



The IB Career-related Programme (CP)



The CP and higher education

The IB Career-related Programme (CP) is an innovative education framework for students aged 16 to 19. The aim of the CP is to provide students with an excellent foundation to support their further studies and specialized training, as well as ensuring their success in the workforce. The CP combines highly regarded and internationally recognized IB Diploma Programme courses with an approved career-related study and a unique CP core.

“It really gets students the best of both worlds, gives [them] the career certification they would need but also provides them with what we know to be the rigor of the IB programme. Students who complete the programme would truly be college- and career-ready, not just in rhetoric but in fact.”

Kyle P. Westbrook, Director of Magnet, Gifted, and Talented Programs, Chicago, IL, USA. “IB Program Adds Career-Pathway Programme”. Education Week. 12 June, 2012.

CP students engage with a rigorous study programme that genuinely interests them while gaining transferable and lifelong skills in applied knowledge, critical thinking, communication, and cross-cultural engagement. They are well prepared to succeed at institutions of higher learning.

As the IB's fourth programme, the CP provides a comprehensive educational framework that links the academic rigour of the Diploma Programme and the international-mindedness of the IB classroom into a tailored, career-focused pathway.

The CP framework is built around three interconnected elements:

- at least two Diploma Programme courses
- a CP core that includes approaches to learning, community and service, language development and a reflective project
- an approved career-related study.

CP students deepen their understanding in general areas of knowledge, and are eager to participate in further studies. To date, the vast majority of CP graduates have continued on to further and higher education. Students are engaged in a holistic education model that fosters an enthusiasm for lifelong learning. Moreover, their engagement in meaningful service learning gives them opportunities to make a positive difference in their local communities. As a result of the CP, students develop the self-confidence to participate successfully in the world around them.

The CP education framework develops students who are:

- academically strong
- skilled in a practical field
- critical and ethical thinkers
- self-directed
- collaborative
- resilient and determined
- confident and assured
- caring and reflective
- prepared to contribute meaningfully to university life
- inquirers.

The CP framework

Diploma Programme courses

Diploma Programme courses, at both standard and higher levels, are the academic cornerstone of the CP. Every CP student completes two or more Diploma Programme courses. These may be selected from any Diploma Programme subject area. Course selection is tailored to complement a student's individual career-related study. A student completing an engineering programme, for example, may choose courses in physics and design technology; a student completing a nursing programme may choose biology and sports, exercise and health science.

To learn more about Diploma Programme courses, scan this QR tag:

or visit www.ibo.org/diploma.



The CP core

The CP core bridges the IB academic courses and the career-related study. Four interrelated components form the core.

Approaches to learning

This course is intended to develop students' critical thinking, intercultural understanding, communication, and personal development. It aims to challenge students to draw on personal resources and skills to engage critically with the world around them. Students may encounter topics as diverse as modern ethical dilemmas, deductive and inductive reasoning, culture shock, racism, academic honesty, and emotional intelligence.

Community and service

This component is based on the principle of service learning whereby community service is a vehicle for new learning that has academic value. It provides students with opportunities to develop new skills and knowledge in real-life situations. Students work with community members to undertake service activities that satisfy identified needs; the emphasis is on developing local knowledge, civic responsibility, social aptitude, and personal growth.

Language development

CP language development is designed to ensure that all students have access to, and are exposed to, a language programme that will assist and further their understanding of the wider world. It aims to provide students with the necessary skills and intercultural understanding to enable them to communicate in an environment where the language studied is spoken. This process encourages learners to go beyond the confines of the classroom, expanding their awareness of the world and fostering respect for cultural diversity.

"It provides an extra challenge for students, and with the prestige of the IB behind it, this alternative qualification carries weight and value."

Julia Peters, CP Coordinator, Berlin Brandenburg International School, Germany, in IB World magazine January 2012. Pp 6.

Reflective project

The reflective project is an in-depth body of work produced over an extended period and submitted towards the end of the course. It is the product of the student's own initiative and is designed to draw together key elements of a student's wider scheme of study. The reflective project requires students to identify, analyse, critically discuss and evaluate an ethical issue stemming from their career-related studies. This project can take many forms, such as an essay, short film, or website. Students engage in personal inquiry, take action, practise reflection, and develop research and communication skills.

"Our students have gained great confidence and skill sets in learning how to conduct research, how to analyze data and think critically, how to appreciate world languages, how to communicate well, and how to respect and value the opinion of others."

Dr Albert A. Penna, former Principal, Binghamton High School, New York City, USA. January 2012.

Career-related study

CP students are required to complete the Diploma Programme courses, the CP core and an approved career-related study concurrently. The career-related study is designed to prepare students for higher education, an internship or apprenticeship, or a position in a designated field of interest.

For more information about the CP please scan this QR tag:

or visit www.ibo.org/CP/.



The CP academic model

The CP is delivered by schools authorized to offer the Diploma Programme. Schools that offer the CP are required to participate in an ongoing process of review and development, using standards and practices that apply to all IB World Schools.

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