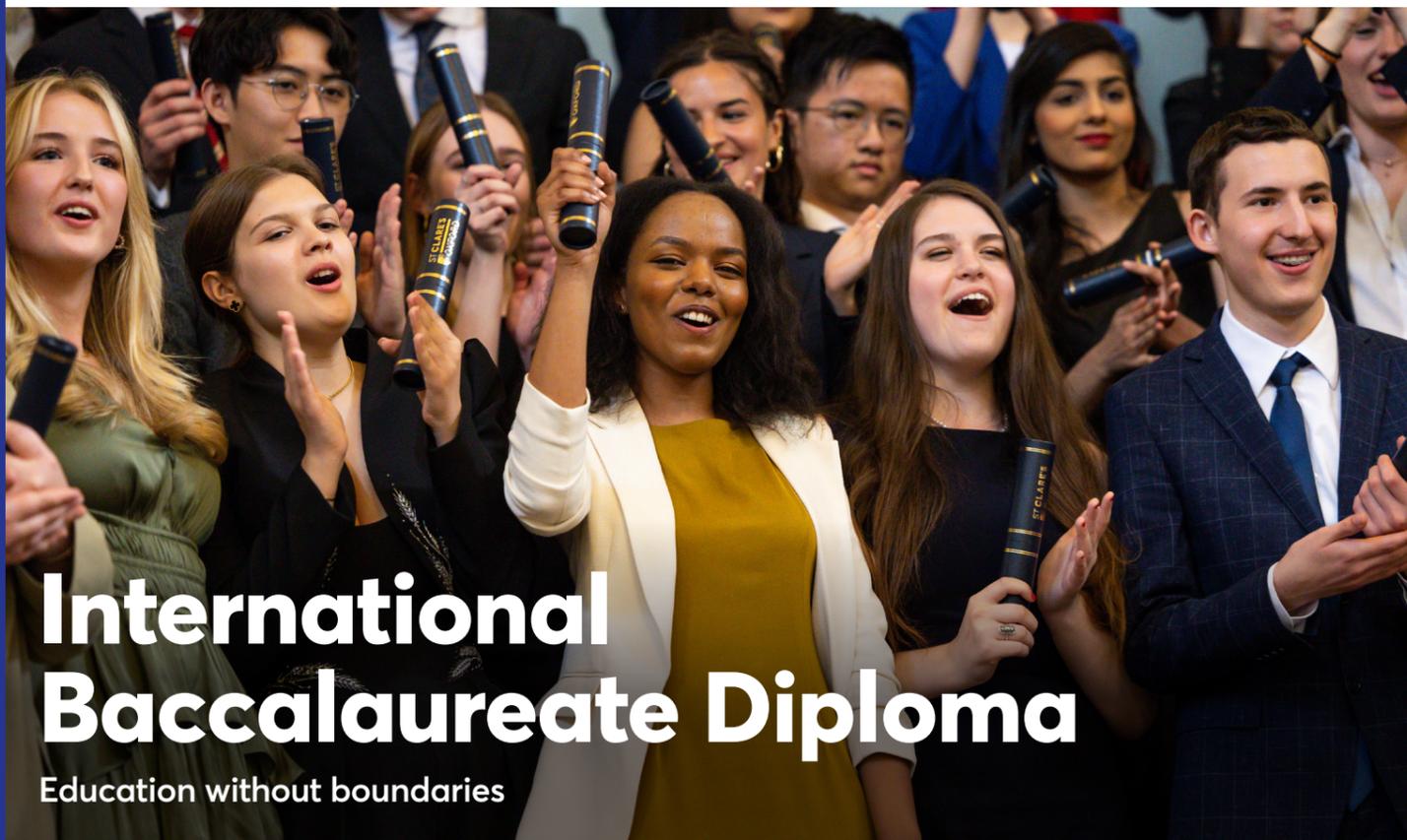


# International Baccalaureate

A circular photograph showing three students in a library setting. A young woman with long blonde hair and glasses, wearing a green top, is leaning over a desk, smiling as she looks at a smartphone held by a young man. The young man, wearing a dark blue hoodie, is also smiling and looking at the phone. In the background, another student in a yellow hoodie is focused on their work. Bookshelves filled with books are visible in the background.

