



Admissions Policy
The IB Diploma Programme
The PreIB year

April 2018
Next review: April 2019 (esp. in rel. to mathematics, new guide)

IB admission

You may be eligible to enter the two-year IB Diploma Programme if you have finished 11 years of schooling, for instance the first year (1g) of the Danish Upper Secondary School Leaving Examination (stx), a 10th grade from a Danish school, or have comparable international qualifications, such as at least five IGCSE subjects, among these Math, English and either one science subject, Combined Science or Coordinated Science. You must have a solid basis in mathematics and science and be very good at English to enter the IB Programme.

In the case of applying on the basis of IGCSE, Viborg Katedralskole retains the right to transfer you to the PreIB if the exam results published in August, after the beginning of IB1, prove to be unsatisfactory.

Grades are not the only basis of admission. The IB requires a high level of maturity and motivation and not least the willingness to put in a considerable, independent effort. Whether the student lives up to these requirements will be assessed using recommendations from present school and in interviews before admission.

Comparison of grades

Description	IB	Danish	ECTS
Excellent. Outstanding performance with only minor errors	7	12	A
Very good. Above the average standard but with some errors	6	10	B
Good. Generally sound work with a number of notable errors	5	7	C
Satisfactory. Fair but with significant shortcomings	4	4	D
Sufficient. Performance meets the minimum criteria	3	02	E
Fail. Some more work required before credit can be awarded	2	00	F _X
Fail. Considerable further work is required	1	-03	F

Special subject requirements

Mathematics

The overall requirements for Mathematics are:

Higher Level: ECTS A or B or similar.

Standard Level: No less than ECTS D or similar and preferably C, depending on how well your curriculum so far matches the IB curriculum.

In case entering the programme with less than a D, you must choose Mathematical Studies (Standard Level).

We emphasize that even if you meet these requirements you are not automatically qualified for the corresponding course. At the beginning of the Diploma Programme screenings will be arranged in order to decide the final placement at the different levels. The school cannot guarantee that you will be admitted to the level you wish if our evaluation shows that it is highly improbable that you will pass.

English and Danish

For English A language and literature HL you should have no less than a C.

For Danish A you should be near-native speaker of Danish, otherwise we recommend Danish B which is for students with some experience in Danish (1-3 years).

For others with little or no experience of Danish there is the option of Danish ab initio (beginners)

For more about languages, see our language policy.

Individual assessment and admissions tests

As indicated above, every applicant will be assessed individually. Apart from the relevant schooling you must also show that you will work towards IB Diploma Learner Profile (see this). To evaluate this we ask you to write a short **personal statement** and enclose it with the application form. We reserve the right to carry out an admission test in any subject we see fit prior to admission and/or set up an interview to be able to assess whether you are ready for the IB Programme. If at all possible we prefer to have a personal meeting with the student and parents.

Students who are in the school's PreIB class may in special cases be exempt from one or more of these requirements if they have no alternative educational possibilities and/or the school finds that it is possible that they will improve to the point where they can pass the IB subject in question. In cases where it seems improbable that the student will pass one or two subjects he or she will be warned of this prospect and may be given the choice to embark on the IB anyway. The school will strongly recommend a summer course either before IB1 or between IB1 and IB2 that may help improve pass a subject. The students themselves must bear the cost of these courses. The IB coordinator may help finding the right course.

Admissions test will be administered in cases where the applicant does not live up to the above requirements for English or Mathematics, or where the school feels the need to check the levels because the grading system or academic levels of the previous school is incomparable to known systems.

No applicant has the right to be enrolled into IB at Viborg Katedralskole.

The school does not offer the opportunity of extra classes or special tutoring in the subjects.

If you apply for the two-year IB Diploma Programme, the IB application form must be mailed to IB coordinator Mads Fedder Henriksen (mf@vibkat.dk). The deadline is 1 March, but the school is often willing to consider applications after the deadline. Please contact the IB coordinator.

