinese ab initio or Spanish ab initio
3	Individuals and societies	Economics, Geography, History, Business Management or ITGS (Information Technology in a Global Society)
4	Sciences	Biology, or Chemistry, or Physics
5	Mathematics	Mathematics HL or SL
6	The arts (and electives)	Music, or Visual Arts, or another subject from Groups 3 or 4

*\*Please see the special note about languages on P. 12*

Remember, *three* of the chosen subjects must be taken at HL and *three* at SL.

Remember as well, there are three compulsory Core components. The table below shows the compulsory core components:

The Extended Essay
Theory of Knowledge (TOK)
Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS)

## A SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT LANGUAGES

It is always difficult to accurately predict the languages students will ask for, especially in a new school like SJII Malaysia where we do not yet have a language history in the school. The languages we have chosen are based on preferences indicated by prospective students and their parents. We are open to requests however, though we cannot promise we will be able to accommodate every one.

### School-supported self-taught languages

The IB recognizes that it is not possible for every school to provide every language that their students request. This is particularly relevant for students studying in a country where the language they wish to study is not a main language. For example, a Dutch student studying in Thailand may wish to take Language A: literature in Dutch, but his school does not teach Dutch. To help with this sort of situation, the IB provides a 'school-supported self-taught' language option.

A student taking a self-taught language will be supervised by a teacher at the school, and the school will administer examinations, but the student or their parents must source and pay for an outside tutor with whom to study the course requirements. This is an option that must be very carefully considered. It requires a strong degree of independence and commitment from the student. It certainly is not an option for students with poorly developed study habits.

School-supported self-taught languages are available only in Language A: literature and at SL only.

### The bilingual diploma

It is permitted for a student to study two Language A courses, instead of a Language A and a Language B or ab initio. The student must have a high degree of competence in both languages.

If a student is successful (i.e. achieves a grade 3 or above) in both of these subjects, a ***bilingual diploma*** will be issued. The benefit of this diploma is that it leaves no doubt about the student's proficiency in more than one language.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL SUBJECTS OFFERED AT SJII MALAYSIA**

What will I study in IB Economics? What is the difference between HL and SL Physics? What sort of coursework will I have to do in History? What exactly is Theory of Knowledge? How many examination papers will there be in Maths HL? How much practical work do I have to do in science? Do languages have oral examinations? What are the exam questions like in Biology?

These and many, many more are examples of questions commonly asked about individual subjects. The best place to find complete information about each of the subjects offered at SJII Malaysia is on the International Baccalaureate Organisation website. The IBO has provided a series of “subject briefs”, one for each subject at HL and one for each subject at SL (though because there are so many languages, the languages briefs are generic).

***Find all the subject briefs at:***

<http://www.ibo.org/university-admission/ib-recognition-resources-and-document-library/#briefs>

On that page, you will need to click on “Diploma Programme Subject Briefs,” in order to access these for individual subjects.

## **STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?**

***Have a look at the FAQs about the IB Diploma at:***

<http://www.ibo.org/university-admission/recognition-of-the-ib-diploma-by-countries-and-universities/faqs/>

**ENJOY YOUR DIPLOMA!**