



VK – your stepping-stone to further education

Viborg Katedralskole

**IB & PreIB**

2020-2021

VIBORG  
KATEDRALSKOLE



International  
Baccalaureate



VK – framing the most important years of your life

## Viborg Katedralskole

Viborg Katedralskole is one of Denmark's oldest educational institutions with a history dating back more than 900 years. Over the years the school has been located in different places in Viborg, but since 1926 it has been situated in the beautiful and listed building on Gl. Skivevej. The school has been continuously modernized and the neoclassical architecture now houses a modern school, fully equipped with modern classrooms. Currently the school holds around around 1100 students and 120 teachers.

At Viborg Katedralskole we make a determined effort to prepare our students for higher education. We emphasize academic skills both within the subjects and in cross-curricular work. Solid academic insight, the mastery of different study methods and the acquisition of different study skills are key values.

### Among the best

The school is consistently among the best-performing Danish upper secondary schools and the ambition remains to give our students the best possible foundation for further education. This is only possible through the ability to constantly adapt to the needs of both society and the changing generations of young people passing through our doors. Our staff are all university graduates (MSc, MA and similar), supplemented with extensive pedagogical education and training. Furthermore, the IB teachers are all trained in IBO certified courses.

One tangible result of our continuous effort to provide the best in education is that the school has been invited into The Guide to Excellence from Cambridge University. Now being a part of the global IB community of schools is the result of hard work and a determination to keep evolving, challenging ourselves and equip our students to be active participants in local and global communities.

## What is the IB?

The IB Diploma Programme is a two-year programme for young people who are internationally minded. The programme is recognized world-wide and opens the doors to universities and other institutions of further education. The programme is offered in about 150 countries and the exam (the Diploma) is recognized around the world as a qualifying examination for a very large and growing number of institutions of further education.

IB students become part of a global community sharing the same learner profile. They are all educated and formed by the same mission statement, saying:

*"The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect ... encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right."*

### Academic challenge and personal growth

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme was established in the 1960s and is now recognised as the world-wide gold standard of education. The programme is academically challenging and well-balanced, requiring the students to work in-depth across a variety of subjects, covering the range from mathematics, the arts, science, language, literature, individuals and societies. The reputation and quality of the programme is among other things based on rigorous external assessment and a strong focus on the development of the whole student, intellectually, ethically, physically and emotionally.

### The structure of the programme

International Baccalaureate Diploma candidates are expected to do IB coursework in six major areas, including literature, languages, individuals and societies, the experimental sciences, mathematics and an elective of either arts or an additional course from one of the other subject areas. At least three and not more than four subjects are taken at higher level; the others at standard level.

The Diploma Programme has three additional core requirements intended to broaden the educational experience and challenge students to apply what they learn in personally and socially meaningful ways. These requirements include a 4,000-word extended essay on a subject of the student's choice; the 100-hour course Theory of Knowledge (TOK) which examines the nature of knowledge and different ways and kinds of knowing, and the component Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) which requires personally and socially relevant activity beyond the classroom and, in many cases, beyond the school.

IB assessment is both internal, grading the work during the two years of study, and external with work being assessed by external examiners. The IBO maintains rigorous assessment standards to secure the quality and continued recognition of the programme.



Hannah Paasch, IB Diploma

*"In PreIB we have lots of different subjects. Classmates speak English all the time, which is important, the teachers are very caring and experienced. I want the IB Diploma because it's a very tough, but very good diploma for my future, it gives me access to almost all universities around the world."*

# Subjects

Each student must choose six subjects: three or four at higher level (HL), and two or three at standard level (SL).

You must choose one subject from each group with the following exceptions:

- If you do not choose Visual Arts you can choose an additional subject from groups 1-4.
- If you are very good at both English and Danish you may choose both subjects from group 1 (and none from group 2). This will earn you a 'bilingual diploma.'

Apart from the subjects below all students must pass the three core elements:

- Theory of Knowledge (ToK)
- Creativity, activity, service (CAS)
- Extended Essay (EE).

Higher Level					
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5 Mathematics	Group 6
Danish A: literature English A: language and literature	English B Danish B German B	Economics History Psychology	Biology Chemistry Physics	Analysis and approaches Applications and interpretation	Film or an additional subject from group 1, 2, 3 or 4.

Standard Level					
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5 Mathematics	Group 6
Danish A: literature English A: language and literature Self Taught Language	English B Danish B German B Spanish ai Danish ai	Economics History Psychology	Biology Chemistry Physics	Analysis and approaches Applications and interpretation	Film or an additional subject from group 1, 2, 3 or 4.

Language B is not a beginners language, you must have 2-4 years of training in the language or equivalent.

**Please note:** Viborg Katedralskole cannot guarantee that all your choices can be met. Starting a given subject presupposes that a certain number of students sign on for the subject. If there are insufficient applicants to offer a subject, we will contact you regarding alternative options.

*Isabo Kristina Reich*

*"Curiosity is important. Loving to learn about other people, cultures, societies and languages. Also, I find the IB students more tolerant towards other people."*



# What is the PreIB?

The PreIB year is for students who are interested in the IB Diploma Programme, but do not yet have the necessary background to begin this programme. As a rule of thumb you must have 11 years of schooling, be very good at English and be highly motivated for education to enter the Diploma Programme. Exceptions to the 11-year rule can be made in special cases.

