

IB: Myth vs. Reality

MYTH: Students must be gifted or have an average of 90% to be accepted into the IB programme.

REALITY: The International Studies Preparation (ISP) Program and International Baccalaureate Diploma programmes are meant for the well organized academic student.

MYTH: IB is just a lot of work.

REALITY: IB is a lot of work, but it is not JUST a lot of work. It's also a mission-driven curriculum that focuses on the student as a whole person, not just a walking brain. It is inquiry based, which means that students must be self-motivated critical thinkers who like to ask and answer challenging questions.

MYTH: You should only do IB if you want to go to University in another country.

REALITY: The IB Diploma will really help you if you want to study abroad. However, more and more North American Universities recognize that IB is a top-notch curriculum and that IB graduates, even those that do not earn the IB Diploma, are highly qualified to succeed at University.

MYTH: The IB “promotes socialism, disarmament, radical environmentalism, and moral relativism, while attempting to undermine Christian religious values and national sovereignty.”

(This quotation is an actual accusation leveled at IB by an American newspaper article. IB: Myths vs. Facts © 2007 International Baccalaureate Organization)

REALITY: The IB aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

MYTH: IB Students have no life other than school.

REALITY: Whereas academic achievement is a priority, IB students enjoy a very rich extracurricular high school experience. IB students have successfully participated in ALL interscholastic sports, consistently shown that they are school leaders on Student Leadership Councils, and the like, and enjoy belonging to a host of school clubs and community activities.

MYTH: IB Programmes are non-academic “fad” programs and many colleges and universities will not accept IB courses as fulfilling undergraduate requirements for admissions.

REALITY: The IB has been offering academic programs to schools for nearly 45 years. Presently, IB programs are offered by over 3,000 schools in over 139 countries. Over 800 universities in the U. S. alone recognize the IB Diploma as a mark of academic excellence. Such universities include Cornell University, Johns Hopkins University, MIT, Princeton University, and Stanford University. All of Canada's Universities accept IB Diploma students. Check out what universities want by visiting: <http://georgetowndistricthighschool.com/ibsite/links.asp>