



# Katedralskolan Skara IB Diploma Programme



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Skara, September the 12th, 2014

## Admission Policy for the IB Diploma Program at Katedralskolan in Skara.

At Katedralskolan in Skara our aim is to create an atmosphere based on the values of the IB Learner Profile and the IB Mission statement. Therefore we want to ensure that any student with the right ambition and attitude will be able to achieve the standards required of an IB Diploma. Our aim is to have a student body which represents diversity in language, nationality, interest and social belonging. However, we are fully aware of the fact that some students are likely to feel more at home and to have greater benefit from other models of education. Therefore we have designed our entrance criteria procedures in order to identify those students and help them and their parents to find the best education for them according to their individual needs. We also want to identify students with special needs who, if given the right support, will be able to reach the standards required of a full IB Diploma.

### For the preparatory year

- Students and parents are invited to **information sessions** about the IB Diploma Program when the students are still in compulsory school. Students are also invited to come to Katedralskolan and be an “IB student for a day” to see the real nature of our program, school, teachers and students. Students are welcome to visit in this way any time of the year. Just contact Thomas Woodgate, responsible for our visitors or register at “Skugga en katedralare” on our Webpage.
- When the students have made their choice in the district school database we invite them to our **Entrance Criteria Day**. All the teachers in the IB team are involved in this day. We make sure that all students who have chosen us as their first or second choice get an invitation. We recommend an average grade score of 200 points from grade nine in the compulsory Swedish school system; however there are always exceptions with international students, students from other systems, students with special circumstances etc. Everyone is welcome to try and every student will be assessed on an individual basis.
- During the Entrance Criteria Day the students have a chance to meet each other, the teachers and our present IB students and they then need to pass three entrance criteria : **Standard tests in English and Mathematics and a personal interview**. In the personal interview we inform the applicants about the IB Learner Profile, the importance of keeping deadlines, the importance of attending classes, the IB assessment system compared to Swedish schools, ideas for CAS etc. We also try to identify students who may need support for their special needs in their studies so we can be prepared to welcome them with that support. We try to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere in the spirit of the IB values.



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- After the entrance criteria day we have a meeting with the whole IB Team where we consider the results from the written tests and our perception of the students based on the interviews. After that letters are sent out informing the applicants of our recommendation. Almost all applicants get letters recommending them to stay on as applicants. In the case of low scoring results in our tests or some concerning issues during the interviews indicating that the IB Diploma Program would not be the best choice, we send a letter recommending the student to go on with the process of applying to other programs or to apply again and come to our second Entrance Criteria day for a second try.
- In the application procedure of our district the students can change their choice of program from April 15 to May 15, so in the beginning of June we have our **Entrance Criteria Day** for new applicants with the same procedures as mentioned above.
- After that we send in a list with applicants we have accepted to the district office for application and admission.
- In June the ninth graders receive their final grades. All students have to have done the interview and the tests of English and Mathematics to have been accepted. In case we have more applicants than places we rank the students according to their grades from the Swedish School system. (Most of our students come from different Swedish Schools in the whole region.) For the international students we have the possibility to accept them through a free quota system.

## Between the preparatory year and the IB Diploma program.

- When starting the IB Diploma program the students must have a passing grade in a subject from the preparatory year to be able to choose it as one of his/her IB courses. To be able to choose Mathematics SL the student must have taken the advanced preparatory course and have reached a grade C on the National mathematics Test and for the entire course.
- If the students for any reasons such as illness, family problems or other has not been able to reach the standards to start the IB courses we either recommend to repeat the first year or to study extra during the summer in certain subjects and sit a retest in August.
- When designing their individual combination of subjects and levels during the second term of the preparatory year students are guided by subject teachers, coordinator and Team leader. Parents are also involved in this process in a 'development talk' meeting.
- The CAS coordinator also has individual talks with the student in the very beginning of the IB1 year to make sure they have sustainable ideas for their CAS program.



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## Students who have studied their preparatory year in other systems.

Every student who wants to come directly into IB 1 after having studied in other systems than our preparatory year will be assessed on an individual basis, but we strongly recommend the following grades or equivalent levels, at least:

**Fel! Ogiltig länk.**

## Students considering an exchange year abroad.

In most cases we recommend students who want to go abroad to study within an exchange program to go between the preparatory year and IB1 and then do the entire IB program here at our school when coming back.

Some students go abroad one year before starting the Pre IB. In those cases we mostly still recommend them to start with our Pre IB course. As mentioned above though, we assess everyone on an individual basis and look into the levels and subjects studied according to the chart written above.