



LEARNING COMPASS

Navigating your learning through Years 12-13







DEAR YEAR 12 STUDENTS

Welcome to Verbier International School, where you are embarking on a transformative journey within the International Baccalaureate Programme. Aligned with the IB mission, our school aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world. Our mission is rooted in teaching you to live with compassion and courage, while nurturing your moral compass, and technical skills essential for any path you choose.

Throughout your senior years, whether you follow the IB Diploma pathway or pursue High School Diploma Programme (HSDP) you will receive personalized support to achieve your full potential. Our diverse international community celebrates differences and fosters international-mindedness, respect, and understanding. On the following pages, you will discover useful information about how to prepare for your arrival and the detailed structure of the programme.

As you navigate your options, know that we are here to guide and support you every step of the way. Feel free to reach out with any questions to explore how VIS can help you thrive academically and personally.

Here's to a successful and enriching journey ahead!

Warm regards,

Ladislav Burkovic

Head of Academics





OUR TEAM

There are many people dedicated to supporting you throughout your senior years journey at VIS. Our committed team is here to ensure you have the resources, guidance, and encouragement you need to succeed. Whether you need help with academic planning, advice on university applications, or re-assurance during challenging times, you can rely on our experienced and caring staff



Mr. Ladislav Burkovic

Head of Academics

l.burkovic@vischool.ch

Mr. Burkovic is responsible for a smooth running of the IB programme. He collaborates with you and your subject teachers to ensure you progress and meet your full academic potential. He guides you from your first steps in choosing your subject combinations to your final examinations and works closely with the College Counselor to align your pathway with your post-secondary aspirations.

Ms. Jessica Sharkey

College Counselor

j.sharkey@vischool.ch

Throughout your two years of study, you will make important decisions about your future academic steps. Ms. Sharkey's role is to support you through this process, offering valuable advice and guidance on university applications and career planning..

Your Subject Teachers

The relationship you build with your subject teachers will be crucial for your success. During your senior years, your teachers will guide you to achieve your full potential, working collaboratively with you and providing the necessary guidance. You are encouraged to ask your teachers questions and seek feedback on your learning to improve.



OUR TEAM



Your CAS Advisor

A faculty member will be supporting you in finding CAS experiences that challenge and strengthen you as an individual. They will also assist you with your CAS Project, guiding you through the process and helping you develop essential management and planning skills. All students must complete CAS regardless of whether they are pursuing the IB Diploma pathway or IB Course Certificates.

Your Extended Essay Supervisors

If you are pursuing the IB Diploma pathway, you will have an Extended Essay supervisor to provide you with general research advice and specific guidance for your subject. They will support you through the process of researching and writing your Extended Essay to ensure you produce a high-quality piece of work.

All the people mentioned above have one thing in common: they want you to succeed. Therefore, it is important that you talk to them and involve them in your progress as much as possible. The more they are informed about your journey, the better they can support and guide you towards achieving your goals.



ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

At Verbiar International School, you have two exciting pathways to choose from: the **IB Diploma Programme** and the **High School Diploma Programme (HSDP)**. Both options are designed to help you reach your academic goals and prepare you for future success.

IB Diploma Pathway

If you choose the IB Diploma pathway, you will take and complete the assessment components for six subjects: three at Higher Level and three at Standard Level. In addition to these subjects, you'll also work on the core elements:



**The Extended Essay
(EE)**



**Theory of Knowledge
(TOK)**



**Creativity, Activity
Service
(CAS)**

Group 1:

Studies in Language and Literature
(for native or fluent users)

Group 2:

Language Acquisition (for students new to
a language or not confident users)

Group 3:

Individuals and Societies (Humanities or
Social Sciences)

Group 4:

Sciences (includes Physics, Chemistry,
and Biology)

Group 5:

Mathematics (includes 'Applications &
Interpretations' or 'Analysis and
Approaches')

Group 6:

Arts - In group 6 you can choose either Art
or you can choose from electives like
Chemistry, History, and Psychology.
These electives allow you to fulfil your
Group 6 requirement while focusing on
subjects that interest you and align with
your academic goals.

