



Academic Handbook

IB Career-related Programme (IBCP)

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UWC MAASTRICHT

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1. Learning Through the International Baccalaureate Careerrelated Programme (IBCP)

In addition to the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP), UWC Maastricht offers the IBCP.

Why study the IBCP?

The [International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme](#) (IBCP or CP) at UWC Maastricht is a two-year programme designed for students aged 16 to 19. It is an assessed programme respected by leading universities across the globe. Through the course, we aim to develop students who flourish physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically. The IBCP is a framework of international education that incorporates the vision and educational principles of the IB into a unique programme specifically developed for students who wish to engage in career-related learning.

What makes an IBCP programme?

There are three components that all students must complete for the IBCP:

1. An in-depth Career-related study, which is currently offered either in *Leadership for Sustainable Futures* or *Music Arts & Innovation*.
2. Two to four [IB Diploma subjects](#) at either Higher or Standard Level.
3. Four CP Core components.

1.1 The Career-related Study

Our Career-related studies for 2025-26 are either:

1. Leadership for Sustainable Futures

The Leadership for Sustainable Futures Diploma is designed for passionate and driven students who are eager to make a meaningful impact on the world. This program is perfect for:

- Individuals dedicated to sustainability and social justice
- Future leaders in business, policy-making or environmental sectors
- Young people who excel in collaborative, hands-on learning environments
- Critical thinkers ready to challenge the status quo and innovate for a better future

The course is interdisciplinary, focussing on development of skills in Leadership through the exploration of ecological, social and economic systems. The course is taught in school with many field visits and work with innovative organisational partners.

or

2. Music Arts & Innovation

For highly talented musicians who might consider a career in music or would love to spend more time dedicated to their passion, we offer a choice of pathways run and taught by our partners in Maastricht. There are possibilities for those with the right experience and talent to audition for a place on the [Junior Classical](#) or [Jazz programmes](#) at the Conservatorium Maastricht or take programmes in Rock/Pop and Digital music. Successful applicants will take weekly lessons and be involved in workshops, masterclasses, rehearsals and performances to improve their musicianship. These will happen mainly on Saturdays or after other classes end, however students also work with a supervisor in school to develop their awareness as a musician in a community and plan opportunities for engagement with different audiences, whether as composers or performers. These courses will set up students to apply to music schools worldwide if they wish to further their studies, although they are also suitable for those following other academic fields or careers.

1.2 Selecting your IB Diploma subjects

Two to four Diploma subjects are chosen from the following groups:

- Group 1: Studies in Language and Literature
- Group 2: Language Acquisition (only English for CP students)
- Group 3: Individuals and Societies
- Group 4: Sciences
- Group 5: Mathematics
- Group 6: The Arts

The subjects offered within these groups are shown on [page 5](#) of this handbook. Students should pick subjects that interest them and consider those suitable for their chosen career or further academic study. English and Maths are always useful and, in some cases, necessary for university courses. Please read the notes on [IBCP and Universities in section 2](#). If you need further advice before selecting your subjects, we recommend contacting our [University Advising Department](#) which can help you select the most appropriate courses. They also provide the detailed [UWC Maastricht university counselling handbook](#) that will answer many

of your questions. A consultation with the [CP Academic Coordinator](#) is also recommended to help you pick your subjects.

Please also note the following before choosing:

- You will take diagnostic exams in English and Mathematics before coming to UWC Maastricht. Your performance in these exams may alter which subject, syllabus and level you can select in these areas.
- HL Science subjects should only be selected if you have a thorough prior knowledge and demonstrable level of achievement in the chosen discipline. If you do not, you should initially pursue the subject at SL to determine whether you have sufficient aptitude to succeed in HL.
- You can take subjects from the same group with the exception of Maths.
- There are limitations around changing subjects when you are here, so please read as much information as you can about the subjects before selecting; it is far easier for you if you stick with your chosen subjects.
- You need to select a minimum of two Diploma subjects at Standard Level to complete the IBCP; however, we recommend taking 3 or 4 with *at least* one at Higher Level so possible applications to competitive university courses can be made. Speak to the IBCP Coordinator for advice if you are unsure.

1.3 The IBCP Core

The core of the IBCP is composed of four components which complement and build on the academic curriculum. Each part is equally important. You must complete all four components to receive the IBCP Certificate. The Core components are taught as part of Career-related Studies but also require extra work beyond timetabled lessons.

Personal and Professional Skills

Personal and Professional Skills is a course designed for students to develop attitudes, skills and strategies to be applied to personal and professional situations and contexts, now and in the future. The course is tailored to a students' chosen Career-related Study and taught mainly in classes but also through other project opportunities.

