



St. Clare's, Oxford
— An International Education —

International Baccalaureate Diploma Guide

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www.stclares.ac.uk/ib

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PART 1 – CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS

- Students have to choose SIX subjects, ONE from each GROUP
- THREE of these must be at HIGHER LEVEL (H) and THREE at STANDARD LEVEL (S)

Group	Subject	Details
1	LANGUAGE A	Your FIRST or BEST language. This is a literature course. The following languages are offered: H and S: English, German, Italian. S only: Arabic, Danish, Dutch, French, Greek, Hungarian, Japanese, Mandarin, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and other languages on request.
2	LANGUAGE B	A SECOND language. H and S: English, French, Spanish and German. Some previous knowledge is necessary. S only: Chinese for beginners and Spanish for beginners. There is also the possibility of ENGLISH A2 (see Part 2, Subjects).
3	INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES	H or S: History, Geography, Economics. H only: Psychology, Business and Management.
3 or 4	TRANSDISCIPLINARY	S only: Ecosystems and Societies.
4	EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCES	H or S: Biology, Chemistry, Physics.
5	MATHEMATICS	H or S: Mathematics. S only: Mathematical Studies.
6	ELECTIVES	H or S: Visual Arts, Music, Theatre Arts, or another Language, another Individuals and Societies subject or another Science.

Some subjects run only if there is sufficient demand.

How to choose your programme:

- Choose your Highers from those subjects which you enjoy most and which support your career aspirations. These subjects are the ones that you will study in depth.
- Choose your Standards to give you a good balanced programme. You will be asked to record these subject choices on the application form.

PART 2 – SUBJECTS

GROUP 1 – LANGUAGE A

- Language A is the study of literature in the mother tongue.
- Most of the students in the class will be native speakers of the language and will have been educated in the language.
- Only English, German and Italian are offered regularly at both Higher and Standard levels.
- Higher levels in other language “A”s may be considered, but only by special arrangement.
- If you want to study Standard level and your language is not mentioned in the list do not worry: we will almost certainly be able to find a teacher for you.

The Course

You will study about 15 (H) or 11 (S) works of literature in the language, 5 of which will be World Literature in translation. Written and spoken communication in the language is assessed by coursework and external examination.

Previous Knowledge

You must have native or near-native knowledge of the language. Wide background reading will give students a head start, but is not essential.

GROUP 2 – LANGUAGE B

- Language B is for foreign learners of the language.
- It is not primarily a literary course, though the literature is studied as a means of understanding the complex use of the language.
- The emphasis is on communicative skills in speech and writing and understanding the culture of the language.

The Course

Students learn the language skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking through a range of resources related to three themes: Change, Leisure and Groups. Skills of reading and writing are tested by externally set examinations (70%), while oral skills are tested internally (30%).

Previous Knowledge

You should have at least 2 years of serious study in the language, a good knowledge of grammar and vocabulary, and be fairly fluent in ordinary conversation.

LANGUAGE B Ab Initio (beginners)

- If you want to learn a new language or do not have a second language you should choose Spanish Ab Initio or Chinese Ab Initio.
- These are offered at Standard Level only.

The Course

You will acquire a good basic knowledge of the language so that you can engage in conversation to do with everyday situations and understand and write short pieces.

Previous knowledge

Obviously you don't need any. However, any start you can make on the language (e.g. a Teach Yourself book) in the summer before you come to us would help you to get a good start.

ENGLISH A2

- If you are bilingual and would be interested in doing English A2 rather than English B please write A2 after your group 2 language choice in the application form.
- This is an IB course for bilinguals to take as their second language rather than Language B.
- It has greater emphasis on literature and near-native skills.

GROUP 3 – INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES

Previous knowledge

All these courses may be taken without previous knowledge, though clearly if they have been studied before this will be helpful.

BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT (H only)

You will be learning to understand why business organisations are formed, the principles, practice and basic competence employed to make them successful, and their decision-making processes. Real life examples and case studies will be used.

Assessment is via project (25%) and final examinations (75%).