**Study options  
and subject details**



# International Baccalaureate Diploma

Education without boundaries

## Why study our IB Diploma?

### Status as an IB World School

We are the oldest IB School in England with over 40 years experience. There are only 13 institutions in the world that have taught the IB longer than us.

### Unique approach to study, student life and personal development

Our teaching style creates culturally aware, inquiring minds who demonstrate a lifelong passion for learning. They are excellent global citizens.

### Academic expertise and outstanding results

We consistently achieve above the world average and our students regularly win places at leading UK and international universities. Our worldwide reputation is due to quality academic results.

### Internationalism is embraced as one of our core values

Our sixth form attracts students from around the world, including a significant number of British students. This truly international community makes it a special place to live, study and make friends for life.

### Strong commitment to students

The high staff-to-student ratio supports the learning process because it helps teachers understand individual learning needs for personal support. You will be cared for by teachers, residential staff, a Personal Tutor and College Nurse.

### Specialist careers and higher education support

Careers and higher education is embedded in the learning experience. Our in-house team guide you on all aspects of careers development including CV writing, university applications, gap years and internships.

### Accessible education

Our prestigious academic scholarships are open to all UK and overseas students interested in studying the IB Diploma as a day or boarding student.

### Breadth of our subject offering

Our wide subject options at higher and standard level makes it an accessible and varied study programme, whatever your interests or academic background. We teach literature face-to-face in a range of languages.

### Access to world-class resources

We encourage you to take full advantage of the learning resources that the famous city of Oxford provides.

If you have any questions or would like to apply for our academic scholarships, please get in touch on [admissions@stclares.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@stclares.ac.uk)

## Choosing your subjects

We offer a wide range of subjects at higher and standard level:

- **Standard level (150 teaching hours):** in-depth knowledge of the subject and an opportunity to develop key skills
- **Higher level (240 teaching hours):** a deeper understanding of key topics and concepts as well as the chance to enhance your skills

You need to select **3 at standard level (S)** and **3 at higher level (H)** from **6 subject groups:**

### Core elements

These core elements help you develop new skills and support your personal development.



*Without the scholarship I wouldn't have been able to study here. I am very grateful for that, because I've had an amazing experience, which otherwise I would not have been able to have - studying the IB has made me much more confident in myself."*

**Zuzanna, dual nationality**  
University destination: Arts University Bournemouth

#### Theory of Knowledge (TOK)

promotes intellectual curiosity through critical thinking

#### 4000-word Extended Essay (EE)

develops your research and academic writing skills

#### Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS)

stimulates personal growth through new experiences

Group	Subject area	Course options	Level
1	<b>Studies in Language and Literature</b> First language or native language	Language and Literature - native or near native speaker of English Literature - first language or native language  <i>If you speak multiple languages fluently, there is also the option to take a bilingual diploma</i>	S or H S or H
2	<b>Language Acquisition</b> Second language	English  If you study English in Group 1: Mandarin, Spanish or German - beginner level French, Mandarin, Spanish or German - intermediate level	S or H  S only S or H
3	<b>Individual and Societies</b>	Business Management, History, Geography, Psychology or Economics Global Politics	S or H S only
3 or 4	<b>Interdisciplinary</b>	Environmental Systems and Societies	S only
4	<b>Science</b>	Biology, Chemistry or Physics	S or H
5	<b>Mathematics</b>	Analysis and Approaches Applications and Interpretation	S or H S or H
6	<b>Arts and Electives</b>	Music, Theatre or Visual Arts  Or 1 option below: - another language from <b>Groups 1 or 2</b> - another subject from <b>Group 3</b> - another science from <b>Group 4</b>	S or H



## GROUP 1 – STUDIES IN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (LANGUAGE A)

### Language and Literature

**Critical analysis of literary and non-literary works in English (language of instruction)**

**Entry requirements:** Native speaker of English or a near native speaker (oral and written), and an interest in analysing the use of language and style in literary and non-literary works

**Level:** Standard or higher level

**What you will study:** This subject helps you critically evaluate the language and style used in a range of communications. You will explore the approach within various contexts and how this is tied to meaning. You will be assessed on your written and oral analysis of the works.

