

IB Music

HIGHER AND STANDARD LEVEL

What are the aims of the course?

The aims of Music are to enable students to:

- Enjoy lifelong engagement with the arts
- Become informed, reflective and critical practitioners in the arts
- Understand the dynamic and changing nature of the arts
- Explore the value and diversity of the arts across time, place and cultures
- Express ideas with confidence and competence
- Develop perceptual and analytical skills
- Develop their knowledge and potential as musicians, both personally and collaboratively

What does it involve?

There are two compulsory parts to both the Standard and Higher Level courses:

- Musical Perception and Analysis; this consists of the study of musical genres and styles from Medieval to the present day from both Western and non-Western tradition, the study and analysis of two set works and a written media script of 1500–2000 words investigating the relationships between two musical genres
- Performance; in this unit the student presents a recital which is recorded and submitted before April of the second year of study. The student may perform several recitals and submit the best one at the end of the course. The recital may consist of pieces from a variety of genres offered on one or more instruments
- Creating; the student has to compose and record three contrasting works of approximately 15 minutes in total. The scores, recordings and written statement explaining techniques used, are internally assessed and externally moderated

How is it assessed?

External Assessment

The Musical Links Investigation and Listening Examination, which are respectively worth 20% and 30% of the course, are both externally assessed.

Internal Assessment

The Performance and Creating components, both worth 25% of the course, are internally assessed and externally moderated.



Are there any specific entry requirements?

The IB music course is designed to offer students the opportunity to build on prior experience in music while encouraging a broad approach to the subject and developing new skills, techniques and ideas. While prior music experience is not mandatory at Standard Level, it is recommended.

In order to study at Higher Level students must, however, have a good understanding of notation, the basic elements of music and be able to perform confidently to a minimum standard of Grade 5.

Why is it a useful qualification?

The Diploma Programme music course provides an appropriate foundation for further study in music at university level or in music career pathways.

It also provides an enriching and valuable course of study for students who may pursue other careers.

This course also provides all students with the opportunity to engage in the world of music as lifelong participants.