



# **INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM**

## **Student and Parent Information Handbook**

**2017 – 2018**

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# **AOSR MISSION, OUR BELIEFS AND HISTORY**

## ***OUR MISSION***

AOSR offers the best of an American-International education in a supportive learning environment. We inspire a diverse student body to courageously meet the demands of a changing world through an engaging and creative curriculum.

## ***WHO WE ARE***

The American Overseas School of Rome is a vibrant, open-minded, and caring community from the United States, Italy, and more than fifty countries across the globe.

AOSR is proud of its rich Italian heritage and many languages and cultures. We educate our students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 to continue their studies wherever their travels lead them. Our students are well-prepared to gain admission to universities in the United States, United Kingdom, Italy, and beyond.

## ***OUR BELIEFS***

### **Respect:**

We believe that the dignity and worth of each person in our community must be honored. Guided by honesty and integrity, we build respect, acceptance and appreciation of ourselves and others.

### **Collaboration:**

We believe that working together stimulates learning; nurtures interpersonal relationships; develops effective communication skills; fosters independent thinking and self-awareness; builds community; and results in better outcomes, ideas, and solutions.

### **Responsibility:**

We believe that responsibility contributes to self-direction and the opportunities that education provides; it guides students to an understanding of their role in our community and to the compassionate service needed to be productive world citizens.

### **Community:**

We believe that the relationships formed through the positive and productive interactions among AOSR's parents, students, and staff are an invaluable asset in educating our students.

### **Learning:**

We believe that inquiry, risk-taking, and reflection are at the heart of a rich learning environment; we adapt to the individual needs of our students and nurture their personal and academic growth.

### **Trust:**

We believe that trust is promoted through the honest and free exchange of ideas and opinions and is strengthened through communication, compromise and understanding.

## **The IB Diploma– an overview**

The IB diploma program is a demanding pre-university course of studies designed for highly motivated students. It is a broad based two year course that aims to encourage students to become responsible members of local, national and global communities. It provides a cohesive curriculum where concurrent studies lead to examinations in six different subject areas and a central core consisting in completion of three requirements.

IB Diploma students aim to develop the traits of an IB learner profile represented by 10 attributes valued by all IB World Schools.

IB learners strive to be:

Inquirers	Open-minded
Knowledgeable	Caring
Thinkers	Risk-takers
Communicators	Balanced
Principled	Reflective

AOSR is an IB World School and has been offering students the opportunity to obtain an IB diploma or IB certificates since 1989.

IB students at AOSR are expected to:

- Demonstrate self-discipline and responsibility
- Have the desire and work ethic required to maximize learning from their course of studies.
- Learn from fellow students as well as teachers
- Share with and contribute to the community
- Seek assistance and not hesitate to give it
- Be challenged, excited, as well as sometimes disappointed and exasperated
- Enjoy the challenge of opportunity

## THE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME CURRICULUM MODEL

The curriculum is modeled by a circle where the inner circle shows the pedagogical approach to teaching and learning in the program.

The six academic areas surround the three core requirements, and the watermark of the world indicates the global context of the program.

The heart of the curriculum model is the IB learner profile.



Over the course of the two-year program, students:

- ❖ Study one subject from each of the six subject groups
- ❖ Three of the six subjects are studied at higher level (240 teaching hours)
- ❖ The remaining three subjects are studied at standard level (150 teaching hours)
- ❖ Complete an extended essay (EE)
- ❖ Follow a theory of knowledge course (TOK)
- ❖ Participate in creativity, action, service (CAS)

## **THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE AT AOSR**

Our aim at AOSR is to prepare the students in the IB Diploma program for university acceptance throughout the world as well as for advanced placement in universities in the United States.

Students at AOSR may choose to participate in the program in one of three ways:

- As a student undertaking the full IB Diploma.
- As a student taking one or more IB certificates.
- As a student following an IB course for internal credit.

### **Diploma Candidates**

The full IB Diploma student will have the opportunity to apply for college admission in most countries of the world. In Italy the IB is fully recognized as a valid Italian diploma provided the student has followed the Ministry of Public Education's specific guidelines for IB recognition. For students planning to attend universities in the USA high marks in high level exams are recognized as a year's college work and some universities will grant sophomore standing to recipients of the IB Diploma.