PreIB admission

If you do not meet the entrance requirements for the IB Diploma Programme or simply want to try out being in an international class, you can be enrolled into our PreIB course, a one-year preparatory course taught entirely in English. The course is not formally part of the IB programme, but is equivalent to year 1 in the Danish (stx) school and at the same time aimed directly at the IB Diploma Programme. The basic entrance requirement for the PreIB is the Danish 9th or 10th grade leaving exams from "Folkeskolen" or equivalent international exams. Furthermore, you must be good at English, and at least have average grades in mathematics and science. If you have effort grades (from the IGCSE's for instance) these will also be taken into consideration in an overall evaluation of your readiness for the PreIB. If you are a Danish speaker and qualified for the Danish stx programme, you can transfer into this in November of the first year or under special circumstances after the PreIB.

Every applicant will be assessed individually. Apart from the relevant schooling you must also show that you will work towards IB Diploma Learner Profile (see this). To evaluate this we ask you to write a short **personal statement** and enclose it with the application form. We reserve the right to carry out an admission test in any subject we see fit prior to admission. If you have completed PreIB with satisfactory results and have demonstrated solid skills for working with your school work, you will be transferred directly to the IB Diploma Programme after the PreIB year.

When applying for PreIB directly from a Danish school, you must apply through www.optagelse.dk. Deadline for applications for the school year is in March.

You must **also** send the PreIB application form (link below) directly to the Viborg Katedralskole. You find this under 'Admission' at the school's IB homepage.

When applying from abroad or when not currently enrolled in a Danish institution of education, you must mail the PreIB application form to IB coordinator Mads Fedder Henriksen, mf@vibkat.dk. The deadline is 1 March, but the school is willing to consider applications after the deadline.

If you are a Danish citizen living abroad, you should have access to the NemID system and be able to use this to apply directly through the Danish centralised system for applications to educational programmes called optagelse.dk.

Remember to also send a PreIB application form directly to the school.

For both programmes

Residence permit and age

Applicants from outside the EU must document at the time of application that they have already received the necessary residence permit to cover the two years of the Diploma Programme (or three years if applying for PreIB to be followed by the IB Diploma). Applications without such documentation in the form of a copy of the residence permit and a valid Danish CPR number will not be considered.

Viborg Katedralskole does not help applicants with applications for residence.

The IB Diploma Programme is intended for young people between 16 and 19 years. PreIB is for 15-18 year-olds. However, you may still be eligible for the programme if you do not fit this age group. Please contact the IB coordinator for an individual evaluation.

Boarding school and other accomodation

If you are interested in a room at the boarding school, you must tick the box in the PreIB/IB application form and also fill in a separate application form for the boarding school. It is usually a good idea to do this early, as the boarding school tends to fill up rather quickly. We recommend that you apply for the boarding school no later than 1 December the year before.

As an alternative we can help you get in touch with Sigma Kollegiet, supervised youth accommodation for more independent and mature students.

Read more about both these options at the school homepage.

Who chooses the IB Diploma Programme?

The IB DP addresses different student groups. Some of these are mentioned below. Maybe you recognize yourself in one of them:

- Students who wish to study in higher education abroad. Internationally oriented students who wish to continue their studies in international higher education or an internationally oriented education in Denmark
- Students coming from English-spoken programmes in Danish international schools (IGCSE, MYP) and wish to continue their education in English and with an international perspective.
- Students whose families have a connection to Denmark where they (and sometimes their family) have returned after a number of years abroad, spent in international schools, wishing to continue in international education.
- Students whose mother tongue is not Danish or whose knowledge of Danish is not enough for them to take a Danish stx-degree, but who still wish to get their degree in Denmark
- Students who have been abroad for a year as exchange students and wish to continue educating themselves with an international perspective by completing an international degree.
- Students from abroad who can obtain permission to study for the two or three years' duration of the programmes (typically EU passport holders)