



Diploma Programme Handbook 2019-2021



www.wellspring.edu.lb

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Wellspring Learning Community

Diploma Programme Handbook 2019-2021

MISSION STATEMENT

Wellspring Learning Community aims to establish an inquiry-based learning environment in which students from diverse backgrounds are given every opportunity to realize their social, emotional and academic capacities and talents. Our students will become confident, resourceful, creative, caring, responsible and thinking citizens prepared to use their education to contribute in meaningful ways toward improving society, both locally and internationally.

In support of the mission, Wellspring Learning Community teachers and administrators work collaboratively in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust to design, plan and provide an excellent modern positive learning environment that builds on an ongoing process of self-assessment, evidence-based decision making, and continual improvement.

IB MISSION STATEMENT

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

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right."

Taken from the IB website www.ibo.org

A 2011 report by the UK Higher Education Statistics Agency states that:

"IB Learners were more likely to be employed in graduate level jobs and in higher paid occupations than A level and equivalent leavers."
(HESA, 2011)

INTRODUCTION TO THE IB

Since 1968 the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO, now IB) has been offering a challenging pre-university programme for students around the world. The IB now offers 4 programmes to provide "a truly international education" (IBO.org) to over 1 million students in almost 4000 private and state schools. There is increasing evidence that an IB education really does benefit students as they go into higher

education and careers. The International Baccalaureate is based in Geneva, Switzerland. The Examinations Office is located in Cardiff, Wales in the United Kingdom.

The IB covers four programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and the Diploma Programme (DP), along with the Career-related Certificate (IBCC).

Only schools officially approved by the IB are authorized to offer and to present candidates for examinations.. Wellspring Learning Community is a member of the International Baccalaureate.

The IB Diploma Programme (DP) is a rigorous pre-university course of studies, leading to external examinations that meet the needs of highly motivated secondary students between the ages of 16 and 19 years. Designed as a comprehensive two-year curriculum, the diploma model is based on the pattern of no single country but incorporates the best elements of many. (www.ibo.org)

UNIVERSITY RECOGNITION

The IB Diploma is a passport to higher education. Most universities and colleges recommend that students in high school enroll in a rigorous academic programme such as the IB Diploma. Some colleges and universities may offer advanced credit to students with strong examination results. IB students routinely gain admission to some of the best-known universities in the world. Most of these institutions have established recognition policies for the IB Diploma. The IB publishes and maintains information about university recognition displayed on their public website www.ibo.org.

In Lebanon

A student who is exempt from the requirements of the Lebanese Baccalaureate and who gains the full IB Diploma will be eligible to enter one of the American universities as a sophomore if the SAT admission requirement has been met. The Lebanese Ministry of Education recognizes the full IB Diploma for equivalency purposes.

A student who does not have the IB Diploma and who is exempt from the Lebanese Baccalaureate will enter an American university as a freshman. In order to gain the equivalency the student will need SAT I, SAT II, and full freshman credit. (www.mehe.gov.lb/equiv/english/page)

Since 2019, the Lebanese Ministry of Education recognizes the full IB Diploma for non-exempt students but with some conditions. Please refer to the programme coordinator for more information.

In the United States of America and Canada

Most universities in the USA need SAT for admission purposes but the IB Diploma is very well regarded and many universities will award freshman credit for IB Diploma courses. Canadian universities accept the IB Diploma for admission and usually award freshman credit for diploma courses. More information is available from individual university websites and the university policy index available at www.ibo.org

In the UK (and other European countries)

Universities in the UK accept the full IB Diploma for admission purposes. The level of pass required varies according to the university and subject. Some universities may accept students who do not have the full diploma but have good scores on individual courses. More information is available from www.ucas.com. Universities in other European countries also look very favorably on students with the IB Diploma.

IB LEARNER PROFILE

The *Learner Profile* is at the heart of the DP programme and provides a common core for the IB continuum of programmes. The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help create a better more peaceful world. IB Learners strive to be Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-minded, Caring, Risk-takers, Balanced, and Reflective. (www.ibo.org)



IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK



*"...Our programmes **encourage** students across the world to become **active, compassionate and lifelong learners** who **understand** that other people, with their differences, can also be right...."*

(IB website, April 2014)

The above model provides a visual depiction of the DP's various components which make it such an exceptional holistic programme. These include:

1. At the Center – **IB Learner Profile** – the attributes the IB hopes to see grow and develop in the life of the Diploma student.
2. **Approaches to teaching and learning** are included in the inner circle demonstrating the DP's commitment to particular pedagogical approaches to teaching and to developing particular skills for learning.

