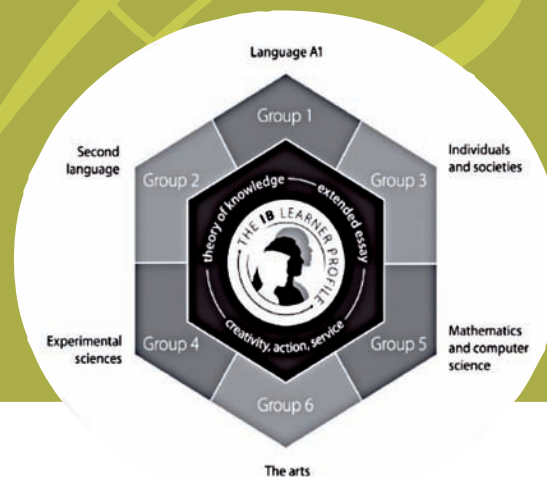


In May 1997 Hamrahlíð College (MH) became a member school of the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). This gives the College the right to offer the IB Diploma Programme, a comprehensive pre-university curriculum. Taught in English and intended mostly for the 16-19 age groups, the two-year course ends with standardised exams recognised by universities world-wide. The school also offers a preliminary year for younger students before they start the IB proper to bridge the gap between differing School systems.

Comparison to the national matriculation examination

- The IB Diploma gives the same qualification for further education as does the Icelandic matriculation examination ("stúdentspróf"). The IB Diploma is, however, different from the standard matriculation examination in a number of ways:
- It is completed in three (or even two) years instead of four.
- Students select six or seven traditional academic subjects and complete a full two-year course in each.
- In addition Students write an extended essay (EE), study Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and participate in activities outside the classroom which call for creativity, action and service (CAS).
- IB subjects are taught and examined in English.
- The final IB examinations, which take place in May each year, come from the IBO. They are assessed and moderated by international examiners.



The structure of the programme

The IB curriculum is based on a hexagonal model (see figure). All students must complete the three centre components and study six academic subjects concurrently for two years. Students select one subject from groups 1-5 and then either a subject from group 6 or an extra subject from groups 1-4. The offered subjects can be seen in the table. The subjects are offered at Higher or Standard Level. Students select at least three HL subjects. In each subject, grades are awarded from 1 to 7. The maximum points for the subjects are 42. Up to three extra points may be awarded for good results in EE and TOK. To gain the IB Diploma a student must fulfill specific requirements and attain at least 24 points.



Group	Subject
1 – Language A1	English A1 HL/SL
	Icelandic A1 HL/SL
	Other languages self-taught SL
2 – Second language	English B, HL/SL
	German B HL/SL and Ab initio SL
	Spanish B HL/SL and Ab initio SL
	French B HL/SL and Ab initio SL
	Danish B HL/SL
3 – Individuals and societies	History HL/SL
	Psychology HL/SL
4 - Experimental sciences	Biology HL/SL
	Chemistry HL/SL
	Physics HL/SL
5 - Mathematics	Methods HL
	Methods SL
	Studies SL
6 – The arts	Visual arts SL or one subject from groups 1-4



MH admission policy for IB students

The Diploma Programme (DP) is first and foremost an opportunity for hard-working and highly motivated pre-university students. The DP makes Hamrahlíð College the only Icelandic secondary school where it is possible to prepare for university without having command of the Icelandic language. Bearing this in mind we mainly accept applicants of two kinds:

Icelandic students who have gained good results at the end of their compulsory education, have developed good study habits and display the necessary interest, maturity and vision to come to grips with a rigorous academic programme in a foreign language.

Non-Icelandic or Icelandic students who have lived and studied outside of Iceland, are heading for university and have shown academic ability but have little or no hope of fulfilling the requirements of the Icelandic matriculation examination due to their lack of knowledge and/or practice in using the Icelandic language. Very good skills in English are required.

What I like the most about IB and MH

My favourite fact about the IB so far is that I have been granted the opportunity to familiarise myself with members of different, perhaps more developed and mature cultures and societies than I can experience here in Iceland.

The IB is a very close community, because students come from all across the world hence it is very easy to make good friends.

IB is making us more open-minded and it's definitely a rewarding experience. There is (I think) nothing more interesting than being in class with people that come from somewhere else and that are different.

What I like most about MH/IB is the tolerance students here show towards different styles and cultures.

Challenging curriculum for motivated people



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*The IB curriculum in MH
.....for those that
make demands and take
responsibility for themselves*