ECONOMICS (H and S)

You will learn how to use economic reasoning and apply the tools of economic analysis to everyday problems and social issues. You will learn how individuals and societies organise themselves in the pursuit of economic objectives and will seek answers to questions such as:

- How are resources allocated between alternative uses to attain maximum levels of output?
- How do governments intervene in the economy to foster desired levels of economic stability and growth?
- How do societies around the world interact with each other, via trade or other mechanisms, to create an international economic framework?
- How do societies create new wealth? Why have some been more successful than others?
- Why does the spectre of poverty still haunt many nations?

GEOGRAPHY (H and S)

Geography is a bridge between the social and the natural sciences. The IB programme reflects the concern with man's relationship with the environment while retaining topics such as human geography, population, economic development and human settlements. Examples of human and physical geography are taken from all over the world.

The subject is assessed through a combination of coursework and a final examination. The Standard level course deals largely with some current global problems (e.g. population, refugees, inequality, urbanisation, environmental hazards, food), and is attractive to students with an interest in current affairs and the environment. Higher Geographers study more physical geography with an emphasis on geomorphological processes. Both Higher and Standard level students will use spreadsheets, computer mapping and geographical databases.

HISTORY (H and S)

Higher level is largely the study of Europe since 1750. However, in the thematic study of the twentieth century, the course extends to other parts of the world to avoid a Eurocentric view.

You will acquire a thorough knowledge of the main themes in the development of modern history in Europe and the world. Internally assessed work counts for 20% of the final result. Standard level is the study of three twentieth century world topics: e.g.

- The causes, nature and effects of war
- East-West relations since 1945
- The rise and rule of single party regimes.

PSYCHOLOGY (H only)

You will be helped to an increased understanding of the nature of human beings, as individuals and in social groups and you will learn to appreciate psychology as an academic discipline. You will learn the various methods of psychological enquiry, and examine the subject from biological, cognitive, learning and humanistic perspectives. Internally assessed experimental work during the programme will count (20%) towards the final marks.

GROUP 3 OR GROUP 4 - TRANSDISCIPLINARY

ECOSYSTEMS AND SOCIETIES (S only)

This is a new transdisciplinary course which covers the requirements of Group 3 and Group 4 subjects. This broad course aims to give you an understanding of scientific method whilst at the same time heightening your awareness of the multidisciplinary (biological, geographical, political, economic, social and historical) aspects of environmental issues. The areas studied are: Ecological principles; Ecosystems; Conservation and Biodiversity; Pollution; Population and Resources.

GROUP 4 – EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCES

All science courses on the IB share a common structure. Each is in three parts

- A core of material that is studied at both Higher and Standard levels
- Additional material that is taken at Higher level only.
- Options, which may be for Standard level only, Higher level only, or for both levels.

All students take part in a cross-disciplinary Science Group Project. The assessment pattern is the same for all sciences. Exams at the end of the course contribute 76% of the final mark. The remaining 24% is based on practical work set and assessed by the College.

Previous knowledge

For Higher level sciences some previous knowledge is essential, though a general science course should be sufficient. At Standard level, previous knowledge is helpful, and students without a science background should try to do some reading before they start.

BIOLOGY (H and S)

In Biology you will study the science of living things and how they function. The Core includes Cells, Genetics, Ecology and Human Physiology. The additional material takes these further, and adds some more, such as Plant Science, and Defence Against Disease. Linking themes are Structure and Function; Universality versus Diversity; Equilibrium within Systems; and Evolution. Some Options are: Diet and Human Nutrition; Evolution; Ecology and Conservation; and Further Human Physiology.

CHEMISTRY (H and S)

In Chemistry you will study materials, and the conversion of substances one to another. Core and Additional Higher level: material covered here includes such important themes as Atomic Theory; Bonding and Structure; the Periodic Table; Acid-Base and Oxidation-Reduction Behaviour; Energetics; Equilibrium; and Organic Chemistry. Some Options are: Human Biochemistry; Environmental Chemistry; Fuels and Energy; Modern Analytical Chemistry.

PHYSICS (H and S)

In Physics you will study the properties and interactions of matter and energy. Core and Additional Higher level: these introduce the central concepts of Mechanics; Atomic and Nuclear Physics; Waves; Thermal Physics; Electricity and Magnetism. Options: Standard only: Mechanics; Atomic and Nuclear Physics; Energy. Higher and Standard: Biomedical Physics; History of Physics; Astrophysics; Relativity; Optics.