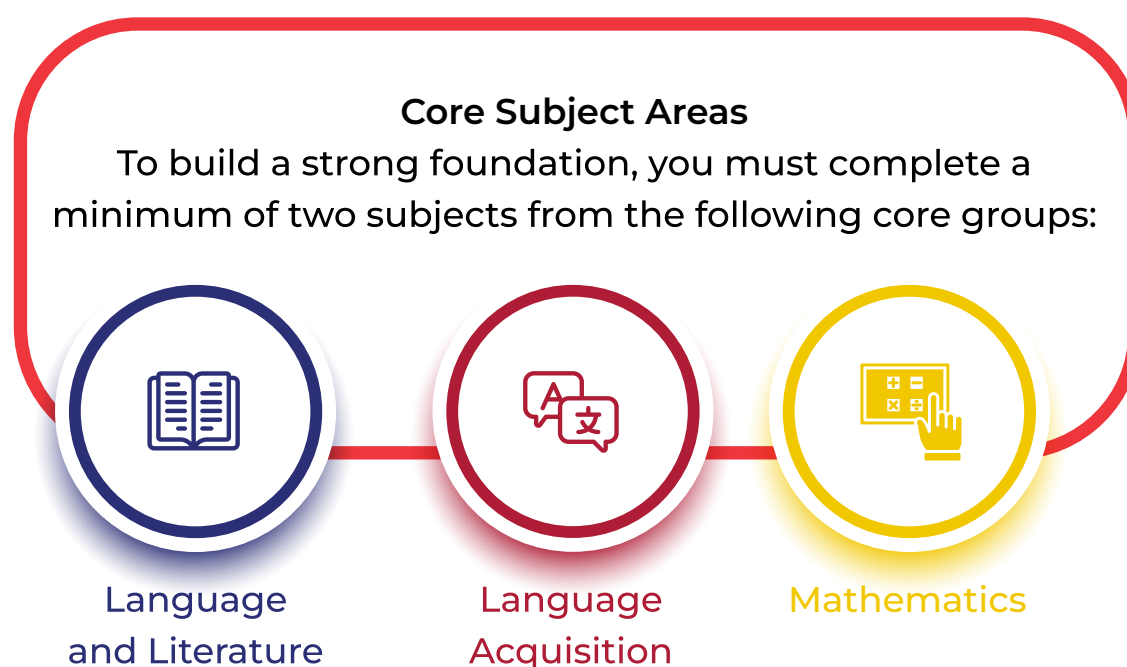
**You'll need to
take at least
one course
from each
of these subject
groups:**

High School Diploma Programme (HSDP)

The HSDP is more than just a diploma; it's a commitment to delivering a well-rounded and flexible academic experience. Whether your future goals include higher education, specialized training, or stepping directly into your career, the HSDP is designed to equip you with the knowledge, skills, and credentials to succeed.

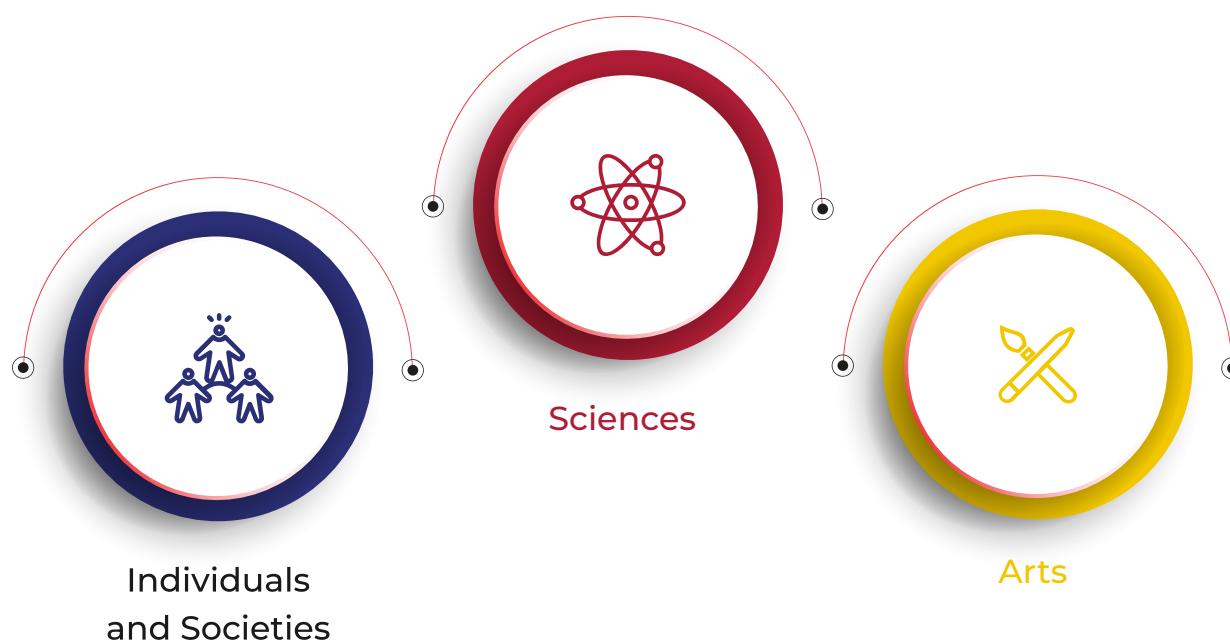
Academic Requirements

HSDP emphasizes a balance between core academic rigor and the freedom to explore electives that align with your passions.



