



Cranbrook Senior School

HSC and the IB Diploma Programme



**CRANBROOK
SCHOOL**
EST. 1918

MESSAGE FROM NICK JOLLY, DIRECTOR OF ACADEMICS

Both the NSW Higher School Certificate (HSC) and the IB Diploma Programme are excellent and world-renowned credentials. Cranbrook has for many years offered an HSC programme of the highest quality. The School now offers the IB Diploma Programme as an optional pathway for Cranbrook students to take in their senior years.

Cranbrook School has already embraced, very successfully, the philosophies of the IB since gaining authorisation for the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Middle Years Programme (MYP). The Diploma Programme offering at Cranbrook will therefore not only provide our senior students with an alternative to the HSC as a pathway, but also enable Cranbrook to join just six continuum schools in NSW: offering the PYP, MYP and IB Diploma.

Each Year 10 student now has the opportunity to indicate their preference for the credential that best suits their individual preferences and interests. It is important that students and families are well-informed with regards to each credential, as each of the two programmes offers different opportunities for different types of learners.

The IB Diploma is an alternative to the HSC, but the HSC should not be considered a lesser option, nor is the IB Diploma an honours course for elite students. We understand the decision regarding an IB or HSC pathway is difficult and our aim is to arm families and students with as much information as possible to make an informed choice that is best for each child.

To assist further this document compares the two credentials, and provides information regarding the key differences in a clear and concise format.

This is an exciting, yet also challenging, time for your child as they seek to prepare for success in their further study. I do hope that the information contained in this guide will greatly assist you and your child in making the best decision for the pathway they wish to follow.

Director of Academics

Nick Jolly

ABOUT THE HSC

The Higher School Certificate is the highest academic credential within the NSW school system and allows a particularly flexible choice of subjects.

- Students undertake 12 units of study in Year 11. Most subjects count for 2 units.
- Students typically take 10, 11 or 12 units of study in Year 12 with further subject specialisation options available via 1 unit 'extension' courses.
- Around 30 subjects offered. Only English is compulsory.

ABOUT THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is a two-year course of study for Years 11 and 12 which has a distinctive educational philosophy and is offered in over 150 countries.

- Students must undertake one subject from each of six clearly defined subject groups.
- Students must also undertake additional courses and activities: the Extended Essay; Creativity Activity Service; Theory of Knowledge.
- Students are awarded a final score out of 45.



AT A GLANCE



CURRICULUM

IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

- Six academic subjects studied over two years.
- Mandatory studies in a native language, an acquired language, individuals and societies, experimental science and Mathematics.
- It is not just an academic programme. There are compulsory three core elements which encourage experiential learning.
- Equips students with the skills required for tertiary learning and promotes a spirit of intellectual inquiry.

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

- Year 11: Preliminary curriculum – subjects studied to the value of a minimum of 12 units.
- Year 12: A minimum of 4 subjects including mandatory study in English.
- No requirement to complete ‘non-academic’ courses.
- Caters to serious academic study and focused vocational study



ASSESSMENT METHODS

IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

- 35% internally and 80% externally assessed depending on subjects studied.
- Internal assessments either integrated into the teaching programme or completed by the middle of Term 3 Year 12.

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

- 50% School based assessment and 50% final HSC assessment in all subjects excluding English Extension.
- School based assessments are spread across Year 12.



RESULTS

IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

- All subjects contribute equally to the final Diploma score.
- Graded on a 45 point scale, minimum requirement of 24 points for award of the IB Diploma. The score of 45 equates to an ATAR of 99.95.
- The Universities Admissions Centre calculates a rank that is based on the student's overall Diploma score.

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

- All subjects contribute equally according to their unit value to the HSC credential.
- The HSC credential is achieved by all candidates who have met the basic curriculum requirements and have satisfactorily completed at least 10 units of study including 2 units of English.
- Final marks in each subject are standards referenced against defined levels of achievement consistent from one examination session to the next and applied equally to all schools.

2021 ATAR CONVERSION

IB SCORE	45	44	43	42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35
UAC RANK	99.95	99.75	99.45	99.10	98.55	97.90	97.10	96.25	95.20	93.90	92.60
IB SCORE	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24
UAC RANK	91.30	89.50	87.70	85.90	84.10	81.85	79.85	77.60	75.35	72.70	70.20



QUALIFICATION

IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

- Has a strong focus on University preparation.
 - The Diploma is a genuine international qualification and is highly recognised globally.

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

- Offers entry to almost all post-secondary pathways.
- Is recognised as a tertiary entrance credential in Australia and to a lesser degree overseas.

Cranbrook is...

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to know more about the Diploma Programme at Cranbrook School please contact Nick Jolly, Director of Academics on 02 9327 9502 or email NJolly@cranbrook.nsw.edu.au

Or Nicholas Hanrahan, IB Diploma Programme Coordinator at nhanrahan@cranbrook.nsw.edu.au



INQUIRING

THOUGHTFUL



KNOWLEDGEABLE

COMMUNICATIVE



PRINCIPLED

OPEN-MINDED



CARING

ADVENTUROUS



BALANCED

REFLECTIVE



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SCHOOL**
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