**Access and admission policy**

**Kuopion Lyseon lukio**

**IB –programme**

**Reviewed in spring 2023**

The Diploma Programme provides a challenging, internationally focused, broad and balanced educational experience for students aged 16 to 19. IB Diploma Programme is a two-year programme. Students are required to study six subjects and a curriculum core concurrently over two years. The programme is designed to equip students with the basic academic skills needed for university study, further education and their chosen profession as well as developing the values and life skills needed to live a fulfilled and purposeful life. (The Diploma Programme: From principles into practice)

The pre-DP year is a national requirement. It precedes the two-year IB studies. Courses offered in pre-IB programme are not DP courses.

Besides academic skills, the Programme as well as pre-DP require abilities to work independently and in groups on portfolios and projects in a number of subjects. The ability to work collaboratively in groups is the mainstream of IB learning. High social skills and oral skills are emphasized more than in Finnish National upper secondary education. Furthermore, the IB Learner Profile is introduced to Pre-DP students; the students are expected to appreciate the values embodied in the Learner Profile.

The annual intake is 30 students. All applicants must apply via Opintopolku, the National Joint Application system ([www.opintopolku.fi](http://www.opintopolku.fi)).

We want to offer access to the IB Programme to all interested and motivated applicants. We do not give entrance exams. We trust that applicants’ previous school reports give us the information we need. However, we emphasize grades in English, Mathematics and Finnish. It is desirable that students have some knowledge of the Finnish language or are willing to learn some Finnish. The school expects students with limited skills or no skills at all in Finnish to take courses in Finnish language. Ab initio languages are taught partly in national language groups. Ab initio teachers give extra lessons to IB students to clarify IB requirements and IB philosophy in ab initio languages.

Interviews are conducted occasionally. Potential applicants have several ways to find information about our Programme (open days, information online, school visits). We welcome anyone interested and motivated. We do not expect that a student masters upper secondary study skills before starting the studies. We will teach the necessary skills and guide the student.

If there are places available in the pre-DP group during the first school year, students from the National Programme may apply for the pre-DP class.

Students of Finnish curriculum may choose one IB subject and also take the IB final exam. These students may also join the IB group as they find an interesting topic in the IB curriculum. CAS and TOK are also open for students of Finnish curriculum.

The school’s intention is to provide opportunities for students with special educational needs to access the Diploma Programme. Teachers can differentiate teaching methods and material. Services of a special education teacher, a school social worker and a school psychologist are available. For students with a handicap, services are provided under the law of services for disabled.

Pre-DP students are required to study at least one course in each IB subject offered by the school. In case a pre-DP-student wants to transfer to the National Programme, it is possible after the first study period. The school year is divided into five study periods. Pre-DP students choose six or seven subjects for their IB Programme keeping in mind future academic studies. The criteria for transferring from pre-DP to the IB Programme is described in our assessment policy.

The criteria for admission are made available in various ways:

* Marketing in comprehensive schools
* Open days once a year including an opportunity to attend IB lessons (This is possible also at other times at request.) Information available for applicants and their parents.
* Evening for parents of potential IB-applicants
* "Welcome to Upper Secondary School" -guide delivered to families (<https://haelukioon.fi/web/>)

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