### Literature

**Critical analysis of literary works in your language (native speaker)**

**Entry requirements:** Previous experience of literary classics in your own language is advantageous but not mandatory

**Standard level languages which have been studied in previous years:** Albanian, Arabic, Bulgarian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latvian, Lithuanian, Mandarin, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish and Ukrainian.

**Higher level languages:** English, German, Italian and Russian

**What you will study:** This subject helps you keep in touch with your own culture. You will cover a range of literary genres in your own language. It encourages you to analyse and critically evaluate literary books, prose, poetry or film (including works in translation). You will be assessed on your oral and written analysis of the literary works.

Bilingual students may choose a second Group 1 option to achieve a Bilingual Diploma



WE TEACH LITERATURE  
IN A WIDE RANGE OF  
LANGUAGES

## GROUP 2 – LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (LANGUAGE B)

We offer a range of language learning options. If you do not study **English** as a **Group 1** subject, you must take **English** as a foreign language in **Group 2**.

### English

Many students choose English B as this supports their other subjects.

**Develop your English language skills in the core areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking**

**Entry requirements:** A basic knowledge of English grammar and reasonable command of spoken English. This will be assessed during the English placement test and interview

**Level:** Standard or higher level

**What you will study:** This subject develops intercultural awareness which includes subtleties within British culture. You will learn skills in extracting, summarising and critically evaluating in English using both literary and non-literary media. There will also be a focus on developing vocabulary, accuracy and fluency through classroom discussions on themes like social relationships, communications & media and global issues.

### Mandarin, Spanish or German Ab initio

**Learn a foreign language from beginner level**

**Entry requirements:** No previous experience in the chosen language

**Level:** Standard level

**What you will study:** This course aims to develop language confidence in various situations and contexts. It also involves exploring culture. Grammar and vocabulary are developed through the themes identities, experiences, human ingenuity, social organisation and sharing the planet.

### French, German, Mandarin or Spanish

**Develop your fluency and accuracy in a foreign language**

**Entry requirements:** Applicants need to have studied the language chosen for at least two years

**Level:** Standard or higher level

**What you will study:** As you have some knowledge of the language, this course aims to develop language confidence, fluency and accuracy as well as expand your vocabulary and intercultural understanding. Both levels cover the themes identities, experiences, human ingenuity, social organisation and sharing the planet. At higher level, there is a focus on studying literary works in the chosen language.



## GROUP 3 OR 4 – INTERDISCIPLINARY

You can choose this as either a group 3 or group 4, or both. If you choose it as the latter option, you can study an additional subject from any other group.

### Environmental Systems and Societies

**Scientific exploration of environmental systems in the context of cultural, economic, ethical, political and social interactions**

**Entry requirements:** No background experience is necessary

**Level:** Standard level

**What you will study:** This subject focuses on environmental systems in their structure and function. You will learn how to analyse and interpret data, as well as investigate and evaluate the impact of human societies on the natural world. This course promotes holistic thinking and encourages you to participate in philosophical discussions on environmental issues on a personal, community and global scale.

## GROUP 3 – INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES

### Global Politics

**Explore political challenges in the context of power, sovereignty, international relations, human rights, development, peace and conflict**

**Entry requirements:** No background experience is necessary

**Level:** Standard level

**What you will study:** You will learn the key political concepts and theories and evaluate the impact on a national and international scale. You will investigate real-life examples of global politics and use classroom debates to explore a range of perspectives. Our Model United Nations club (CAS) offers the chance to deepen your understanding.

