



International School  
Groningen

# Admission policy

MYP & DP

October 2025

*“At ISG, everyone is welcome, equal and honoured for their particularities.*

*Celebrating our shared culture allows us to flourish as a community of individuals.”*

*ISG school values 2025*



## **Admission Policy: International School Groningen**

### **Introduction:**

The International School Groningen is an International Baccalaureate World School and currently offers two of the IB programmes: the IB Middle Years Programme (for students in grades 6-10, age 11-16) and the IB Diploma Programme (for students in grades 11 and 12, age 16-18). This policy outlines the procedures for admission and should be read in conjunction with the school's inclusion policy and the MYP/DP guide.

The admission requirements vary between these two programmes.

### **I. The IB Middle Years Programme.**

Application for admittance can be made at any time of the year. However, admission to the Dutch International Schools is subject to conditions set in Dutch legislation:

- The student has a non-Dutch nationality/is a foreign passport holder, and one of the parents/legal guardians is temporarily employed in the Netherlands
- The student has a Dutch nationality and has lived and gone to school abroad for at least two years because one of the parents/legal guardians was employed abroad.
- The student has a Dutch nationality and has a parent/legal guardian (with whom the student will be living) who will be employed abroad within two years and for at least two years. This is to be proven by a written statement of intent by the parent (in case of own company), or the employer.

Reference: Beleidsregel IGVO 2021

The Middle Years programme (MYP) is for students aged 11 or older and covers the first five years of secondary education, usually ending at age 16. Academically, MYP is structured to accommodate a wide range of abilities. Students may be required to demonstrate that their previous education is a suitable prerequisite for the MYP.

The school welcomes all students and can provide support depending on available resources. This may affect the admission process. The school reserves the right to refuse admission and to advise on alternative education routes. Appeals against a refusal can be submitted to the Head of School and, if necessary, to the Board of Governors (please see the school's complaints procedure).

### **Admission of an English as an Additional Language (EAL) Student**

Students who meet the requirements for admission to MYP1-3 but have limited proficiency in English will be offered extra English support, including withdrawal from lessons and in-class support.

For admissions into MYP4 and above, placement testing plays a more critical role in the admissions procedure, and English admissions testing may include reading comprehension with written responses and an interview, either face-to-face or via an online meeting platform. After testing, acceptance into the programme at a particular year level is at the school's discretion.



EAL provision can be more limited from MYP4 onwards, and before offering a place at the ISG, the school needs to be sure students will be able to cope with accelerated learning to be able to reach the level of academic English required.

Please note:

- The school may reserve the right to accept EAL students to the school only on the condition that they will receive or are receiving ongoing external tutoring in English, at the parents' own cost.
- The school may also require that EAL students undergo an additional year in the MYP, regardless of academic grades achieved, to allow time to acquire the necessary advanced English language skills required for success in the Diploma Programme.

### **Placement:**

Students arrive at the ISG from many different school backgrounds. In some countries, formal schooling begins at five years of age, while in others it may begin as late as seven years of age. The following points guide the ISG in placing students who are eligible for admission:

- Students are usually placed in classes according to their current educational group and their date of birth, related to a August-July school year (see table below). This placement remains at the discretion of the school.
- The ISG does not accelerate students and does not support this educationally. We believe that students learn best when they progress through the programme with their age appropriate peers and experience the full breadth and depth of each year level. Acceleration (such as grade-skipping or moving ahead in specific subjects) can disrupt continuity of the MYP/DP curriculum, as well as creating social-emotional and wellbeing pressures. The ISG provides additional challenge through differentiation, enrichment, individual goal-setting and, where appropriate, extension tasks and projects within the student's current grade level.
- The ISG expects that students will normally be 18 or 19 years of age on graduating from the DP. The school will not accept students to join the DP who are older than 18.
- The school cannot accept students into DP1 after the first start date of the school academic year.
- The school cannot accept (new) students into DP2 unless they have exceptional circumstances and are transferring from an IB World School where they have covered exactly the same subjects and the same subject components as already covered by the ISG in DP1.



#### Age / year group chart (ISG/NL/UK/US):

IB / ISG	Dutch	UK	US	Age at start of year (August)	Age at completion of year (July)
MYP1	<i>Group 8 primary</i>	<i>Year 7 (first year of secondary)</i>	<i>Grade 5</i>	11	12
MYP2	<i>Year 1 secondary</i>	<i>Year 8</i>	<i>Grade 6</i>	12	13
MYP3	<i>Year 2</i>	<i>Year 9</i>	<i>Grade 7</i>	13	14
MYP4	<i>Year 3</i>	<i>Year 10</i>	<i>Grade 9</i>	14	15
MYP5	<i>Year 4</i>	<i>Year 11</i>	<i>Grade 10</i>	15	16
DP1	<i>Year 5 (VWO)</i>	<i>A levels (year 12)</i>	<i>Grade 11</i>	16	17
DP2	<i>Year 6 (VWO)</i>	<i>A levels (year 13)</i>	<i>Grade 12</i>	17	18

## II. The IB Diploma Programme (DP)

The DP is a rigorous academic programme for students aged 16-18. It is a two-year programme which prepares students for university entrance.

