

2023

Senior Preparation Program

One year Preparation Program for Year 10



Australian International School

Senior Preparation Program

Year 10

Secondary education is the final phase of a student's journey through compulsory schooling. It is a phase of life where the young men and women in our care will move from childhood and into their adult lives.

To that end the Secondary School at AIS seeks to produce well-rounded young men and women of character who will go forth and make a positive contribution to the global society. We believe in the education of the whole student. Therefore, the programs that we offer are diverse and inclusive in nature.

The School offers several innovative academic programs. The Senior Preparation Program is a one year preparation course which runs from January to December for students enrolling in Year 10 at AIS. The program comprises of both prescribed and free choice subjects and prepares students for either the High School Certificate (HSC) or International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP). The breadth of study is important in the program and culminates in internal AIS assessment at the end of the course, of academic rigour equivalent to that of external examinations. Enrolment in Hospitality and Construction (Certificate I) is also possible.

The Senior Preparation Program provides an outstanding scope and sequence, is well resourced and taught by highly qualified and motivated teachers. The teaching staff engages appropriate pedagogies that promote differentiation and assessment for learning. Technology is ubiquitous in the programs of study but is not the only means of delivery. Tried and tested modalities like hand writing, class discussions and questioning are still important components of lessons.

Senior Preparation Program - Year 10

Students study the following:

1. ENGLISH/EAL ENGLISH
2. MATHEMATICS
3. INTEGRATED SCIENCE – (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
4. LOTE – Chinese, French, Indonesian
5. INTEGRATED HUMANITIES
6. INTEGRATED COMMERCE – course integrating Consumer, Finance, Law and Society, Employment
7. INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY
8. PE – Double PE lesson
9. STRIVE – Personal, Growth and Development Program and Assembly

Well-Rounded Education

The well-being of every student is an essential aspect of the AIS Secondary School. A proactive program that seeks to provide students with guidelines for life is engaged. Clear expectations for behaviour are articulated and perpetuated by all staff. The Home Group teacher is the central person in the lives of all students. They will meet with them daily and provide stewardship for each student. The Home Group teacher is supported by appropriate structures that seek to ensure that the young men and women in our care are central to all aspects of school life.

The Secondary School provides students with a superior co-curricular program. Options are diverse and impressive. Students can engage in a variety of options from competitive sport, to community service, to academic activities. The most impressive aspect of this program is that it is inclusive and caters for the needs of our entire community. I urge all students to avail themselves of these wonderful opportunities. It is these activities that will remain etched in the minds of students long after they leave school.

The relationship between school and home is crucial throughout a student's educational journey. I encourage parents to engage with their child's teachers in a partnership to ensure the best for all students. Students in the Year 10 Senior Preparation Program will be integrated into the year 10 cohort in Maths, PE, Foreign language and STRIVE.

Enrichment Program

At the end of the Year 10 Senior Preparation Program (Term 4), students experience a two week Enrichment Program. This program includes a choice of two activities out of a possible four: Work Experience, Cambodia House Building, NYAA (Bronze) and/or Year 10 Leadership Camp. Involvement in the Cambodia House Building and NYAA commences at the start of the Academic Year (Term 1).

Future Pathways Guidance

Throughout Year 10, the students will be involved in careers preparation. This includes one-on-one consultations with our IBDP and HSC coordinators in preparation for their matriculation years in addition to an embedded Careers program in STRIVE, Subject Expos and Career Expos led by our Head of Careers and Heads of Faculty.

Assessment and Reporting

The Year 10 Senior Preparation Program is strategically designed to prepare the students for pathways in either the HSC or IBDP. Matriculation guidelines do apply when choosing their course of study in Year 11 and 12 and specific subjects. It is important for students and parents to familiarise themselves with these guidelines as part of their enrolment in the Year 10 Senior Preparation Program.

The course is academically rigorous and delivered in a number of modules/units to accommodate students arriving throughout the course. The course allows students to sit either the external IGCSE examinations (if suitable and applicable) or internal assessment consisting of coursework, practical work, examinations, oral presentations and folios.

An Assessment booklet with specific dates, deadlines and assessment weighting is issued at the start of each semester.