The PreIB core subjects are taught in English, and in addition you can choose a creative subject and a language subject. For some of these a certain degree of Danish skills are needed (see list below). If you need to learn Danish, the school offers Danish on different levels. PreIB students can follow Danish B for those with some experience, e.g. expat Danes, or Danish beginners classes.

## Structure of the PreIB year

### Mid-August- Mid-November:

Foundation course, introduction to a range of subjects, preparatory courses in general linguistics and general science.

### Mid-October:

Final choice of line: PreIB/Danish stx/Global society class (four subjects taught in English).

### Mid-November:

PreIB class finally settled, some subjects from foundation course continue, more are added.

All the subjects in the list below will be taught on the Danish C-level (first year of 'gymnasium').

## Mandatory subjects

- English (language and literature)
- Danish (for those with Danish as a first language)
- Danish for beginners
- Social science
- History
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Mathematics
- Physical education

## Individual choices

— strongly recommended for Danish speakers

### A creative subject:

Media studies, visual arts, drama, music (all taught in Danish).

### A language choice:

- Spanish beginners (no Danish required)
- French continuous, German continuous (Danish required for these).

In some cases we recommend that non-Danish speakers wanting to learn Danish spend time on practicing this instead of a creative subject and/or an extra language. This will be arranged individually.



*Anders E. Rønne, IB Diploma*

*"I want to improve my English and I think the IB Diploma will give me more opportunities than normal school in the future."*

## Admission into IB and PreIB

### IB

The IB Diploma Programme is intended for young people who are between 16 and 18 years when they begin. PreIB is for ages 15-17. 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.

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.

The general requirement from admission into IB Diploma is that **you must have an ECTS B average or similar in key subjects [Danish grade 10]**. As a general rule, we regard key subjects to be English, science(s), mathematics. The exception to this is if you apply for mathematics Standard level, where a C will give you access.

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 not to live up to the requirements.

Grades are not the only basis of admission. We take a more holistic view as 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, if necessary.

### PreIB

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.

As the PreIB has to live up to Danish rules, being the 1st year of stx (Danish 'gymnasium') taught in English, we follow the Danish rules about 'optagelseskrav' [admission requirements], but with the addition of a requirement for at least an average grade of a ECTS grade C / Danish grade 7 or equivalent in each the following subjects: mathematics, science subjects and English.

These additional requirements are in place to secure that you will be ready for the academic challenges of not only the PreIB year, but also the IB Diploma Programme.

### Applying from a Danish school

When applying for PreIB directly from a Danish school, you must apply through [optagelse.dk](http://optagelse.dk). Deadline for applications for the school year 2020-21 is **March 3, 2020**. You must also send the PreIB application form directly to Viborg Katedralskole. An electronic pdf-form can be found on the homepage.

### Applying from abroad

When applying from abroad or when not currently enrolled in a Danish institution of education, email the PreIB application to [mf@vibkat.dk](mailto:mf@vibkat.dk). Deadline is also **March 3, 2020**, but if you miss that deadline we might still be able to find a place for you. If you have any questions, please phone or email the IB coordinator.

## Boarding school

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. Read more about this on the 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:

- Internationally oriented students who wish to continue their studies in international higher education or an internationally oriented education in Denmark
- Students 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 and who wish to continue with an international perspective by completing an international degree instead of a Danish one.
- Students whose parents work abroad and who wish to complete their IB in Denmark in order to stay in contact with their nationality while keeping open the international possibilities.
- Students already enrolled in an IB programme abroad with satisfactory results, wishing to shift to Viborg Katedralskole.

## Residence permit and age

The school will only consider applicants with a study and residence permit to cover the duration of the programme(s). Non-EU citizens are at the moment only awarded one-year study permits in Denmark and will normally not be taken into consideration. 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.

## Further education in Denmark

The Danish authorities have decided to change the way IB Diploma students are assessed when applying for Danish universities and similar institutions. The change is a very positive one, meaning that the IB students are treated on equal terms with the Danish students. The IB grades are converted into a Danish average, which is then the basis for application to further education. Ask the IB coordinator for more information on the IB Diploma and Danish further education.

(as Danish A (HL or SL) or Danish B (HL)) in their IBDP examination or passed a required language test in Danish. There are also numerous international programmes where no Danish is required. The 2018 Conversion Table below details the manner in which IB Diploma points are converted to equate with the Danish grading system when determining eligibility to enter Danish universities.

If students do not pass the Diploma, but achieve at least 3 points in each of the six subjects (EE, CAS and TOK not relevant), they will still have a qualification equivalent of the Danish HF-eksamen, giving access to vocational colleges [professionshøjskoler] and the like, but not university level courses.

### Grade Conversion and Danish Universities

The IB Diploma is recognized as an entrance qualification for admission to all the higher education institutions in Denmark, provided that the applicants have either passed Danish

### The new conversion scale

IB points	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
Danish average	2.4	2.7	3.0	3.3	3.6	4.0	4.4	4.7	5.2	5.6	6.0	6.5	6.9	7.3	7.8	8.2	8.6	9.0	9.4	9.8	10.2	10.5	10.8	11.1	11.3	11.6	11.9	12.7





**VK – working together – achieving more**

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**VIBORG KATEDRALSKOLE**  
GYMNASIUM I KLASSISKE RAMMER

 IB WORLD SCHOOL / 中學