GROUP 5 – MATHEMATICS

MATHEMATICS (H)

This is a challenging programme designed for students with a strong background and ability in mathematics. You may choose this level because you aim to study Mathematics at university, because you need it to support university study in subjects such as physics, engineering or technology, or simply because you enjoy mathematics.

MATHEMATICS (S)

This is a demanding course requiring strong background knowledge and ability. The programme contains a broad range of mathematical topics and is designed to help those students who wish to pursue further studies with a high degree of mathematical content such as chemistry, economics, geography and business.

MATHEMATICAL STUDIES (S only)

This programme is designed to develop the skills needed to cope with the mathematical demands of a technological society. Emphasis is placed on the application of mathematics to real-life situations. You should choose this course if you do not need advanced mathematics for your future studies.

GROUP 6 – ELECTIVES

In this group you can study another subject from Groups 2, 3 or 4 i.e. another second language, another human/social science or another experimental science.

Or, you can take:

VISUAL ARTS (H and S)

There are two parts to the course: Studio Work (practical) and Research Workbook (theory). Higher level students study both.

Standard level students choose either a course which is 70% practical and 30% theory or alternatively a course which is 70% theory and 30% practical.

You will discover, develop and enjoy different means of creative visual expression in the studio and elsewhere. You will also learn about art and design in all their forms, both in history and today.

Choose this subject if you have some practical skills in drawing and painting and some natural talent and interest in the subject.

MUSIC (H and S)

You will gain a worldwide and historical perspective of music as well as studying its elements. You will also create and perform music. The Standard level is a subset of the Higher level. It is helpful to have some earlier study and some musical qualification.

For Higher level it is essential to be able to play a musical instrument or to offer the voice. At Standard level ability to play and/or sing at a reasonable level is required.

THEATRE ARTS (H and S)

You will learn to understand the nature of theatre by making it as well as studying it. Making will include developing performance skills and mounting theatre productions. Studying will include historical and theoretical theatre developments and play analysis and interpretation. No previous experience is required though it would be helpful.

PART 3 – CORE ELEMENTS OF THE IB PROGRAMME

The IB Diploma is a complete educational programme. The subjects provide both breadth and depth, and there are three core elements which help to provide overview, additional academic specialisation, and a recognition of interests outside the classroom. These are the course in the Theory of Knowledge, the Extended Essay and Activities (CAS).

Theory of Knowledge

While students choose their programmes from a range of subject areas, these are still separate subjects. With the Theory of Knowledge course the IB adds two further qualities to a student's study. First, by looking at the pattern of all knowledge, that which is gained from subject studies and that which is gained from friends, family, the media and other sources, a sense of perspective is achieved. Students can see how new knowledge relates to the world of knowledge as a whole. Second, students are trained in the critical evaluation of knowledge, so that they can see how different types of knowledge have to be judged in different ways, and so that they can assess the value of new knowledge claims.

Extended Essay

During the two years of their Diploma studies, students are required to undertake a specific piece of research. This is usually research into an aspect of one of their subjects. For example, History students might look at a battle or a political incident that is of special interest to them. Economics students might look at the performance of a company that they know well. Biology students might study one particular ecosystem, or one organism in that system.

The results of this research must then be written up in the form of a research paper of some 4000 words. This can be a challenging task, but intellectually very satisfying for a good student.

CAS

CAS stands for Creativity, Action and Service. It is realised by the IB that many students will have extensive interests outside their academic studies. In order to give recognition and encouragement to these, the IB asks them to spend one afternoon or the equivalent time each week undertaking activities that come under one or more of these headings. For example, activities that involve Creativity include Studio Art and Photography. Action could be a team sport like football or an individual activity like swimming. For Service, students may help people in the community such as the old or the disabled, or may help charities such as Oxfam or each other (by teaching a language, for example). Some activities cover more than one heading. For example, a play performed at a local school or old people's home may well involve creativity, action and service.

PSHE

Though not an assessed part of the IB programme, St. Clare's offers students a course in Personal, Social and Health Education covering a wide range of topics such as relationships, study skills, citizenship, substance abuse and healthy eating.