Elective Subjects

To ensure a diverse learning experience, you must complete a minimum of two subjects from the following elective groups:



Total Subject Load

Over the course of two years, students are required to take a **minimum of four** subjects, balancing core and elective areas as outlined above

Credit System

HSDP uses a credit-based system to measure progress and ensure flexibility:



Service Learning Requirement

In addition to academic coursework, students are required to complete **Service Learning** to qualify for the HSDP.

- Service Learning is a hands-on opportunity to engage with your community, develop practical skills, and foster a sense of responsibility.
- This component is worth 2 credits and ensures that all HSDP graduates have meaningful experience in applying their learning outside the classroom.

Service Learning is a vital part of the HSDP experience, emphasizing leadership, collaboration, and social contribution.



ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

Graduation Requirements

To earn your HSDP diploma, you will need to meet the following benchmarks:

MinimumCredits:

10 credits over two years, which includes:



8 credits
from academic coursework.

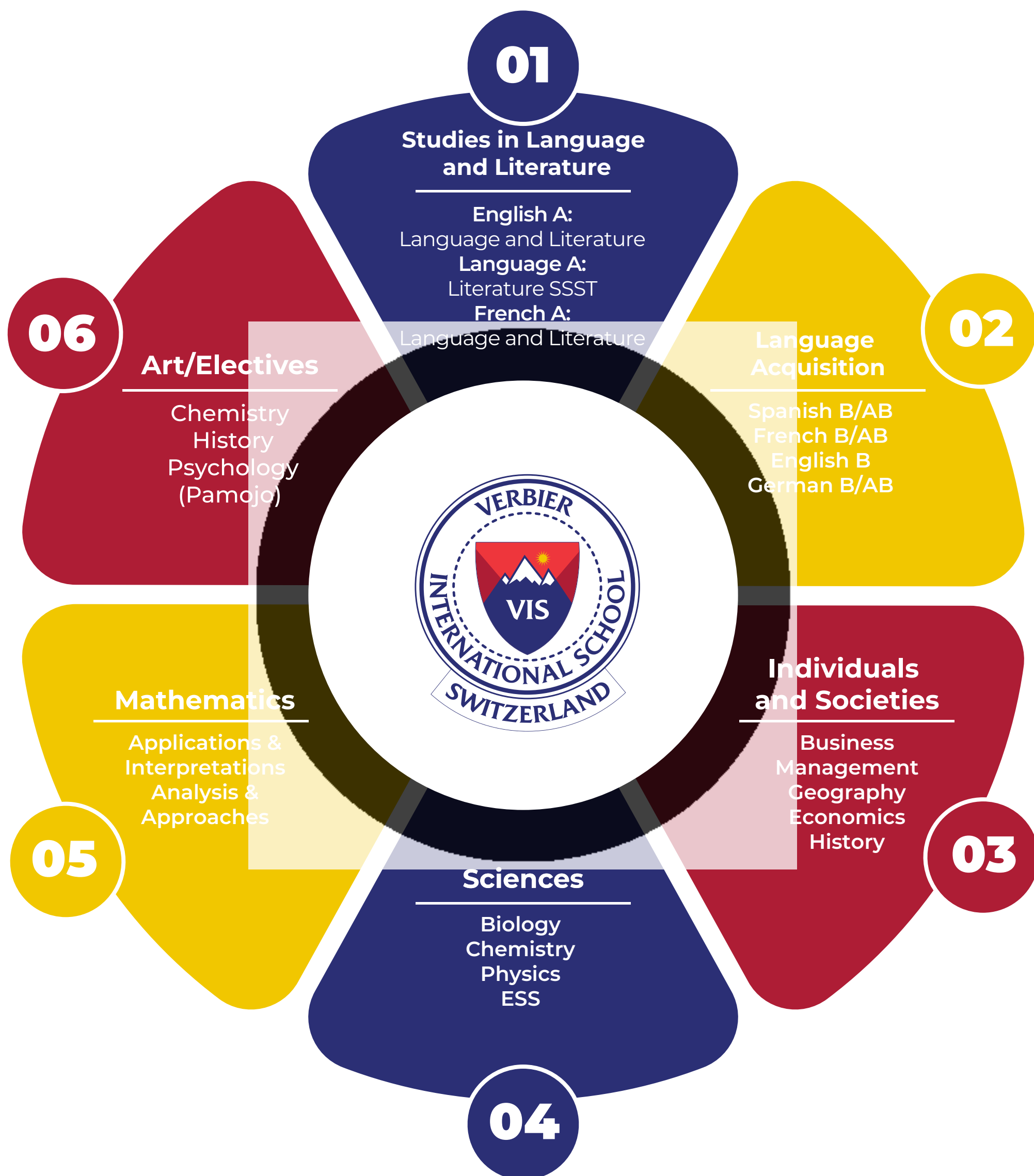


2 credits
from Service Learning.



SUBJECTS OFFERED

Here are the subjects you can choose from for both the IB Diploma and High School Diploma Programme (HSDP) at Verbier International School.



At Verbier International School, we aim to provide an environment where you develop the following characteristics:



Inquirers

They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.



Knowledgeable

They explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. They acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.



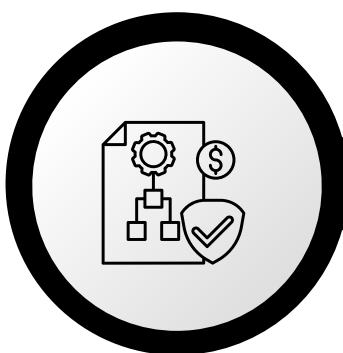
Thinkers

They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognise and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.