3. The outer circle entitled “**international-mindedness**” gives the required emphasis to how all DP teaching and learning should take place within a spirit of tolerance and healthy openness as students grow as global citizens within the framework of international-mindedness.
4. As the diagram’s widest circle shows DP students study **six subjects** – one from each subject group. The distribution requirements ensure that the science-oriented student is challenged to learn a foreign language and that the natural linguist becomes familiar with laboratory procedures. While overall balance is maintained, flexibility in selecting an extra subject from one particular group allows the students to pursue areas of personal interest and to meet special requirements for university entrance.
5. The IB Diploma is a holistic programme in which all “full diploma” students complete three **CORE requirements** that are depicted in the lighter shaded circle to highlight how these curricular aspects provide a contrast to the rigors of the academic disciplines.

Taken from the IB website www.ibo.org

IB AT WELLSPRING

Wellspring Learning Community opened its doors in the fall of 2007 and by the spring of 2011 was authorized to deliver the Primary Years Programme (PYP). Wellspring is now an IB Continuum School, the only school in Lebanon to currently offer the PYP, the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and the DP. The Diploma Programme was authorized at Wellspring in May 2014.

Wellspring is non-selective, it offers all eligible students the opportunity to follow the DP; all students, and their parents, can be sure of our full support whether they are following the full diploma or the DP Courses. It is our belief that all students should have the opportunity to benefit from this innovative, internationally minded programme.

DIPLOMA PROGRAMME AT WELLSPRING

The IB Diploma Programme (IBDP) at Wellspring builds on our IB Middle Years Programme (IB MYP), which is the course of study in Grades 6-10 (age 11-16). The IBDP is a two-year (Grades 11-12, or age 16-19) international curriculum that allows students to fulfill the requirements for entrance to university. The IBDP is the programme for the non-Lebanese students in grades 11 and 12 and those Lebanese students who are exempt from the Lebanese Baccalaureate. Since 2019, non-exempt Lebanese students may follow the IBDP but with some conditions.

There are two ways in which students can follow the IBDP curriculum at Wellspring. They can become IB Diploma candidates and attempt the full programme or they can choose to follow the Courses track leading to our High School diploma

Students should choose the IB subjects and level based on their academic strengths and weaknesses, interests, and future education plans. It is strongly recommended that students consult with parents, teachers, administrators, counselors, and the IB coordinator as decisions are made about course selections. Feel free to set up individual conferences with the IB Coordinator.

Requirements for Full Diploma

To gain the full IB diploma a student must satisfy the following:

- ☒ Take one course from each of the six diploma subject areas – three courses must be at Higher Level (HL) and three courses must be at Standard Level (SL)

- ☑ Complete the three core requirements that are *“included to broaden their educational experience and challenge students to apply their knowledge and understanding”* (IBO website, August 2012):
 1. Complete Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course and required paper and oral presentation
 2. Complete and submit a senior research essay called the Extended Essay
 3. Complete and document activities for Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS)
- ☑ Obtain a total number of points of 24 points or above to be awarded the diploma. Each examined subject is graded on the IB scale of 1 (minimum) to 7 (maximum). The highest possible score is 45. A maximum of 7 points is available for each subject taken, with an additional 3 points available for the Extended Essay (EE) and Theory of Knowledge (TOK).
- ☑ Have no failing conditions. For further details on conditions please contact the DP coordinator.

Requirements for DP Courses

- ☑ Take a selection of the six diploma subject areas
- ☑ Prepare the respective internal assessments for each subject and take the final examinations in school. Students may opt to submit 1 or more subjects for external assessment

Course candidates are not required to turn in their Extended Essay, TOK essay, or CAS hours to the IB for assessment. However, students are required to complete the EE and CAS as part of the Wellspring graduation requirements.

DP COURSE SELECTIONS

Each subject includes a variety of examinations as well as an independent internal assessment component (IA) that can include oral examinations, portfolios, laboratory work, and real-world investigations. The examinations are administered by the school but are set and marked by external IB examiners. The IAs are assessed in school but are moderated externally by IB Examiners. These IB grades can earn university credits based on the score and the university.

Diploma candidates are required to select one academic subject from each of the six groups. IB subjects can be studied at two levels, Higher Level and Standard Level. Three of the six subjects are taken at Higher Level and three at Standard Level. These courses begin in grade 11 and end in grade 12.