The PSHE curriculum includes a programme to develop career management skills and preparation for higher education. The college provides a dedicated careers and higher education adviser to co-ordinate this programme and to provide individual guidance.

PART 4 – GRADING SYSTEM: IB AND ST. CLARE’S

The system used for internal purposes during the course is that employed by the International Baccalaureate Organisation in the award of the Diploma. Each of the six subjects studied is graded on a 1-7 scale as follows:

Grade	Description
7	Excellent
6	Very good
5	Good
4	Satisfactory
3	Mediocre
2	Poor
1	Very poor

Award of the Diploma

The IB Diploma will be awarded to candidates who in the examinations obtain a total points score of 24 points or more.

This total must be achieved in conformity with the following provisions:

- a. Higher level subjects: in principle the candidate should achieve a Grade 4 or above in each Higher level subject. Nevertheless, ONE Grade 3 (but not a Grade 2, nor a Grade 1) will be acceptable if compensated by Grade 5 or above in another subject offered at Higher level.
- b. Standard level subjects: results of subjects offered at this level must not include:
 1. A Grade 1
 2. More than ONE Grade 2.
- c. Overall results: this must not include:
 1. More than three Grade 3s
 2. More than one Grade 3 if there is a Grade 2 at Standard level.

Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay

Each is graded on one of 5 bands:

Band A	Work of an excellent standard
Band B	Work of a good standard
Band C	Work of a satisfactory standard
Band D	Work of a mediocre standard
Band E	Work of a poor standard

In Theory of Knowledge, written work completed during the course is graded externally. Presentations in class are assessed at St. Clare's. Extended Essays are graded externally.

Arriving at a Total Points Score

The total number of bonus points awarded is determined according to the following matrix.

		Theory of Knowledge				
		A	B	C	D	E
Extended Essay	A	+3	+3	+2	+2	+1
	B	+3	+2	+1	+1	0
	C	+2	+1	+1	0	0
	D	+2	+1	0	0	0
	E	+1	0	0	0	F

For example, a candidate who achieves level B for Theory of Knowledge and level C for the Extended Essay will be awarded one bonus point. Candidates who achieve level E for both Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay will be awarded F for their bonus score. The award F is a failing condition for the Diploma.

The combination of points for subjects and bonus points means that the maximum possible points score for the Diploma is 45.

Internally Awarded Grades

During the course, work is graded on the IB system and the grades form part of the student's internal record. These internally awarded grades appear on the transcripts issued at regular intervals throughout the course. These internal grades form the basis of the predicted grades for university applications and for the IB Organisation.

Internal grades are awarded as follows:

- Test Grades – awarded on the basis of performances in the tests held in November and March of the first year and November of the second year.
- Exam Grades – for performance in year examinations and 'mock' examinations.
- Course Grades – awarded at the end of each term on course work done during the term. They represent an average grade for oral and written work actually produced by the student.
- Term Grades – an overall grade for both course work and test or exam performance.

Transcripts

These give a record of grades achieved during the course, along with activities taken. They are produced at the end of each term, and sent to parents with the reports. They are suitable for sending to universities e.g. in the United States.

PART 5 – RESULTS: THE PATTERN OF RECENT IB RESULTS

St. Clare's is pleased to announce another set of good results in May 2007. Whilst our average score was down a little at 32.49, we felt that it was a good reflection of the year group.

We achieved:

- An 88% overall pass rate and an average points score of 32.49 – this kept us well ahead of the world average points score, which went down this year to 29.57
- 33 students with 35 points or more (considered equivalent to 4.5 grade As at A level) = 39.8%.
- 9 students with 40 points or more = 10.8%.
- 1 student with 45 - the highest possible mark, achieved by only 63 of the 35,000 students who took the Diploma in 2007 (down from 2006, when it was 72 students).
- 1 student with 44 points, achieved by only 139 students this year.