Community Engagement

Community Engagement is the development and application of knowledge and skills to meet an identified and authentic community need. It involves a significant contribution, usually outside of the school timetable, over two years. Students can select from a wide range of existing opportunities or create their own initiatives.

Reflective Project

The Reflective Project is an in-depth body of work produced over an extended period of time and submitted towards the end of the CP. Through their Reflective Project, students identify, analyse, critically discuss and evaluate an ethical issue arising from their career-related studies. The Reflective Project is intended to promote high-level research, writing, extended communication skills, intellectual discovery, and creativity.

Language and Cultural Studies

This course involves some guided as well as individual learning. Its aims are:

- To explore and expand students' linguistic and cultural repertoires
- to develop curiosity, openness and empathy through awareness and appreciation of linguistic and cultural diversity, locally and globally
- to develop transferable knowledge, skills and attitudes for present and future study, work and leisure.

Students are given flexibility to study the language(s) they would like to learn for personal, community or career interests.

1.4 IBDP Courses Offered at UWC Maastricht

NOTE: A place in a subject cannot be guaranteed and is subject to timetable blocking. Should a subject be over-subscribed, class membership will be decided via lottery.

Group 1: Studies in Language and Literature

Group 1 courses in Language and Literature engage with literary and non-literary works to explore the nature of the interactions between readers, writers and texts.

If you possess two first languages, you may study two languages in Group 1 (Studies in Language and Literature) instead of Group 1 and Group 2 (Language Acquisition). By doing this, you will be eligible for the Bilingual Diploma.

Most students will take English Language and Literature as a Group 1 subject choice unless they have been specifically told by the school that their level of English is not sufficient based on the placement test, and they should then sign up for one of the other Group 1 courses.

Please note that Ab Initio courses are strictly limited to students with little or no previous knowledge of that language.

Finally, if you hold a Dutch passport, you are required by Dutch law to take a Dutch Language and Literature course at the appropriate Group 1 or Group 2 level.

We offer Group 1 *Language and Literature* in:

- English (*Language and Literature*) - HL or SL
- Dutch (*Language and Literature*) - HL or SL
- Spanish (*Language and Literature*) - HL or SL
- Arabic (*Language and Literature*) - HL or SL
- French (*Language and Literature*) - HL or SL
- Chinese (*Language and Literature*) - HL or SL
- Italian (*Literature*) - HL or SL
- School Supported Self-Taught (SSST) (*Literature SL Only*) for other mother tongue languages as available.

These courses are for students who are native or advanced language learners and can, therefore, listen to, read, understand, and analyse unadapted literary and non-literary language. Given the importance of English to the UWC Maastricht programme, most students will take English Language and Literature at either HL or SL as their Group 1 choice unless English language placement testing has indicated that their level of English is not currently strong enough to do so. As noted above, in addition, students may have the option to take an additional Group 1 course and pursue a bilingual diploma.

School-supported self-taught (SSST) is a course available to everyone whose mother tongue/home language or strongest language is not one of the languages above. It is available at standard level only. It is taught by online language tutors and supported by an internal college coordinator.

As a Self-Taught student, you will:

- Attend two World Literature classes per week in your first year.
- Attend regular meetings with the School Supported Self-Taught Coordinator and, if possible, meet a language tutor in your home language to provide guidance.

Every Group 1 Language and Literature course follows the same curriculum and assessment criteria. The texts will differ in each language, but the expectations will be identical.

Similarly, if you study self-taught, you will take the same literature course as other self-taught candidates. The books and texts studied will differ for each language, but the assessments and the assessment criteria are the same as for all Group 1 language courses.

Group 2: Language Acquisition

These courses can help complete the requirement for the Language & Cultural Studies component, but it is not required to take one of these courses.

Group 2 Language Acquisition courses offered at UWC Maastricht are:

- Dutch, English, French, German and Spanish

They are offered at three levels:

- Language B - HL or SL
- Ab Initio (Beginner's level) - SL only

HL/SL courses are designed for students with previous knowledge of the language studied. Students can study Dutch, English, French, German, or Spanish at HL or SL.

The main focus is on:

- language acquisition
- intercultural understanding

To develop language skills, students investigate various topics through different media. Higher-level students study two works of literature and have one more lesson per week. Like Group 1 subjects, the books and texts studied will be different for each language, but the assessments and the assessment criteria are the same.

Language Ab Initio

Language *Ab Initio* courses are designed for students who want to learn a new language or have had little exposure to the language studied. We offer Dutch, French, German, and Spanish Ab Initio SL at UWC Maastricht.

The main focus is based on three themes:

- Individual and society
- Leisure and work
- The urban and rural environment

At the end of the course, students should be able to interact appropriately in everyday situations in the language studied.

