

Requirements for entry into German university with the International Baccalaureate Diploma

(valid as of 15.06.2023)

General requirements

All subjects must be taken for the full two years of the Diploma course. Even changes between HL and SL subjects are not allowed. The authorities or [uni-assist](#), the central university admissions agency check this by requesting all school reports from the Sixth Form when submitting the application. We therefore recommend that school reports include the full IB DP subject name and level to avoid delays and misunderstandings, e.g. “Mathematics: analysis and approaches SL” rather than “Maths”.

Other than in a few exceptional cases, the student must have proof of twelve consecutive years of schooling.

IB DP courses that are taught exclusively online are not accepted.

Subject requirements

Most important requirement: All students must take either Maths or a Science or a Language at Higher Level. In addition, please note the following:

- Groups 1 and 2:
 - Students must study two A or B languages, one of which one has to be a foreign language as either Language A (Lit. or Lan & Lit at HL or SL) or Language B (HL only).
 - Any ab initio language is only accepted in addition to the above, i.e. as a third language (Group 6 elective). In this case, students must not have had any prior formal tuition in this language, it must not be listed in any previous school reports.
 - Literature and Performance is only accepted as a Group 6 elective.
 - Self-taught Language A Literature courses are accepted
 - Taking German A is not mandatory for students from Germany. They could, for example, take English A together with any other Language B. But if German A is not taken, the student might have to prove “adequate” German language skills when applying to a German university (e.g. simple language test).
- Group 3: Subjects that are allowed in this group are Business and Management, Economics, Geography, Global Politics, History, Philosophy, Psychology or Social Anthropology.
- Group 4: Only Biology, Chemistry or Physics are accepted as a science. Environmental Systems and Design Technology can only be selected in addition to one of these three, i.e. as a 6th subject.
- Group 5: All four Mathematics courses are recognised, but please see the detailed notes below.
- Group 6: Another subject from Groups 1-4 or one of the following subjects: another modern language, Applied Chemistry, Classical Greek, Computer Science, Design Technology, Digital Society, Environmental Systems and Societies, Film, General Chemistry, Latin, Literature and Performance, Music, Sports, Exercise and Health Science, Theatre, Visual Arts, World Religions.
Other electives are currently not accepted.

Choosing the right Mathematics course

An IB Diploma with Mathematics at Higher Level (either AA or AI) will automatically count as a full university entrance qualification for ALL degrees (“*allgemeine Hochschulreife*”).

An IB Diploma with Mathematics at Standard Level (either AA or AI) will count as a subject-specific university entrance qualification (“*fachgebundene Hochschulreife*”), as mathematics, natural sciences and engineering degrees will not be open to the student.

The only exception to this rule is if the school has signed the supplementary agreement with the IBO committing to teach the additional 16-hour module on vectors. If the agreement is in place, then students of this school may take Maths SL (+ vectors) in conjunction with a language or a science at HL and still get the full university entrance qualification (“*allgemeine Hochschulreife*”).

The following university degrees* require either of the two Maths HL (or Maths SL together with the signed vector agreement and a language or science at HL):

- mathematical/scientific field: Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Science, Earth Science, Health Science
- technical field: Architecture, Computer Science, Information Technology, Engineering

The following degrees* will accept either of the two Maths SL courses together with a language or science at HL (or of course Maths HL and science SL, depending on the student’s preference):

- Medicine, Veterinary Science, Pharmacy etc.
- Law and social sciences: Psychology, Economics, Business Studies, History etc.
- Sports

(*These are only examples of commonly chosen degrees; the lists are not complete.)

Grade requirements

All subjects must be passed with a minimum of 4 points, with one exception: one grade 3 is allowed if it is compensated with a minimum grade 5 at the same level (HL/SL). In other words, candidates with two grade 3s or a grade 2 will not get their IB Diploma recognised. This rule is stricter than the IBO’s own Diploma awarding criteria and often gives rise to confusion. Please remind your German students that they are allowed 3 points only once and no grade 2 at all.

Last resort

If a student receives his/her IB Diploma but has not met some of the criteria above (either relating to subjects or to grades obtained), then it is possible to take a supplementary entrance exam in Germany called “Feststellungsprüfung” which - if passed - will get them into university. Please contact us for further details.