



Admissions Policy

The IB Diploma Programme

The PreIB year

Revised June 2025

IB Diploma programme admission

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 are 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 be very good at English to enter the IB Programme.

The general requirement from admission into IB Diploma is that you **must have a B average or similar in key subjects**. 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. Another exception is if you chose Environmental Systems and Societies as your science subject where a C in science from your previous school will also give you access. You will not be able to choose biology, chemistry or physics based on anything less than a B.

In the case of applying on the basis of IGCSE, or any other qualification for which the results arrive after our school year has begun, Viborg Katedralskole retains the right to transfer you to the PreIB if these exam results do not live up to the IB Diploma requirements but to the PreIB requirements. If you are not interested in this, our only alternative, you are of course free to choose other educational programmes.

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.

Comparison of grades and general admission requirements

Description of IB	Grades	ECTS	Danish	GCSE	Admission to Viborg Katedralskole
Excellent	7	A	12	9 8 7	IB DP access (with 11 years of schooling) or Access to PreIB with 10 years of schooling
Very good	6	B	10	6 (5)	IB DP access (with 11 years of schooling) or Access to PreIB with 10 years of schooling
Good	5	C	7	(5) 4	PreIB access (with 10 or 11 years of schooling)
Satisfactory	4	D	7	3	According to Danish law: If from a Danish school background (9 th or 10 th grade) you may get access to PreIB based on a holistic view, English grade of C or more and/or tests and interviews
Mediocre	3	E	02	(3) 2	No access
Poor	2	Fx	00 (fail)	(2)	No access
Fail	1	F	-03	1	No access

Mathematics requirements

The requirements for IB Diploma mathematics are:

Higher Level: ECTS A or B or similar.

Standard Level: ECTS C or similar

In some cases, we will need to know more details about your particular curriculum, depending on which school system/type of school you come from.

For students coming from the PreIB year here or in another school, we would normally require a Danish 10 or 12 for mathematics HL entry.

Meeting 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 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.

Danish levels and requirements

For Danish A Literature HL/SL, you should be near-native speaker of Danish, otherwise we recommend Danish B HL or SL which is for students with some experience in Danish (1-5 years).

If you have little or no 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 are able to work towards IB Diploma Learner Profile (see this), not least in terms of being open-minded which is a key to thriving in and contributing to an international school environment. We are also hoping that you have positive reasons for choosing an international education and can describe these. 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 admissions test in any subject we see fit prior to admission and/or set up an interview to assess whether you are ready for the IB Programme or not. If at all possible we prefer to have a meeting with the student and parents, be in online or physical. This is the best start to a cooperation about a future student's education and wellbeing.

Students who are in the school's PreIB class will be evaluated through grades and holistically during the PreIB programme and if not immediately eligible for the IB Diploma Programme, they will be advised as to what they need to improve to become so. Similarly, it will also be at the school's discretion to prevent students from transferring into the IB Diploma should they be lacking in one or more of the following categories: academic grades, effort grades, absence (from classes/missing assignments) or the transgression of school rules. If a PreIB student is not lacking in any of these categories, they will automatically be transferred to the IB Diploma Programme (DP). For all PreIB students there is a process beginning early in the year and continuing throughout in order to prepare students for the DP, including subject choices, awareness of IB values and core elements such as the Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay and the Collaborative Sciences Project. We aim to ensure that PreIB students are as well-informed and well-prepared for the challenges of the DP as possible, and that they enter the programme with open eyes.

No outside applicant has the right to be enrolled for the IB Diploma Programme at Viborg Katedralskole. The school will normally give any applicant a reason for being rejected, but we are under no obligation to do so.

The school does not offer the opportunity of extra classes or special tutoring in the subjects. We do, however, offer homework cafés four days a week (and two nights for students at the boarding school) with teachers or older students present to help. We do not normally encourage students to employ outside tutors, but if students choose to do so, we strongly recommend that this tutor has a good knowledge of the IB Diploma Programme.

Should students need extra tuition or classes there is also the possibility of joining Easter or Summer IB camps around Europe, at your own cost.

If you apply for the two-year IB Diploma Programme, the IB application form must be mailed to ib@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 programme 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.

As the PreIB has to live up to Danish rules, being the 1st year of stx (Danish 'gymnasium') taught in English, we follow any current Danish rules about admission requirements to stx, but with the addition of a requirement for **at least an average grade of a Danish 7/ ECTS grade C in English.**

For students from school systems other than the Danish you can see guidelines for grade requirements in the table above.

Should you fail to live up to these requirements in your final grades in May or June, we may call you in for a test or an interview in late June or early July. If it is a minor change compared to the term grades with which you have reserved a place, we may not react. However, if you fall significantly below the requirements, we will be unable to accept you and instead recommend that you look for other options than PreIB/IB, for instance stx.

If your current school does not release your results until August, we need you to give us access to these as soon as you have them.

For Cambridge IGCSEs the results will be released online mid-August and we must receive them as soon as you have access to them.

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 admissions test in any subject we see fit prior to admission.

When applying you must do to things:

1. Apply through www.optagelse.dk. Deadline for applications for the school year is in March.
2. Send the PreIB application form (a pdf from the school webpage) to ib@vibkat.dk

The deadline is **1 March**, but the school is willing to consider applications after the deadline.

You can access the optagelse.dk-system and apply with the use of a mobile phone number. The system is regrettably only in Danish and the authorities are not willing to support an English-language version. You can find an English step-by-step guide to optagelse.dk at the school webpage.

If you are a Danish citizen living abroad, you may have access to MitID and be able to use this to apply in optagelse.dk. Otherwise use the opportunity of mobile phone number access.

For both programmes

Residence permit and age

Applicants from outside the EU/EØS must document at the time of application that they have already received the necessary residence permit to cover at least the PreIB year or 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 cannot and does not help applicants with applications for residence.

Boarding school and other accommodation

If you are interested in a room at the boarding school, you must tick the box in the PreIB/IB application form and also remember to fill a separate application form for the boarding school. This form can be found on the school homepage.

Note that the deadline for the boarding school application is earlier than the 1 March deadline for applying to PreIB/IB Diploma. Cf. school webpage, boarding school section for further information on this.

Securing a place in the boarding school does NOT mean that you have been accepted in PreIB/IB, unless we have positively let you know that this is the case in relation to the boarding school application process. In some cases, we need a grade report issued in the period between your boarding school application and 1 March. We will always let you know if we need more information.

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
- Internationally-minded students from abroad who can obtain permission to study for the duration of the programmes.
- Students coming from English-language programmes in Danish international schools (IGCSE, MYP) and wish to continue their education in English and with an international perspective.
- Students being recommended to the school from an agency that we partner with, and which serves as a guardian for the student during their time here, below and above the age of 18.
- 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.