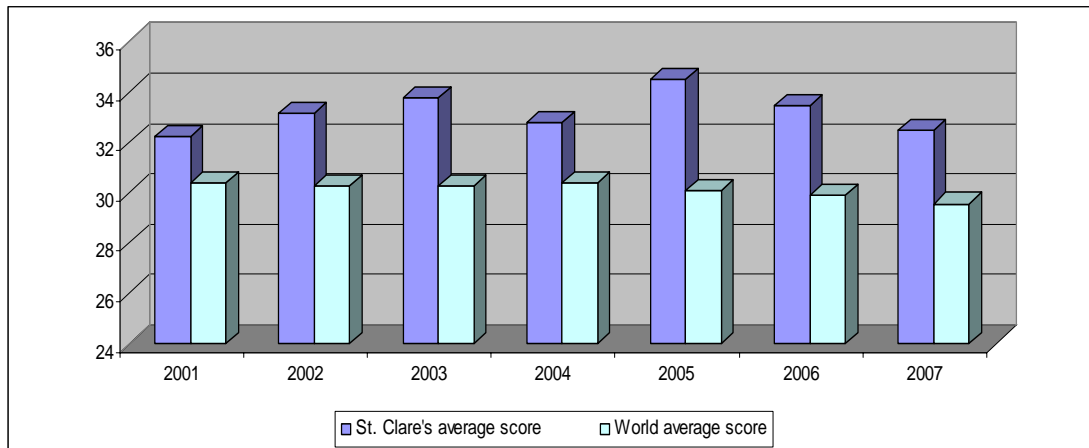
This is the fourth consecutive year in which we have had 44 and 45 point students, an outstanding achievement in the fiercely competitive IB environment.

Comparison of St. Clare's 2007 results with previous years

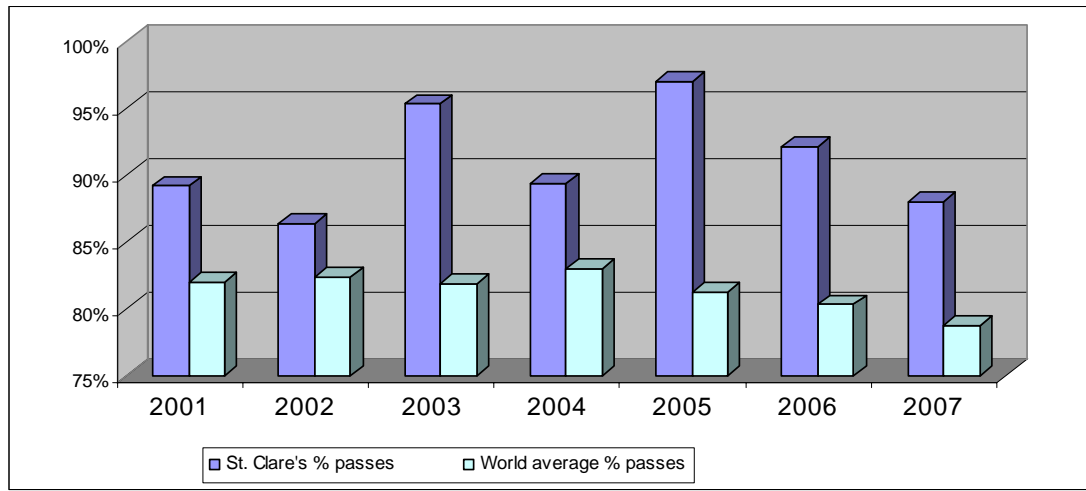
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Students with 40 points or more	14.8%	14.0%	14.1%	18.8%	13.1%	10.8%
Students with 30 points or more	72.7%	79.1%	71.8%	83.2%	73.7%	68.7%
Students with 24 points or more	92.0%	100%	94.1%	98.0%	96.1%	94.0%
Mean score (excluding retakes)	33.15	33.79	32.81	34.54	33.49	32.49

The maximum score is 45 points and the pass mark is 24 points.

St. Clare's IB Diploma average points scores have consistently outperformed world averages:



St. Clare's IB Diploma pass rates have consistently outperformed world pass rates:



IB Highlights from the past 3 years

- In 2006 St. Clare's Diploma pass rate was 92.1%, compared with a world-wide average pass rate of 80.25%.
- In 2005 54.5% of St. Clare's Diploma students (54 out of 101) achieved 35 points or more, i.e. the equivalent of 4.5 A grades at A level. In 2006 this percentage was 46.1.
- In 2005 8.1% of St. Clare's Diploma students achieved 43, 44 or 45 points. This compares to 1.4% of candidates worldwide.
- In 2006 13.1% of St Clare's students achieved 40 points or more. The world wide average was 5.97%.
- In 2007 the average points score was 32.49 for St. Clare's students. This compared with 29.6 worldwide.