English: Language Acquisition/ English B (offered only as HL)

English is the language of instruction at UWC Maastricht. To ensure that our student's English language needs are identified and met, we offer additional English language classes and one-on-one sessions focused on academic English.

As part of the admissions procedure, all students take a diagnostic English test for staff to acquire more information on students' language profiles. The other purposes of this test are for the school:

- To understand the entry-level of proficiency for all students;
- To gain an understanding of the overall level of proficiency of the whole year group;
- To identify individual language needs early;
- To support students in choosing a viable subject package by making recommendations as to the most beneficial language option.

Students with beginner to intermediate English proficiency will be contacted by the English Language and Learning (ELL) department and offered additional language classes and one-on-one lessons focused on academic English. As a result, only those students identified by the ELL department will be offered English B HL (Language Acquisition) as a Group 2 subject.

As part of this support,

- Specific language needs will be identified and supported.
- Students will follow the foundation programme designed by our English language learning team. This programme focuses on improving overall proficiency and includes the practice of language skills relevant to the Year 12 and 13 subjects.

Group 3: Individuals and Societies

Individuals and Societies courses help us understand the lives of people around the world today and the legacy of their past. UWC Maastricht offers the courses detailed below. The courses cover a wide variety of topics and focus on developing investigative, analytical, and critical thinking skills. Many of these courses would complement the Leadership for Sustainable Futures Diploma.

We offer the following Group 3 Individuals and Societies subjects:

- [Economics](#) HL or SL
- [Environmental Systems and Societies](#) (ESS) SL only
- [Geography](#) HL or SL
- [Global Politics](#) HL or SL
- [History](#) HL or SL

Environmental Systems and Societies (ESS)

ESS allows students to make informed decisions by providing an understanding of the interrelationships between environmental systems and societies. ESS is an interdisciplinary Group 3 and/or Group 4 subject offered only at Standard Level (SL). This course would complement students taking the Leadership for Sustainable Futures Diploma.

Group 4: Sciences

We offer five Group 4 Science subjects at the diploma level:

- [Biology](#) HL or SL
- [Chemistry](#) HL or SL
- [Design Technology](#) HL or SL
- [Physics](#) HL or SL
- [Environmental Systems and Societies](#) is a Group 3 and 4 interdisciplinary course that counts as either a Group 3 or Group 4 subject selection. It is offered as SL only.

Note that to take a Science course at a higher level, recent experience/success in the subject and/or a teacher recommendation is required. Students wishing to pursue HL Physics, as well as having a recent background in the subject, should also be recommended for at least Mathematics Analysis & Approaches SL due to the demanding mathematics involved in HL Physics.

Group 5: Mathematics

A diagnostic exam will take place before you start your course.. The results from the maths placement test and/or teacher recommendation will inform the syllabus and level of study that you can follow.

DP Mathematics is taught at four different levels:

- [Mathematics Analysis and Approaches](#) HL or SL
- [Mathematics Applications and Interpretation](#) HL or SL

Group 6: The Arts

We offer three Group 6 subjects at the diploma level:

- [Visual Arts](#) HL or SL
- [Film](#) HL or SL
- [Music](#) HL or SL.

Music

Please note that students with no previous music experience often find IB Music challenging as it presupposes the ability to read music. **Students taking the Music Arts & Innovation Diploma may want to choose this as one of their subjects as it will complement their course very well.**

Film

Please see the enclosed link for the recommended equipment for the course. [Equipment required](#)

Music School

All students, including those who do not select Music as part of their subject package, can attend lessons at our [Music School](#). In addition to the courses listed there, other courses can be offered based on student's interests and the availability of instrumental teachers.

The costs for an individual lesson are available on demand. Attending lessons at the UWC Maastricht Music School is free for those residential students who selected the IBDP Music course and for any CP Music student.

1.5 Assessment

Academic Integrity

The principle of academic honesty is the keystone to teaching and learning at UWC Maastricht. Teaching and learning at UWC Maastricht are guided by the UWC Maastricht Academic Honesty Policy, a published policy document on ManageBac and the school website. By upholding honesty and personal integrity values, this document is informed by the IB Learner Profile attributes and United World College's mission. Besides several training sessions during Year 12, you will also be guided by your teacher in understanding the ethical practices in line with the vision of UWC Maastricht. Please read, understand and become familiar with the School's Academic Honesty Policy. As part of this community, we expect you to be respectful and responsible in making moral and ethical decisions. [Attained grades](#)

Attained grades represent your performance in summative assessments (end-of-topic tests, mock exams, essays, etc.) and are cumulative; thus, they reflect how you have performed in your subjects across the two-year duration of the programme. [Predicted grades](#)

Predicted grades represent your teacher's informed and professional assessment of your potential achievement based on your demonstrated motivation, potential to learn, as well as your level of engagement with the curriculum. The grade is based on your work and progress. Assessment is continuous throughout the CP and will evolve as your teacher gathers more information about your learner profile (strengths and weaknesses, motivation, etc.). Universities ask us to comment on all these areas when we give references.