The school can accept students into the programme from both international and regular Dutch education. Application for admittance must be made before 01 May for students to start in DP1, and entry requirements are outlined below. There is no automatic entry from the MYP to the DP. It is not possible to join the DP two weeks after the official start of the school year.

All students are expected to provide evidence of eligibility for DP, and a passing report in grade 10 is part of this. For students moving to the programme from a Dutch VWO4, a recommendation (overgangsbewijs) for students to be accepted in Dutch VWO5 is required. For students from HAVO, a passing diploma at HAVO5 is required. We cannot accept students with only a MAVO diploma. Admission will also depend upon the student's academic ability in chosen subjects, as well as work habits.

External students will also be required to display this academic standard by attending an interview and taking entrance tests in the subjects they wish to take at the school. Admittance to the school's DP remains at the discretion of the school's Diploma Coordinator and international management team (IMT).

(Please see appendix 1 for further information regarding entry into the DP.)



### **Admission Procedure (MYP & DP)**

1. Parents/guardians complete the online application form (via 'Open Apply' and submit it together\* with a non-refundable administration fee to the administration office.  
(\*for applications from outside of the schools of the Stichting Carmelcollege)
2. A meeting will be arranged with a member of the international management team (IMT)
3. The following documents must be submitted via 'Open Apply' before the first meeting.
  - a. All school reports from the previous two academic years. Where these are in a non-working language of the ISG, they must be translated into English.
  - b. Record of attendance of the previous academic school year.
  - c. Special Educational Needs (SEN) and EAL documentation, where appropriate.
4. The ISG will request a confidential student recommendation from the previous school.
5. Placement tests are required in the following situations:
  - a. For MYP admissions, placement tests are required for English and Maths. These are to identify gaps in prior learning as well as arrange EAL support as necessary.
  - b. For DP admissions, entrance tests may be required where applicable for each chosen subject. These are to identify gaps in prior learning and ensure suitability for the academic level of the chosen subject.
6. Once all the required information is available, the IMT will consider the application for admission. Parents will be notified of the decision in writing. Please note that it may take up to two weeks before a decision on admission can be made.



## Appendix 1: Internal (Stichting Carmelcollege) Students wishing to enter the DP.

- For MYP5 students currently at the International School Groningen, the most important judgment on suitability for entrance to the DP is a teacher recommendation. On application to the programme in February, teachers of students' chosen subjects for DP will be asked to write a recommendation on whether they feel the student is a suitable candidate for their subject in the Diploma Programme.

If the student receives a positive recommendation, then they will be accepted for that subject. If they receive positive recommendation for all their chosen subjects, then they will be admitted to the programme without further question.

If a student receives a negative recommendation, then they will need to achieve a minimum of the following grade levels in their **Term 2 (February/March)** report. In addition, they will need to show how they have taken on board the advice for improvement given in the negative recommendation. This will be evaluated at the MYP5>DP1 meeting in June.

- For students from VWO4 the entrance will be determined by grades (term 2 report) in or as close to March. Students who are near the requirements will then be discussed in a teacher's meeting before May 1, when a final decision is made.
- Students from HAVO5 are also welcome to join the programme. An application from HAVO5 will be made by interview, accompanied by a list of grades achieved in the final school year. We would expect an average (Dutch) grade of 7 (maximum 10) in this final year, and admittance will then be awarded as provisional pending a passing grade in the final exam. Entrance tests will be required for all students for the subjects they wish to take in DP as well as a solid level of academic English. This will be judged during the interview process.

### Grade requirements (MYP5 and VWO4 only):

To be accepted for a Higher-Level subject, a student is expected to achieve a total point score from all four criteria of 19 from a maximum 32 in their term 1 and term 2 report.

To be accepted for a Standard-Level subject, a student is expected to achieve a total point score from all four criteria of 15 from a maximum 32 in their term 1 and term 2 report.

### In addition:

1. It is expected that the student passes the MYP Personal Project with a grade 3 or higher
2. it is expected that all subject skill (Motivation and Engagement, Collaboration and Interaction, Organisation and Preparedness) levels are at least 5 out of 8 and progress is shown following any negative comment/lower grade
3. **A final total of at least 28 out of a maximum of 56 from 6 subjects\*, an interdisciplinary assessed unit and the Personal Project is expected**

\*one Language and Literature, one Language Acquisition, one Individual and Societies, Mathematics, one Science, and one of: Visual Arts, Design or Physical and Health Ed.



