



The Sultan's School

IB Entrance Criteria

(Internal Students)



Mission Statement

“The Sultan's School is a co-educational school offering a bilingual Arabic-English education from early childhood to pre-university.

The school seeks to provide a broad and balanced education to the highest quality which reflects and strengthens the Omani and Islamic culture while encouraging an international perspective and developing critical, creative thinking in its students”



The IB Learner Profile

The aim of the Sultan's School is to ensure consistency with the IB Learner Profile. Which aims to develop internationally minded people, who recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, and help to create a better and more peaceful world.

IB learners strive to be:

Inquirers	They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.
Knowledgeable	They explore concepts, ideas, and issue that have local and global significance. In so doing, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.
Thinkers	They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.
Communicators	They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.
Principled	They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups, and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.
Open-minded	They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values, and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.



Caring	They show empathy, compassion, and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.
Risk-takers	They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.
Balanced	They understand the importance of intellectual, physical, and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.
Reflective	They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.

What does the Diploma Programme curriculum contain?

The curriculum contains six subject groups and a core of three parts.



Diploma students study:

- Three subjects at higher level (240 hours each).
- Three subjects at standard level (150 hours each).
- CAS / Extended Essay / ToK

Assessment

Excellent – 7

Very good – 6

Good – 5

Satisfactory – 4

Mediocre – 3

Poor – 2

Very poor – 1



IB Entrance Requirements

There is a sizable jump from IGCSE standards to IB Diploma academic standards. The IB Diploma is aimed at 16-19 year olds and is seen as the premier pre-university course in the world. Globally 80% of students pass the IB Diploma averaging 29 points out of a possible 45. Therefore, we need to ensure that the students entering the IB Diploma are capable of meeting the demands of the course. The Sultan's School has an entrance criteria listed below.

The best 7 IGCSE scores are used and turned into a number out of a possible 70 points.

IGCSE Grade	(*A) 7	(A) 6	(B) 5	(C) 4	(D) 3	(E) 2	(F) 1
Score	10	9	8	7	6	5	4

Therefore, if a student averages a grade C or higher they would be fully capable of accessing the IB Diploma.

Students who average a grade D would need to be put on academic probation. What this means, is that for the first four months of year 12 the student's grades would be very closely monitored and supported. They would need to attain an average of a level 4 (IB grades range from 1 to 7) if they are to progress to the Diploma. Students averaging below level 4 would be studying the IB Certificate. The IB Certificate is a more accessible route than the Diploma.

IGCSE Score	IB Status
+49	Diploma
+42	Probation / Certificate

However, students that average below a grade D (less than 42 points) would not be eligible to enter year 12. **They would be offered the opportunity to retake year 11 in a bid to improve their academic grades.**

HL Minimum Requirements

Subject	Minimum Requirements
Mathematics	6 (A)
Sciences	5 (B)
Design Technology	5 (B) Physics or Art
Other subjects	4 (C)



IB Diploma vs IB Course (Certificates)

Here at The Sultan's School, we endeavor to ensure that students attempt the full IB Diploma wherever appropriate. Through academic counselling, ongoing monitoring and, where necessary, academic probation, students are supported and encouraged to pursue the full Diploma Programme.

The vast majority of our students follow the full Diploma pathway. However, in individual cases, and following careful consideration of a student's academic profile and circumstances, the IB Course pathway may be considered a more appropriate option.

IB Diploma vs IB Course (Certificate) Workload

	Diploma	Certificates
Number of subjects taken	6	6
Number of HL subjects	3	3
ToK	Yes	No
Extended Essay	Yes	No
CAS	Yes	Yes

The IB Course pathway removes some of the additional requirements of the full Diploma, most notably Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay. This can provide students with greater flexibility to focus their time and attention on their chosen six subjects.



Ministry of Education Equivalency

Recognition of International Baccalaureate qualifications in the Sultanate of Oman

The Ministry of Education of the Sultanate of Oman has established requirements for the equivalency of international qualifications with the Omani General Education Diploma (GED). The requirements applicable to International Baccalaureate qualifications are summarized below.