Communicators

They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.



Principled

They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.



Open-minded

They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.



Caring

They show empathy, compassion and respect towards the need and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.



Risk-takers

They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.



Balanced

They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.



Reflective

They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.

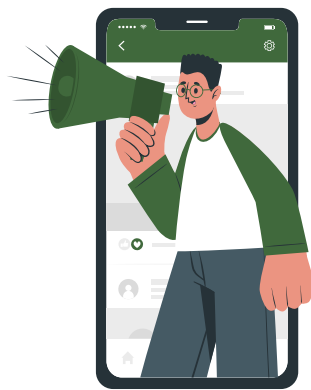
Learning How to Learn: Approaches to Teaching and Learning (ATLs)

In addition to the Learner Profile, our lessons and planning at Verbiar International School are guided by the IB Approaches to Learning (ATLs). These skills are essential for becoming effective, self-regulated learners, preparing you to excel academically and professionally.

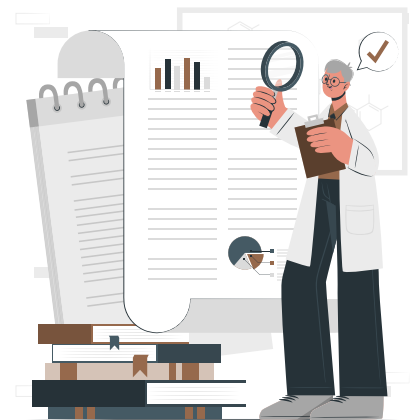
The ATLs encompass five key areas:



Communication



Social



Research Skills



Thinking



Self-Management

By strategically designing learning activities that promote these skills, we equip you with capabilities highly valued by employers. This approach encourages mindful learning, enabling you to enhance your learning abilities and solidify your understanding.

In addition to academic pathways, Verbier International School offers comprehensive post-secondary school counseling. This ensures you receive personalized guidance and support tailored to your individual goals and aspirations. In the UK, IB Course Certificates are assigned points on the **UCAS tariff scale**, allowing you to accumulate points for university applications across a range of courses. Moreover, as part of the Dukes family, you have access to a variety of internship opportunities through Investin, enhancing your real world experience and career readiness.