4. All students must also have completed all Service and Action requirements to the school's satisfaction
5. For certain subject choices, **additional** requirements may occur. These are shown on the following page

For students in VWO4 outside of the MYP, an equivalent grade and motivation will be expected in their Dutch rapportage. This will be at the discretion of the school. A reference will also be required from their current school.

### Subject Specific Requirements:

These criteria requirements are based on the final (best fit) criteria level, as shown on Summative Exam Report MYP5 issued in March.

Subject	Level	Requirement
Language A language and literature (see page 3)	higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criterion A: 6/8</li> <li>• Criterion D: 5/8</li> </ul>
	standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criterion A: 5/8</li> <li>• Criterion D: 4/8</li> </ul>
Language B language acquisition (see page 3)	higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum phase 4</li> </ul>
	standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum phase 2 in 2<sup>nd</sup> report</li> </ul>
Language B language acquisition – Dutch Ab initio	standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• students with little or no experience of Dutch</li> </ul>
Economics	standard/higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criterion A: 5/8 (in I&amp;S ISG or Eco. TTO)</li> <li>• Criterion D: 5/8 (in I&amp;S ISG or Eco. TTO)</li> </ul>
History / Global Politics	standard/higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criterion A: 5/8 (in I&amp;S ISG or Hist. TTO)</li> <li>• Criterion D: 5/8 (in I&amp;S ISG or Hist. TTO)</li> </ul>
Biology Biology is only offered at higher level	higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criterion A: 6/8</li> </ul>
Chemistry	higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criterion A: 6/8</li> </ul>
	standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criterion A: 5/8</li> </ul>
Physics	higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criterion A: 6/8</li> </ul>
	standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criterion A: 5/8</li> </ul>
ES&S	standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criterion A: 5/8</li> </ul>
Maths analysis and approaches	higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criterion A: 6/8 (in MYP maths extended/wiskunde B)</li> <li>• Criterion B: 5/8 (in MYP maths extended/wiskunde B)</li> </ul>
	standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criterion A: 4/8 (in MYP maths extended/wiskunde B)</li> <li>• Criterion A: 5/8 (in MYP maths standard/wiskunde A)</li> </ul>

Maths applications and interpretation	Higher*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criterion A: 5/8 (in MYP maths extended/wiskunde B)</li> <li>• Criterion D: 5/8 (in MYP maths extended/wiskunde B)</li> <li>• Criterion A: 6/8 (in MYP maths standard/wiskunde A)</li> <li>• Criterion D: 6/8 (in MYP maths standard/wiskunde A)</li> </ul>
	standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criterion A: 4/8 (in MYP maths standard/wiskunde A)</li> <li>• Criterion A: 3/8 (in MYP maths extended/wiskunde B)</li> </ul>
Visual arts	higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criterion A and criterion C: 6/8</li> </ul>
	standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criterion A and criterion C: 5/8</li> </ul>

### Important additional information:

Please note that we strive to offer all these subjects and levels. However, a low student uptake (less than 5) may result in a subject/level not being offered, so having a second choice within the constraints of IB requirements is always advisable.

We guarantee to offer a subject/level if the student number reaches 5.

*Please note that for Dutch students (with only a Dutch passport) entering the DP from vwo4 or havo5, Dutch Language and Literature is a compulsory subject. Students with more than one nationality may be exempted from this ruling.*

### Move from language acquisition (MYP) to language A (language and literature) in the DP

A student currently in MYP language acquisition may consider language A (language and literature) in the diploma programme, provided the following criteria are all met.

- The student is assessed in phase 5/6 during MYP5 (up to the term 2 report).
- The student has the opportunity to move from language acquisition to language and literature following the term 2 report.
- The student has a positive recommendation in the term 3 report.

A student in MYP language and literature is not allowed to move to language acquisition in the diploma programme





### **Three sciences in the DP**

Students who need three sciences with specific DP levels (standard or higher) for a future university course may be allowed to take an extra science as an exemption from the IB group 3 (I&S) subject requirement. Students will require evidence of the requirements of the course.

In order to get approval to take all three sciences within the 6-subject course load, students must therefore arrange an interview with the DP Coordinator, where they will be required to justify their reasons for choosing these subjects and their suitability. The decision of the DP coordinator is final in this process.

Three sciences are an exceptional workload in the Diploma Programme, and therefore, we will also expect the students' study skills to reflect an excellent motivation as well as an ability to cope with this challenging course of study.

Please note that ES&S is exempt from this process. Students may not choose three sciences, plus ES&S.

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### **Review cycle:**

- Main policy (page 2-5): to be reviewed in September 2027
- Appendix 1: DP admission: is reviewed yearly: next review Nov 2026