



# The IB Career-related Programme: a guide for parents and students in the UK

# The IB Career-related Programme: a pathway to professional success

## What does an International Baccalaureate education offer?

If a student decides to follow an International Baccalaureate (IB) education, they will be a member of an active community of learners from around the world. The aim of all IB programmes is to develop globally aware, well-rounded people. Students are encouraged to think independently and drive their own learning, responding to challenges with optimism and an open mind.

At the heart of all IB programmes is the IB learner profile; a collection of 10 attributes, which IB students strive to develop, including being principled and reflective, as well as communicators and inquirers.

## What is the IB Career-related Programme?

The IB Career-related programme (CP) offers academic study and practical hands-on experience through an integrated package, consisting of a minimum of two of the IB Diploma Programme (DP) academic subjects, studied alongside one of the career-related study options. Due to the blend of academic and professional study, the programme is suitable both for students with a particular career interest, and for students who do not yet have a specific career pathway in mind.

The IB CP gives students valuable experience of different learning styles and methods of assessment.

This prepares them for transition to Higher Education and for a range of career pathways.

Students studying the IB CP will:

- grow in self-confidence and self-awareness;
- develop the skills and qualities employers seek (flexibility, resilience, and the ability to communicate clearly);
- become effective learners, who can work both independently and in a collaborative environment;
- think critically and creatively;
- be internationally-minded and globally-aware.

## How will students be assessed?

Students will be assessed both internally by the school, and externally by IB.

Assessment for the career-related study depends on which course is being followed – more information can be found via the UK IB website ([www.ibo.org/uk](http://www.ibo.org/uk)).

He or she will take written examinations at the end of their IB CP course to assess the academic DP elements, which are marked externally by IB examiners. The marks awarded for each course range from 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest).

Finally, all students must complete all four components of the skills-based core: the reflective project is assessed by the school and moderated and graded by the IB – from A to E, with A being the highest.

### Edward Leader, 2015 CP graduate

*“Like me, a lot of 16 year olds don't know what they want to do for the rest of their life so by taking the CP I felt like my choices were much more diverse and I wasn't limited to going to university or going into the world of work. My opportunities were kept more open; there were no limitations.”*



## The IB CP framework

The framework consists of three elements.

### 1 The career-related study

Students will follow a professional course (e.g. a BTEC) in a specialist area, using a practical, real-world approach to learning.

The IB collaborates with a range of major accredited providers, including the Chartered Institute of Securities & Investment (CISI), the IFS School of Finance, the Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education (CACHE), and Pearson BTEC, with qualifications ranging from marketing to performing arts. The IB is continuously developing additional career-pathways with professional communities in the UK. Schools determine the appropriate career-related study course(s) to offer, therefore may have chosen to offer courses from another provider.

### 2 Academic study

As part of the programme, students are required to complete at least two IB Diploma courses, from the following subject areas: language and literature; a foreign language; individuals and societies; science; mathematics; and the arts.

### 3 IB CP skills-based core

The programme's core is what defines the programme and makes it unique. It consists of the following:

- The personal and professional skills** course emphasises the development of the skills and attributes needed to flourish in the chosen career pathway.
- The reflective project** is an independent, in-depth piece of work undertaken over an extended period of time for which the student investigates an ethical issue within their career-related subject area.
- Service learning** focuses on community service as a vehicle for learning. Through service, he or she will develop and apply their personal and social skills, gaining experience of team work, decision-making and problem-solving, with opportunities to show initiative and take responsibility.
- Language development** gives access to learning a second language. This component is not examined, but will enable him or her to develop a skill that employers value, and emphasises the importance of language in an increasingly inter-connected and globalised world.

# Where could the IB CP lead?

Below are examples of three IB CP students, the course combinations that they studied and their university destinations.

## Case Study 1

**Career-related study:** BTEC Extended Diploma in Engineering (double) and BTEC Diploma in ICT (single)

**Academic study:** IB Mathematics and IB IT in a Global Society

**University:** Aerospace Technology with Pilot Studies at Hertfordshire University

## Case Study 2

**Career-related study:** BTEC Extended Diploma in ICT

**Academic study:** IB Business and Management and IB Film Studies

**University:** Computer Science at King's College London

## Case Study 3

**Career-related study:** BTEC Extended Diploma in Applied Business

**Academic study:** IB Film Studies, IB English and IB Design and Technology

**Higher level apprenticeship:** Marketing with Woodley Coles

# Do universities value the IB CP?

Below is a small sample of UK universities that have accepted IB CP students and the courses they have followed, showing that the programme is valued by universities.

| University                | Course                                |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Brunel                    | Sport and Exercise and Health Science |
| Christ Church, Canterbury | Nursing                               |
| Falmouth                  | Graphic Communication                 |
| Kent                      | Finance and Accounting with Economics |
| King's College, London    | Accountancy                           |
| Kingston                  | History                               |
| Loughborough              | Automotive Engineering                |
| Newcastle                 | Marketing                             |
| Nottingham                | Physics                               |
| Portsmouth                | Paleobiology                          |
| Reading                   | Business                              |
| UCA                       | Architecture                          |

**Kevin Moore, Chartered MCSI and Director of Global Business Development, Chartered Institute of Securities & Investment**

*"The finance sector is looking to recruit young people who possess good communication, numeracy and interpersonal skills, are able to pay attention to detail, are team players and display integrity. We are delighted to be working with IB and schools to offer a brand new industry-specific package, which promotes the development of these and other invaluable life skills. The package delivers a powerful portfolio which should be popular with students, universities and employers alike."*

If you would like to learn more about the IB CP, visit [www.ibo.org/uk](http://www.ibo.org/uk)

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