The academic subjects that are offered at Wellspring (2019 to 2021) are as follows:

GROUP 1: Studies in Language and Literature

English A Literature Higher Level
 English A Literature Standard Level
 English A Language and Literature Higher Level
 English A Language and Literature Standard Level

GROUP 2: Language Acquisition

Arabic A Language and Literature Standard Level

Arabic B Higher Level
Arabic B Standard Level
Spanish ab initio Standard Level
French ab initio Standard Level
French B Higher Level
French B Standard Level
Spanish B Higher Level
Spanish B Standard Level

GROUP 3: Individuals and Societies

Business management Higher Level
Business management Standard Level
Global Politics Higher Level
Global Politics Standard Level
Psychology Higher Level
Psychology Standard Level
Environmental Systems and Societies Standard Level

GROUP 4: Experimental Sciences

Biology Higher Level
Biology Standard Level
Chemistry Higher Level
Chemistry Standard Level
Physics Higher Level
Physics Standard Level
Environmental Systems and Societies Standard Level

GROUP 5: Mathematics and Computer Science

Mathematics AA Higher Level
Mathematics AA Standard Level
Mathematical AI Standard Level

GROUP 6: Electives

Visual arts Higher Level
Visual arts Standard Level
Theatre Higher Level
Theatre Standard Level

A candidate may take another subject from Groups 2-4. Please see the DP coordinator for subject combinations.

CORE REQUIREMENTS

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE (TOK)

Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is an interdisciplinary requirement unique to the IB and is mandatory for every IB Diploma student. It brings together the subjects and builds on the inter/trans disciplinary approach of the PYP and MYP. TOK is a course centered on the question “How do we know?” It challenges students to question the basis of knowledge, to reflect critically on how they know what they believe to be facts or the truth. Students will explore shared and personal knowledge, they will investigate the different ways of knowing including sense perception, emotion, language, imagination and reason and will examine the different areas of knowledge such as the natural sciences, history and the arts. *{See TOK Handbook for further information}*

THE EXTENDED ESSAY (EE)

IB DP students are required to undertake original research and write an Extended Essay of 4,000 words (maximum). This essay offers the student the opportunity to investigate a topic of special interest and to become acquainted with the kind of independent research and writing skills expected at the university level. A student may choose to write on a topic in one of the 22 subjects of the IB Diploma. It is recommended that the student devote a total of about 40 hours of private study and writing time to the essay.

The EE builds on from the PYP Expo and the MYP Personal Project. The student works with a teacher who acts as a supervisor during the research and writing process. . The extended essay is mandatory in order for students to be awarded an IB Diploma. The Extended Essay is externally assessed. *{See EE Handbook for further information}*

The grade for TOK contributes to the overall diploma score through the award of points in conjunction with the Extended Essay. A maximum of three points are awarded according to the candidates’ combined performance in both the Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay.

CREATIVITY, ACTIVITY AND SERVICE (CAS)

Creativity: arts, and other experiences that involve creative thinking

Activity: physical exertion contributing to a healthy lifestyle

Service: an unpaid and voluntary exchange that has a learning benefit for the student

CAS should involve real, purposeful activities, with significant outcomes; personal challenge. Tasks must extend the student and be achievable in scope; thoughtful consideration, such as planning, reviewing progress, reporting; and reflection on outcomes and personal learning.

CAS builds on the action in the PYP and the service as action in the MYP. *{See CAS Handbook for further information}*

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Wellspring students are expected to be principled, creative and independent and to abide by the regulations of the IB with regards to academic honesty in all aspects of their work. They need to be aware of the full meaning of academic honesty including the issues of plagiarism, collusion and duplication.

Wellspring Learning Community subscribes to turnitin.com and requires all students to submit their work through the website. In case of suspected academic dishonesty the school will decide the outcome depending on the case. The school and IB take a serious view of academic malpractice; Wellspring will not hesitate to remove students from the programme and the school in extreme cases. *{See Academic Honesty Policy for further information}*

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Wellspring students have the right to learn in a safe, caring environment. Any student whose behavior negatively impacts on the rights of others in this regard may be asked to withdraw from the school. Students are expected to behave responsibly and respectfully at all times.

IB CONTACTS

INTERNATIONALLY

International Baccalaureate Organization
www.ibo.org

WELLSPRING LEARNING COMMUNITY

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[Information from www.ibo.org]