

Matrix of IB prerequisites for university

This matrix contains general guidelines that are a starting point but requirements for specific programmes can change. There are many subjects not listed here that can be studied at university level, which have no specific IBDP prerequisites. Because some programmes do have IBDP prerequisites in order to apply, it is essential that students conduct their own research to ensure their IBDP subject package meets their needs.

	United Kingdom	Australia	Canada	USA	Singapore
Architecture	may require HL Mathematics; HL Physics; Art or Design Technology; portfolio	recommend HL or SL Mathematics and/or Physics; may require portfolio	may require HL or SL Mathematics; may require two Sciences (GCSE may satisfy one); may require portfolio	recommend HL or SL Mathematics and HL Science for B.ARCH; may require portfolio	may require SL Mathematics or Chemistry or Physics; may require portfolio
Art and Design, Performing Arts	portfolio/audition usually required; relevant IBDP subject usually required	portfolio/audition usually required; relevant IBDP subject usually required	portfolio/audition usually required; relevant IBDP subject usually required	portfolio/audition usually required; relevant IBDP subject usually required	portfolio/audition usually required; relevant IBDP subject usually required
Business/commerce	may require SL Mathematics; IB Business usually not required	may require HL or SL Mathematics; IB Business usually not required	may require HL or SL Mathematics; IB Business usually not required	no specific prerequisites; IB Business usually not required	may require SL Mathematics; IB Business usually not required
Economics	often require HL Mathematics; may require SL Mathematics; IB Economics usually not required	may require SL Mathematics; IB Economics usually not required	may require SL Mathematics; IB Economics usually not required	no specific prerequisites; IB Economics usually not required	check individual universities
Engineering	usually require HL Mathematics and HL Physics	may require HL or SL Mathematics; and Chemistry or Physics	may require HL or SL Mathematics; usually requires two Sciences (Chemistry often required even for Computer Science)	recommend SL or HL Mathematics and one or more HL Sciences	may require HL Mathematics, HL Chemistry and/or HL Physics
Science	may require SL or HL Mathematics and one or more HL Science	may require SL Mathematics and one HL Science	may require HL or SL Mathematics; usually require two Sciences	recommend HL or SL Mathematics and one or more HL Science	two of: HL Biology, HL Chemistry, HL Physics, HL Mathematics, HL Computing
Law	may require English A; essay-based subjects recommended (e.g., History)	may require English A	<i>not available as undergraduate option</i>	<i>not available as undergraduate option</i>	may require specific grade in SL English
English literature	recommend IBDP English A: Literature	recommend IBDP English A: Literature	no specific prerequisites required	no specific prerequisites required	check individual universities
Medicine	requires two HL Sciences; HL Chemistry and usually HL Biology	usually require Chemistry and may require another Science or Mathematics (HL or SL); background in Biology helpful	<i>not available as undergraduate option</i>	<i>not available as undergraduate option</i>	usually require HL Chemistry and HL Biology or HL Physics
Psychology	may require SL Mathematics; may prefer two HL from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics or Psychology	may require SL Mathematics; IBDP Psychology usually not required	may require SL Mathematics; IBDP Psychology usually not required	no specific pre-requisites; IBDP Psychology usually not required	check individual universities

Note: European universities often have specific IBDP prerequisites in Languages, Humanities/Social Sciences, Mathematics, and Sciences. Interested students must check individual university websites for details.