

Diploma Programme Subjects

ISU offers a range of IB Diploma Programme subjects. Diploma students all choose one subject from each group 1-5. In addition, students may choose to take Visual Arts in group 6, or choose a 6th subject from groups 3, or 4. Students must choose to study 3 subjects at Higher Level (HL) and 3 subjects at Standard Level (SL).

Group 1 Language and Literature (SL&HL)

- English Language and Literature
- Dutch Language and Literature
- Language A Literature School Supported Self Taught (SSST) (SL only)

Group 2 Language Acquisition (SL&HL)

- Spanish
- Dutch
- Dutch ab initio (SL only)
- English Language B (HL only)
- A 2nd group 1 subject

The required fluency for Language and Literature is near native language level and at least six years of intensive use and study is required for a strong learner to reach this level; Language Acquisition is a foreign language course requiring 2-5 years of prior study. It is possible for a student to take 2 group 1 languages in lieu of a group 2 language. This results in a bilingual diploma. SSST Literature and English Language B HL also results in a bilingual diploma. For more information, please view the ISU Language Policy.

Group 3 Individuals and Societies

- History (SL&HL)
- Business and Management (SL&HL)
- Economics (SL&HL)
- Geography (SL&HL)
- Group 3 Pamoja course options (Psychology)
- Environmental systems and societies (SL&HL); from Aug 2024

Group 4 Sciences

- Biology (SL&HL)
- Chemistry (SL&HL)
- Physics (SL&HL)
- Environmental systems and societies (SL&HL); from Aug 2024

Group 5 Mathematics

- Mathematics: analysis and approaches (SL&HL)
- Mathematics: applications and interpretation (SL&HL)

Group 6 Art and Electives

- Visual Arts (SL&HL)
- Music (SL&HL)
- A 2nd group 3 subject
- A 2nd group 4 subject

Pamoja and SSST courses

ISU offers Pamoja courses as a group 3 option. Pamoja is an enterprise authorised to deliver online DP courses. Pamoja courses incur an additional annual fee of USD1250 or USD2500 for two years.

Pamoja works in close collaboration with the IB to develop an innovative curriculum using an online learning environment. Students who wish to take a Pamoja course at ISU must show a strong enthusiasm for the course of study, motivation to succeed, and their ability to work independently. Students who are studying for a Pamoja course, will be supported by an in-house coordinator, but independent study is required to succeed.

The SSST Literature subject is studied independently at standard level only and is aimed at accommodating English language learners who have excellent independent study habits. This course also requires finding an IB literature tutor in the target language (paid by parents). This option cannot be combined with Pamoja.

Final DP Subject Choices

Student choices should be informed based on their wishes for study at university. Students need to take into account the language the university course is assessed in and the university subject specific admissions requirements. Universities will have an admissions section, which specifies course requirements from the IB Diploma Programme. If this cannot be found you can speak to your mentor, university/careers counsellor, or contact the university directly.