### History

**Delve into 20th century history including the rise and rule of authoritarian states as well as the effects of war**

**Entry requirements:** No background experience is necessary

**Level:** Standard or higher level

**What you will study:** This subject encourages you to foster an inquiring mind on the concepts of change, continuity, causation, consequence, significance and perspectives. It includes the study of real-life case studies. You will explore international perspectives from places like Germany, Italy, Spain, the USSR, the USA, Cuba and the People's Republic of China through debate, group activities and teacher expositions.



### Geography

**Delve into physical and human geography and elements of both social and natural sciences**

**Entry requirements:** No background knowledge is necessary

**Level:** Standard or higher level

**What you will study:** This subject focuses on the interactions between individuals, societies and the physical environment in time and space. You will explore different perspectives on global change. This includes examining scientific and socio-economic methodologies, identifying trends and patterns as well as evaluating the process behind them. The class includes field work.

### Psychology

**Investigate the nature of human beings, as individuals and in social groups**

**Entry requirements:** No background knowledge is necessary

**Level:** Standard or higher level

**What you will study:** This subject covers Psychology in the context of biological, cognitive and sociocultural perspectives. You will use these different approaches to examine topics such as Abnormal Psychology, Health Psychology and the Psychology of Human Relationships. Additionally you will learn about research methods in psychology, and then apply this learning by conducting a replication of a classic study in psychology."

### Economics

**Discover how individuals and societies organise themselves in the pursuit of economic objectives**

**Entry requirements:** No background knowledge is necessary. There are mathematical elements, but no specific level is required

**Level:** Standard or higher level

**What you will study:** This subject focuses on the behaviour of individuals, households, firms and markets under different economic conditions. It also examines the impact of private and government actions on larger social aggregates such as price, employment and productivity. You will learn economic concepts like micro and macro factors and develop experience in critical analysis and empirical decision-making.

### Business Management

**Learn the fundamental components of Business including Human Resource Management, Finance, Marketing and Operations**

**Entry requirements:** No background knowledge is necessary. The syllabus includes mathematical content

**Level:** Standard or higher level

**What you will study:** This class takes a holistic view of the internal and external business environments. It explores business challenges from different cultural perspectives. Business decisions are made in the context of change, culture, ethics, globalisation, innovation and strategy. You will use real-life case studies and learn how to research, critically evaluate and interpret quantitative data to support decision-making.

## GROUP 4 – SCIENCES

### Biology

**Study living organisms from molecules to the biosphere**

**Entry requirements:** No background experience is necessary, although some knowledge is useful

**Level:** Standard or higher level

**What you will study:** We explore the interaction between cell and tissues, organs and organisms as well as individuals and populations. You will develop a secure knowledge of the broad biological principles whilst attempting to understand the living world at all levels using different approaches and techniques. Practical work is an essential requirement.

### Chemistry

**Explore all aspects of chemistry in our daily lives including how it relates to food, fuel, medicine, air and many more**

**Entry requirements:**

Higher level – GCSE Chemistry or equivalent  
Standard level – No background experience is necessary, although some knowledge is useful

**Level:** Standard or higher level

**What you will study:** This subject focuses on experimental science and so involves practical work as well as collecting and interpreting data. Observation is essential. You will investigate and question many theories on the properties and reactions of matter. Themes include 'Atomic Theory,' 'Bonding and Structure,' 'Organic Chemistry,' 'Acids and Bases' and 'Redox Processes.'



### Physics

**Study the properties and interactions of matter and energy**

**Entry requirements:**

Higher level – GCSE physics or equivalent  
Standard level – No background experience is necessary, although some knowledge is useful

**Level:** Standard or higher level

**What you will study:** This subject explores recent scientific thinking and so provides a sound basis for higher education. The curriculum offers opportunities for research and discovery in a range of scientific methods. You will cover the themes 'Measurements and Uncertainties,' 'Mechanics and Thermal Physics,' 'Atomic, Nuclear and Particle Physics,' 'Electricity and Magnetism' and 'Energy Production.'