Equivalency of the IB Diploma

The IB Diploma is equivalent to the General Education Diploma of the Sultanate of Oman provided that:

- the student is awarded and submits the IB Diploma;
- the student has completed at least 12 years of schooling; and
- Omani students sitting their examinations in Oman have studied and passed Islamic Education and Social Studies.

Equivalency of the IB Course Certificate

The IB Course Certificate may be considered equivalent to the General Education Diploma of the Sultanate of Oman provided that:

- the student submits the IB Course Certificate;
- the student has completed six IB subjects, including at least two subjects at Higher Level (HL);
- the student achieves at least 3 points in each of the six subjects, three of which must be studied at HL subjects and a total of at least 21 points across the six subjects;
- the student has completed at least 12 years of schooling; and
- Omani students sitting their examinations in Oman have studied and passed Islamic Education and Social Studies.

Sources and further information

Ministry of Education, *Guidelines for Equivalency of International School Qualifications in the Sultanate of Oman*, p. 20.

IB Recognition Statements Database: [Oman](#)



Arabic Languages A & B

As a bilingual school the expectation at The Sultan's School is that every student takes Arabic A in years 12 and 13. The study of Arabic A ensures that the students receive a bilingual IB Diploma which is prestigious and attractive to universities. Arabic A also supports the Omani Ministry examinations. Furthermore, The Sultan's School is obligated to comply with the rules of the IBO regarding language selection.

“Language B is an additional language-learning course designed for students with some previous learning of that language The most important consideration is that the course should be a challenging educational experience for the student.”

Consequently, all year 12 students would be expected to study Arabic A unless they studied IGCSE Arabic as a Foreign Language in years 10 and 11.

This also applies to English A/B



IB Academic and Careers Counselling

Below is a timeline of support given to pre-IB students at the Sultan's School. This timeline is supplemented by individual meetings with parents and students as appropriate.

Date	Event
Year 11 - November	Information sent out to students/parents regarding the entrance criteria.
Year 11 - January	Following the IGCSE mock examinations the IBDP Coordinator writes individual letters to each student analysing their results and making a conditional IB offer based on their grades.
Year 11 - February	Heads of Faculties make presentations to year 11 on their respective subjects
Year 11 - February	TSS hosts an evening of 'Making the Right Choices' where year 9 and 11 parents have a presentation by the Head of School, IBDP Coordinator, IGCSE Coordinator and the Careers Counsellor. Following the presentation parents and students meet with Heads of Faculty to discuss academic options
Year 11 – February - April	Year 11 students book individual appointments with both the IBDP Coordinator & Careers Counsellor to discuss careers, Ministry of Education requirements and option choices – students then make provisional online option choices
Year 12 - September	Following the publication of IGCSE results Year 12 students book individual appointments with both the IBDP Coordinator & Careers Counsellor to discuss careers, Ministry of Education requirements and option choices



IB Choices 2026-2028

As part of the IBDP, students are required to study six subjects, normally selecting one subject from each of the six IB subject groups. Three subjects must be taken at Higher Level (HL) and three at Standard Level (SL).

Students are also required to complete the three core elements of the Diploma Programme: Theory of Knowledge, the Extended Essay, and Creativity, Activity, Service.

Students should select their subjects carefully, taking into account their academic strengths, interests, future university plans, and any specific entry requirements for their intended courses or destinations.

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4	Block 5	Block 6
Arabic A: Language and Literature HL/SL	English A: Language and Literature HL/SL	Business Management HL/SL	Biology HL/SL	Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches SL	Visual Arts HL/SL
Arabic B HL/SL	English B HL only	Economics HL/SL	Computer Science HL/SL	Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation SL	Second Group 4 subject: Chemistry HL/SL
		Geography HL/SL	Design Technology HL/SL	Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation HL	Second Group 4 subject: Physics HL/SL
		Psychology HL/SL	Environmental Systems and Societies HL/SL		Second Group 3 subject: Business Management HL/SL
			Physics HL/SL		
			Sports, Exercise and Health Science HL/SL		