Students will receive progress reports throughout the year on their progress in addition to an Academic Transcript at the end of the course.

Pathways Post the Year 10 Senior Preparation Program

All Year 10 students will find themselves asking the question, “Should I do the HSC or the IBDP?” This is an important choice that faces them, and this document is designed to assist with their decision-making.

AIS offers two paths for matriculation, the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) and the New South Wales Higher School Certificate (HSC). Both are highly regarded programs with integrity and rigour. While the HSC and the IBDP have much in common, there are important differences too. It is on the basis of these differences that students, with their parents and Curriculum Coordinators, should make their decision on which pathway to choose.

Both the IBDP (and its ATAR equivalence) and the HSC (once translated into an ATAR) allow students to apply for entry to both Australian and overseas universities. In addition, a Grade 6 or 7 at HL in the IBDP may gain a student valuable credits or advance standing in many universities in Australia and the USA*.

So which is better? Our experience of student choice at AIS has shown that students of higher academic ability in the school are equally as likely to select the NSW HSC as they are the IBDP, and are equally likely to be accepted into the university of their choice (either in Australia or overseas). Those students not aiming for university may be guided to enrol in a non-ATAR pathway which includes, vocationally orientated subjects. The most important criterion that students and parents should bear in mind is what course will suit them best. This can be focused on the following :

- Course Structure
- Styles of Learning
- Methods of assessment
- Student requirements

The information contained in this document will assist students and parents in their decision making process. It should be read in conjunction with the subject specific information contained in the HSC & IBDP Curriculum Guides. We would also encourage students and parents to take advantage of the knowledge and experience of the teaching team in the Secondary School, and the AIS Careers Office, who will be very happy to help answer any questions and support you as you make this important decision.

*In most cases students applying to the USA will also need to undertake their SAT or an ACT assessment regardless of which curriculum they choose (the AIS Careers Teams can assist in providing advice on the requirements at different universities).



The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

What is the IBDP?

The IBDP course is measured against international standards and is taught over two years, in Years 11 and 12. The IBDP provides a liberal educational experience and students opting for the IBDP are challenged to maintain the study of a broad range of subjects from six curriculum groupings. In the second year of the IBDP three of these subjects are chosen for higher level study. All students complete three further core components: Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS); Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and the Extended Essay (EE).

How is it graded?

The IBDP is specifically aimed towards providing entry to tertiary education. In order to receive an IB Diploma candidates must receive a minimum of 24 points (or an average of four (or C) out of a possible seven points for six subjects).

Conditions that will prevent a student from being awarded an IB Diploma, regardless of points received, are:

1. Non-completion of EE, CAS or TOK elements
2. Achieving a score of 3 or less in 3 or more subjects
3. Not meeting the specific points required for Higher Level (12) or Standard Level (9) subjects
4. Academic Malpractice
5. A score of E on either the EE or TOK

If the School is not confident in a student's ability to achieve the IBDP requirements, then further conversations will take place with the student's and parents involved.

If a student in the two year IBDP course shows signs of not meeting the requirements of the IBDP, alternative options will be recommended by the IBDP Coordinator and Deputy Head of Teaching and Learning during the first year of the IBDP course.

The Deputy Head of Teaching and Learning and IB Coordinator can provide further guidance on this.

The New South Wales Higher School Certificate

What is the HSC?

The HSC course allows students either to follow a broad program, or to specialise the focus of their final two years of studies before university. They can, for instance, study all three of the Sciences. They can also specialise in Mathematics, undertaking four 'units' at Year 12. Students can also specialise in the Humanities or in the Arts. Students working at a very advanced level in Year 11 may be offered the opportunity to 'accelerate' in appropriate courses.

The HSC is measured against state-wide (NSW) standards. The NSW HSC course is taught over one year in Year 12 (starts in Year 11 Term 4) with the Preliminary course being the foundation course in Year 11.

How is it marked?

Year 11 (Preliminary HSC): To successfully complete Year 11 and progress to Year 12, students must satisfactorily complete at least 12 units including English (this will represent six subjects for most students).