In 2006 most of our academic subjects outperformed the world average by a significant margin. The following is just a sample:

- in English A2 Higher Level the average was 6.25, compared to 5.43
- in Spanish B Higher Level the average was 6.40, compared to 5.60
- in Economics Higher Level the average was 5.67, compared to 5.17
- in History Higher Level the average was 5.45, compared to 4.95
- in Psychology Higher Level the average was 5.77, compared to 4.59
- in Biology Standard Level the average was 6.08, compared to 4.23
- in Mathematics Standard Level the average was 5.50, compared to 4.82

In 2007 we had similar success, for example:

- in English A1 Higher Level the average was 5.81, compared to 4.78
- in Spanish A1 Standard Level the average was 6.00, compared to 4.86
- in English A2 Higher Level the average was 6.00, compared to 5.30
- in French B Standard Level the average was 6.25, compared to 4.86
- in Economics Higher Level the average was 5.54, compared to 5.05
- in Physics Higher Level the average was 5.64, compared to 4.47

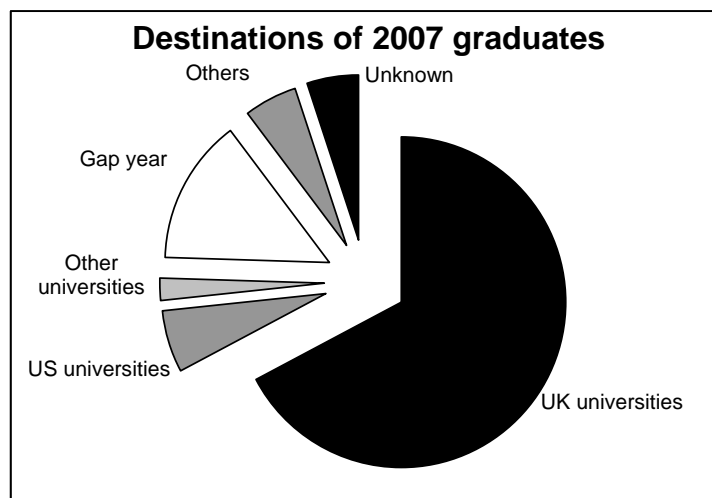
PART 6 - UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS

The vast majority of St. Clare's graduates go to university as the next step in their career. International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme students are supported in their applications for institutions all over the world. The majority of them go to UK universities in addition to a range of international universities and courses, each place reflecting the interests, abilities and aspirations of the student. Other students develop their personal skills and interests by taking a 'gap year' in which to travel, work or volunteer and thus improve their career prospects prior to continuing in education.

The list of university destinations in 2007 is impressive, reflecting the academic success of the 2007 graduates and those who took a gap year in 2006.

Summary of destinations for 2007 graduates:

Destination	Number of students
UK universities	66
US universities	6
Other universities	2
Art foundation	3
Gap year (most placed in universities)	14
Business or apprenticeship	2
Unknown	5



Where are they going?

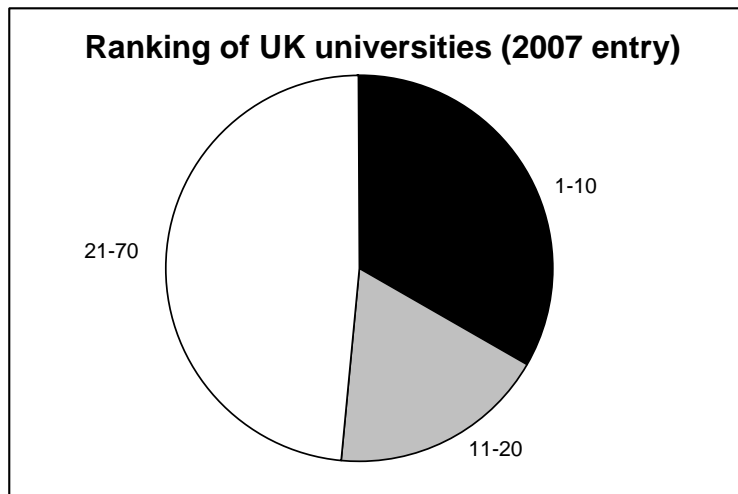
The following information includes those students who took a gap year in 2006 as well as graduates from 2007.