Predicted grades will be formulated as required for university applications, typically at the end of Year 12 and in the Winter and Spring reports of Year 13.

Please note

Because of the nature of the course, anticipated grades are not provided for School Supported Self-Taught languages. In the rare event that a university requests an anticipated grade for a self-taught language, we will do our utmost to provide a grade, providing we have a tutor of the language at our disposal.

Assessment for the Career-related study and Core components are specific to those courses. More information can be found in the [appendix to this handbook](#).

Transition requirements to continue to Y13 CP2

The IBCP provides part of the challenge that is inherent in the UWC experience. We monitor student achievement in their subjects and the IB Core, in order to assess whether the student is demonstrating and developing the skills and attitudes necessary for success in the current programme and in the future.

This is benchmarked against the college's [transition requirements](#). Accordingly, in the end-of-the Year 12 report, students who have met these requirements will progress directly into CP2, whereas those who have not met the requirements will have their status reviewed.

Options for those not meeting the criteria for transition into Year 13 (CP2):

One of the following options will be mandated at the school's discretion, depending on the situation:

- The student retakes Year 12 on a subject package/programme that is mandated by the Academic and Pastoral teams, based on the student's performance; this may involve a recommended switch between programmes.

- The student will need to leave UWC Maastricht

2. IBCP and University Requirements.

While there is no expectation from UWC Maastricht that you go on to study at university after the IBCP, this is the most common choice for our graduates. We will certainly give you our full support if you choose an alternative pathway; however, the information below relates specifically to universities and will help you decide which Diploma subjects you might want to choose as part of your IBCP.

Before choosing the IBCP, you will hopefully have already spoken to one of our university counsellors and the IBCP coordinator, as the IBCP is a particular pathway that has an impact on university course choices in most countries.

The IB regularly publishes a [list of Universities accepting IBCP students](#). However, do bear in mind that these acceptances are based on an IBCP with various subject choices and levels of attainment by candidates.

In general, Universities in the USA, including those providing substantial financial support through the UWC Scholars Program, (www.davisuwcscholars.org), are enthusiastic about applications from our students and have made very generous acceptance offers.

Applications in Europe vary by country and should be researched. In the Netherlands, IBCP will give access to Universities of Applied Science, where many of our students are accepted for courses such as International Business. As the IBCP is relatively new (it is just over 10 years old globally), more and more universities are accepting applications and your University advisor will help you research the options during your time here.

Appendix

Assessment in the IBCP

The assessment is different for each component of the IBCP; however, all components must be passed to achieve the award of the IBCP Certificate.

Leadership for Sustainable Futures Diploma

Assessment is a combination of examinations and coursework, as is the case for many IB courses. However, greater emphasis is placed on coursework and the application of learning in authentic contexts. Assessment methods may include examinations, report writing, presentations, case study work, peer review, participation and collaboration, and reflective tasks focused on personal growth and skills development. Students are also assessed through experiential learning activities and projects linked to real-world challenges. Exact weighting of assessment components will be confirmed at the start of the course.

Music Arts & Innovation Diploma

Assessment is through project and coursework only. A good record of attendance and progress towards established goals is necessary to pass.

To achieve either Diploma students must also pass all Core components as below:

The IBCP Core

Personal and Professional Skills:

This course is internally assessed by your teachers and based on your engagement and progress in classes and projects. An overall grade is not given but sufficient engagement and progress will be expected to pass this component. Students will have the opportunity to map out their progress indicators and contribute to their own assessment of meeting these.

Community Engagement:

This is internally assessed by your service supervisor and the Head of Community Engagement at the College. By uploading reflections on your learning and evidence of your contributions and regular attendance, you can demonstrate that you have met the requirements and thus achieved a pass in this component.

The Reflective Project

This is internally assessed by your project supervisor and then externally moderated by the IB. Students need to achieve a minimum D grade to pass this component.

Language and Cultural Studies

This is internally assessed by your Language supervisor and based on the goals you have set yourself to achieve. There is no minimum level of language ability that needs to be

reached, but all students, even those taking English Language Acquisition as Diploma courses, must complete a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate their development in the language.

IBDP Subjects

All IBCP students must achieve a minimum of Grade 3 in at least two of their chosen subjects (at the Higher or Standard level).