## GROUP 5 – MATHEMATICS

### Analysis and Approaches

**Develop analytical expertise in a world where innovation is increasingly dependent on mathematical concepts**

**Entry requirements:** Prior knowledge is required in number, algebra, functions, geometry, trigonometry, statistics and probability

**Level:** Standard and higher level

**What you will study:** This course includes topics that are traditionally part of a pre-university mathematics course. These include functions, trigonometry, calculus as well as topics that are amenable to investigation, conjecture and proof like the study of sequences and series. Analysis and Approaches allows the use of technology like relevant mathematical software. However, there is a strong emphasis on constructing, communicating and justifying correct mathematical arguments.

### Applications and Interpretation

**Discover the increasing role that mathematics and technology play in a data-rich world**

**Entry requirements:** Prior knowledge is required in number, algebra, functions, geometry, trigonometry, statistics and probability

**Level:** Standard and higher level

**What you will study:** There is an emphasis on the meaning of mathematics which is explored through applications and mathematics modelling. This course includes topics that are traditionally part of a pre-university mathematics course such as calculus and statistics. Applications and Interpretation solves practical mathematical problems and considers the use of technology to justify conjectures.



*I have amazing memories with my friends and teachers, that will be forever engraved in my mind."*

**Romane from France**  
University destination: Bocconi University in Milan



## GROUP 6 – THE ARTS

### Music

**Explore knowledge and understanding of music in relation to culture, place and time as a researcher, creator and performer**

**Entry requirements:** Performance skills on one or more instrument and a working knowledge of music notation practice

**Level:** Standard or higher level

**What you will study:** This subject has a multifaceted approach to appeal to musicians with diverse motivations and musical preferences. You will develop the skills to think in sound and respond to diverse musical stimuli. This course gives you the chance to explore and experiment with musical ideas and concepts, whilst building confidence on the concert platform. You will be taken to concerts and lectures both locally and further afield. We encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities in Oxford to hear leading musicians and musicologists.

### Theatre

**Develop key skills and techniques to perform confidently in a range of styles, as well as establish a breadth of knowledge on practitioners and traditional theatrical conventions**

**Entry requirements:** Some knowledge of theatrical conventions and repertoire is desirable

**Level:** Standard or higher level

**What you will study:** This subject focuses on performance skills and techniques, as well as the philosophy of the theatre arts. Our school activities (including CAS) offer the chance to extend your experience and learn from visiting professionals from the performing arts industry. Performances include 2 college plays and a musical each year.

### Visual Arts

**A process of experimenting with 2D or 3D visual arts to develop your creative flair and capabilities**

**Entry requirements:** No background experience of the subject is necessary

**Level:** Standard or higher level

**What you will study:** This subject empowers you to experiment with a range of creative techniques to become a skilled visual artist. You will benefit from our state-of-the-art studio and the experience of our teachers who are practising creative artists. A skilled critical observer, you will explore inspiration from local architecture, museums and art galleries. A portfolio and exhibition will be prepared for assessment. There are no exams.





## Book an appointment

We look forward to welcoming you to Oxford for an Open Day or a College tour. If you would like to make an appointment, please contact our admissions team.

Email: [admissions@stclares.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@stclares.ac.uk)

Telephone: +44 (0) 1865 517336

### Approximate travel times from Oxford

- Heathrow Airport 1 hour
- London 1.5 hours
- Luton Airport 1.5 hours
- Birmingham 1.5 hours
- Gatwick Airport 1.5 hours
- Bath 2 hours
- Cambridge 2 hours
- Cardiff 2 hours
- Stansted Airport 2 hours
- Manchester 3 hours
- Leeds 3 hours
- Liverpool 3.5 hours
- York 3.5 hours
- Newcastle 4.5 hours
- Glasgow 6 hours
- Edinburgh 6 hours

### More courses available



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