Year 12 HSC: To successfully complete Year 12 and be awarded the HSC, students must satisfactorily complete at least ten units including English (five subjects for most students). Year 12 students have the option of selecting additional extension courses in certain subjects.

The HSC offers the opportunity for achievement to students regardless of their academic ability and for the vast majority of AIS students their HSC results will translate into an ATAR of the necessary standard to meet university entry requirements for an appropriate course of study.

The IBDP and the NSW HSC at a glance

Course Structure

IBDP	NSW HSC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 academic subjects studied over two years• Theory of Knowledge (TOK)• Extended Essay (EE)• Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS), with a minimum amount of experience in each facet of the program• Mandatory studies in a native language, an acquired language, individuals and societies, experimental science and mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 11 Preliminary Course: subjects studied to the value of a minimum of 12 units and possibly 13 units• Year 12 HSC Course: a minimum of 4 subjects, representing a minimum of 10 units with mandatory study in English, though 11 or 12 units are preferable

Styles of Learning

IBDP	NSW HSC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical and higher order thinking and analytical skills• University level essay writing skills• International in outlook and focus• Encourages inter-cultural understanding• Promotes examination of other perspectives through TOK threads that run throughout each subject• Opportunity for in-depth research beyond the confines of the syllabus with the EE• 3 subjects studied in depth at Higher Level and 3 at Standard Level• Co-operative learning through the Group 4 science project• Immersion study in an acquired language• Prepares students very well for the demands of university study	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunity to narrow the focus of academic study / to study more than one subject in Maths, English, the Arts, the Sciences and/ or the Humanities• Opportunity to explore strengths and interests via the extension courses in English, Mathematics, History, Music and Continuers languages• Foundation preliminary course in Year 11• The examinable course content/assessment in Year 12 allows for the development and application of skills and the development of individual maturity• Opportunity to study vocational subjects• No mandatory study of a foreign language, science or mathematics

Methods of Assessment

IBDP	NSW HSC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 35% Internally and 80% Externally assessed components, depending on the subjects studied• Internal assessments either integrated into the teaching program or completed by the middle of Term 3 Year 12• Wide range of types of internal assessment which are internally marked and externally moderated• Oral presentations in all language classes and TOK• TOK essay and EE completed by the end of Term 2 Year 12 to allow for maturity and experience to be incorporated into the finished works• All subjects contribute equally to the final Diploma score allowing for a true measure of academic achievement• Criterion-referenced assessment with performance measured against well-defined levels of achievement consistent from one examination session to the next and applied equally to all schools• Graded on a 45 point scale, minimum requirement of 24 points for award of the IB Diploma, subject to additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50% School Based and 50% Final Examination in all subjects• The school based assessments are spread across Year 12 and encompass a wide range of types of assessment in every subject• Oral/aural assessments in continuer and beginners languages• Independent studies are required in most subjects• All subjects contribute equally according to their unit value to the HSC credential• Final marks in each subject are standards referenced against defined levels of achievement consistent from one examination session to the next and applied equally to all schools• The HSC credential is achieved by all candidates who have met the basic course requirements and have satisfactorily completed at least 10 units of study including 2 units of English

Student Requirements

IBDP	NSW HSC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Likes to be challenged and to question• Willing to participate and become an active learner• Willing to develop independent learning, good time management and organisational skills• Willing to develop as a well-rounded individual and an engaged citizen of a multicultural world - high level of fluency in English (to be determined by the Curriculum Coordinator)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Willing to follow the prescribed course of study with diligence and sustained effort• Willing to develop independent learning, good time management and organisational skills

University Entry

IBDP	NSW HSC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IBDP score of 24+ converted to an ATAR for entry to NSW universities, a scale between 65.00 and 99.95• Provides direct and recognised entry to universities worldwide, including Australia• Scores often used as a determinant in offers to universities in the UK and Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scaled by UAC so that the best 2 scaled units in English and the best 8 scaled units in a student's remaining subjects are combined to calculate the ATAR, a scale with a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 99.95• Provides direct and recognised entry to universities worldwide, including Australia



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1 Lorong Chuan, Singapore 556818

Contact: +65 6664 8127 | www.ais.com.sg

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