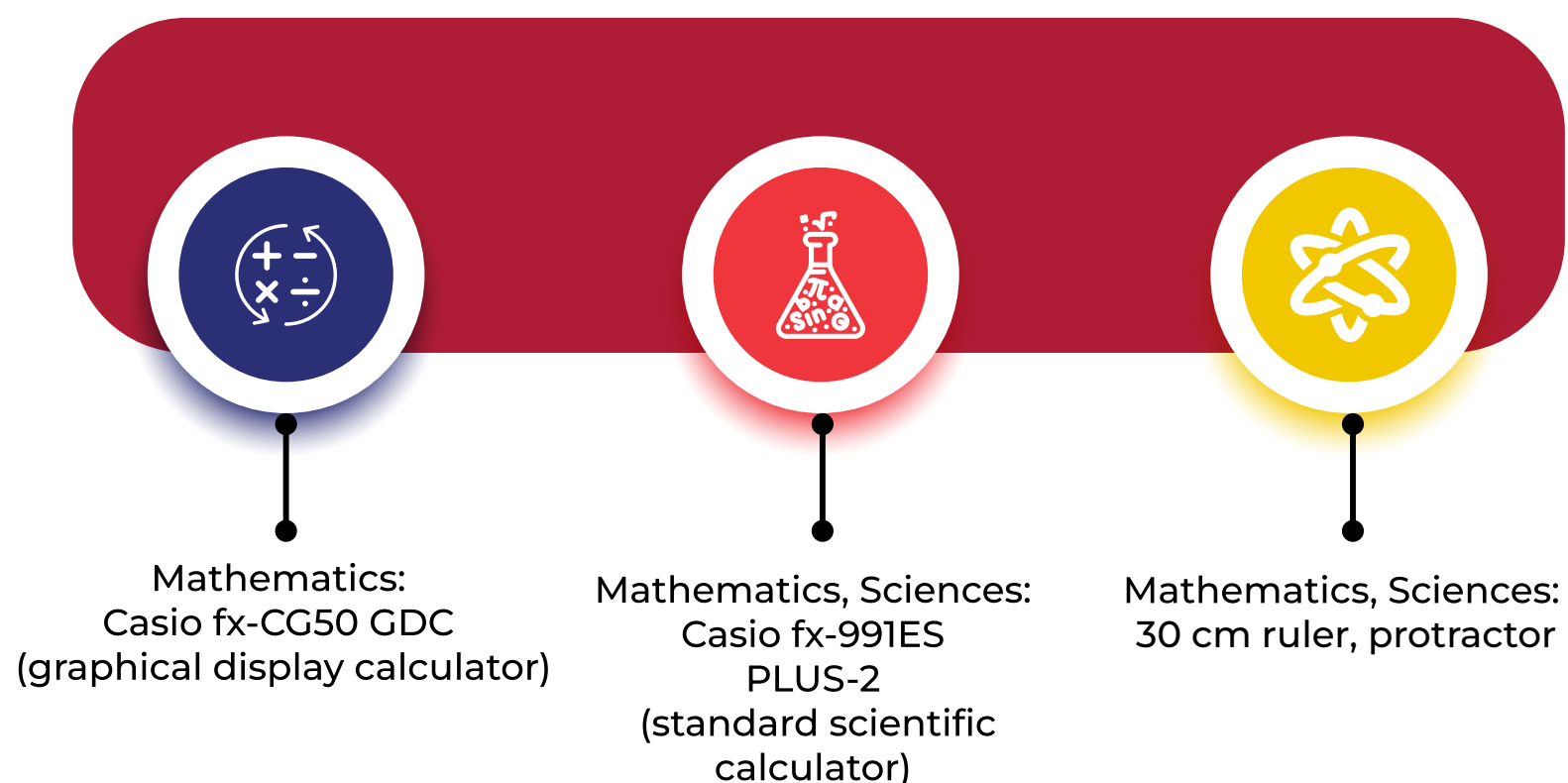
The IB Diploma is recognized as equivalent to national examinations in most countries. To find the latest details for your country or the country where you plan to apply to university, visit this link: **IBO Country Recognition Statements**.

Last year, our students received offers from prestigious universities, including:

- Northern Illinois University (NIU) & Salzburg College in Austria
- Durham University International Study Centre (ISC)
- Bristol, University of the West of England
- Brunel University London
- City, University of London
- University of Exeter
- University of Warwick
- University of Sussex
- University of Reading
- University of Lancaster
- University of Birmingham
- Cardiff University
- University of Glasgow
- University of Leeds
- University of Nottingham
- Royal Holloway, University of London
- University of Surrey



To ensure a smooth start, we've put together some useful information to help you prepare for your arrival. Here, you will find details about the necessary equipment you will need and recommended topics to review or readings to complete over the summer. This preparation will help you get off to a great start in the IB Diploma or HSDP pathway.



Recommended Reading

English A

Chronicle of a Death Foretold by Gabriel García Márquez

Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

After the Quake by Haruki Murakami

Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen

Ways of Seeing by John Berger

The Story of Art by E.H. Gombrich

World Languages

Gabriel Garcia Marques - Chronico de una Muerte Anunciada.

Biology

The Selfish Gene by Richard Dawkins

Sapiens - a Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Noah Harar

Bad Science by Ben Goldacre

The Gene - an Intimate History by Siddhartha Mukherjee

Survival of the Sickest by Dr Sharon Moalen



Dukes
EDUCATION



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