UK universities

This year 34 St. Clare's graduates have been placed in the top 20 UK universities (as ranked by The Times newspaper), with 22 in the top 10 universities. These universities are ranked nationally by teaching, research, entry standards, staff- student ratio, library/computing spending, first and second class degrees awarded, destinations and efficiency.

Students placed in the top 10 are as follows:

	No. of students
Oxford University	1
Imperial College, University of London	1
London School of Economics	3
University College London	8
Warwick University	3
Bristol University	1
Durham University	2
King's College London	3



The range of subjects that our students are studying includes medicine, law, chemical engineering, history/politics, maths, neuroscience, economics, business studies, computer science, geography, fashion management, English, international relations, media, music and event management.

US Universities

This year six of our graduates enrolled at US universities including some of the most prestigious institutions. The table below gives an indication of not only the range of US universities chosen but also the international mix of our students.

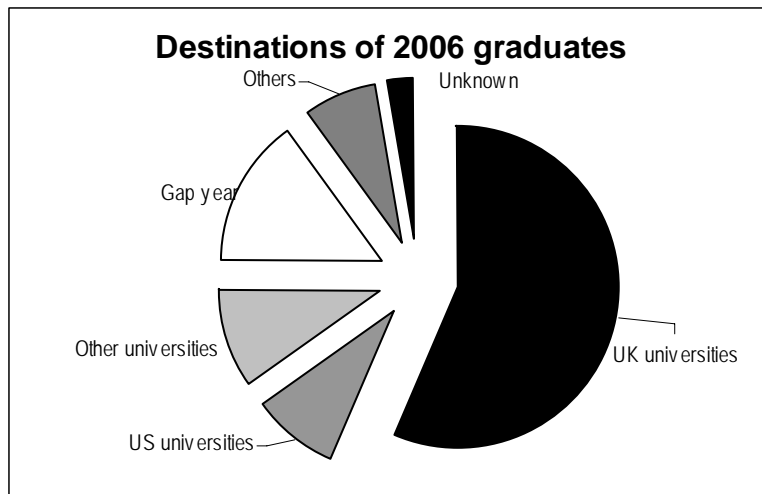
Student nationality	US university	Awards
Cameroonian	Rice	Scholarship
Portuguese	Cornell	
American	Amherst	
Russian	Chicago	
Norwegian	Lafayette College	
British	Dickinson College	

Other International universities and courses

One student will take up a place in a Canadian university and another will attend university in Poland. One student has an apprenticeship in a shipping company.

2006 destinations

In 2006 23 students were placed in the top 10 UK universities and 12 more in the next 10 highest ranked universities. 7 took up US university places and 8 went to international institutions. 12 took gap years and 4 went to art foundation courses.



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Careers & Higher Education Adviser

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US Universities Adviser

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PART 7 – SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES: IB DIPLOMA

Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded to exceptional students who could not otherwise attend the College. They are offered on the basis of financial circumstances, school record, confidential references and performances in an examination and interview held in Oxford.

No more than two full awards (covering tuition and accommodation fees) are made. Most are partial awards, covering a proportion of total fees. Attendance in Oxford for interview and examination is required to be considered for a scholarship.

Scholarship applications are considered in early February of the year of proposed entry. The deadline for applying for a Scholarship for entry in September 2008 is Friday 1 February 2008 and Scholarship Day is on Saturday 16 February 2008. Please contact the Admissions Office for further details and an Application Booklet.

Email: admissions@stclares.ac.uk for more information.

Bursaries

Bursaries are partial fee awards made on the basis of financial circumstances and likely contributions to and benefit from the IB Course at St. Clare's. Some are awarded to applicants who attend the Scholarship Day. Others are made after the award of scholarships, from March onwards before the August of proposed entry, subject to availability of funds. Bursaries usually do not exceed 50% of fees. Please contact the Admissions Office for further details.