

Dear Director of Admissions,

I am writing on behalf of UK schools and colleges to update you and your colleagues on the recent IB Diploma results. Firstly, I hope that you have received all the results and have been able to review them. However, you will have seen in the media that schools, parents, and candidates are highly concerned about the outcomes of the calculation process in this exceptional COVID year. No doubt you have seen this with applicants to your university particularly in subjects with relatively high entry requirements.

The process the IB has used to calculate the results has been rigorous, combining a number of factors: externally marked internal assessment; school generated predicted grades; and historic data on the relationship between the IA mark and the examined components and the accuracy of a school's predicted grades. This data has been inputted into subject and school specific algorithms to generate the candidates' grades. Inevitably with a process relying on regression calculations there are students who feel that they have not been awarded the grade that they expected, had they been able to sit their final examinations in May.

The global data, which is available in the IB's provisional May 2020 Statistical Bulletin ([click here](#)), shows that the overall global averages both in terms of total points, points in HL and SL subjects and the subject grade distributions are similar to previous sessions. However, the data also shows that there has been a reduction of achievement at the very top end of the ability range. This has also been reported to us by our UK schools who are concerned that many of their very best students have much lower grades than expected. Additionally, our UK schools report lower than expected grades at the top end in some key subjects: Higher Level sciences and Mathematics. We are aware that this year, as in previous years, the UK grade average is nearly 5 points higher than the global average and a regression to the mean appears to have disproportionately affected students at the top of the attainment range.

IB have recently announced a revised appeal and remarking procedure, and this has been communicated to universities ([click here](#)). This may address some of the issues that schools and candidates have raised. Nevertheless, on behalf of all our schools and candidates we ask that universities are sympathetic to the very difficult circumstances our students find themselves in this year. We ask that students who have narrowly missed their entry requirements are confirmed promptly and that universities do not reject students who have significantly missed their offer requirement. We would request that these students are, at the very least, put on hold until A Level results are released, or a thorough, school by school case review of the results can be carried out by the IB. In countries around the world considerable problems have been caused when there has been a rise in the pass rate of the national qualification versus the IB's maintenance of the historic grade average. In anticipation of A levels being released we implore you to be flexible, considerate, and empathetic in making your decisions. The predicted grades submitted to UCAS and the references written on behalf of these students were both carried out before the pandemic so drastically

affected these students. Please take this into account before further impacting the future pathways of the students who have applied to your university.

Thank you in advance for your attention to the issues raised above and if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact IBSCA.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Markham', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Richard Markham

Chief Executive Officer

IB Schools & Colleges Association of the UK & Ireland