### **Certificate Candidates**

Students who choose to take IB courses for the certificates they offer, may select any course at the higher or standard level that fits into their schedule. Certificates obtained in higher level courses are usually accepted for advanced placement at universities while certificates obtained in standard level will enhance university applications.

### **Internal Credit**

Students may choose to enroll in an IB class because of an interest in the subject matter. They will follow the selected IB course without taking the external examination. They will benefit from the experience since the academic rigor of the course will enrich their curriculum and enable them to receive AOSR credit towards their High School Diploma.

## **Criteria for IB Selection at AOSR**

Students will apply for admission to the IB Diploma program after completing the first semester of grade 10.

Admission to the IB Diploma Program at AOSR will be granted to students that meet the requirements of either one of the following pathways.

### **A.**

- The student holds a Grade Point Average of 3.0
- Teacher Recommendations are favorable and Homework Completion Traits are positive

Or

### **B.**

- The student holds a Grade Point Average between 2.6 and 3.0
- Teacher Recommendations are favorable and Homework Completion Traits are positive.
- PSAT Score Report will indicate the student to have the potential to succeed in demanding academic subjects.
- Student has a Record of Absences that is less than 10% of school days.
- Evidence of accelerated growth in academic records is shown.

Student admission to IB Certificates and/or internal credit only is subject to teacher approval and satisfactory completion of pre-requisite courses.

## **IB SUBJECTS OFFERED**

The list below gives the subjects offered at AOSR. This list is not definitive. The school will guarantee the classes needed for a student to complete the diploma once a course of studies has been established but reserves the right to add or delete courses according to student needs and staff availability.

Group 1	Studies in Language and Literature	<b>HL</b> English A: Lang & Lit  Italian A: Literature	<b>SL</b> English A: Lang & Lit  Italian A: Literature
Group 2	Language Acquisition	Italian French Spanish	Italian French Spanish
Group 3	Individuals and Societies	History	History Economics
Group 4	Sciences	Biology Physics Chemistry	Biology Physics Chemistry
Group 5	Mathematics	Math HL	Math SL Math Studies
Group 6	The Arts	Theater	Theater

## **THE CORE COMPONENTS**

### **Theory of Knowledge (TOK)**

TOK provides coherence to the IB program. It is a course of study mandatory for every diploma candidate that explores the relationship amongst the various areas of knowledge and the different ways of knowing. It encourages critical reflection and analysis of knowledge acquired within and beyond the classroom. Students are helped to consider how they know what they know and to develop habits of reflection which they bring to each subject.

Assessment of student performance is based on presentation and written work.

### **The Extended Essay**

IB diploma candidates are required to undertake original research and write an extended essay (research paper) in one of the subjects of the IB curriculum. The extended essay is written under the supervision of a qualified teacher at the school.

The main purpose of the essay is to train the candidate with the kind of independent research and writing skills expected at the university level.

For more information please refer to the Extended Essay booklet of AOSR

### **CAS Program**

CAS stands for Creativity, Action and Service and is a fundamental part of the diploma experience. The IB goal of educating the whole person and fostering active citizenry is reached through the completion of co-curricular activities and community service projects.

At AOSR the program is administered by the CAS coordinator, with the active participation and assistance of other teachers. The participation of parents in the program as well as new ideas from students, for CAS activities, is always encouraged. The CAS program is spread through both years of the diploma program.

In school CAS activities include

- Play on the school sport teams
- Work in student government
- Work on student publications and/or the AOSR yearbook
- Sing in the chorus
- Perform in plays
- Organize charity drives
- Assist the elementary teachers

For a complete understanding of this area please read the AOSR CAS Handbook

## **AWARD OF THE DIPLOMA**

Candidates for the diploma normally take all examinations in a single session at the end of the two-year period of preparation, but some opt to take one or two exams at the end of their first year.

Students at end of year one may take examinations in not more than two subjects, on condition that these subjects are offered at standard level (SL) only, and that the recommended number of teaching hours has been completed.

### **The Grading System**

Important factors to consider are:

1. In all subjects a part of the program, up to a maximum of 30% is internally assessed and externally moderated by the Chief Examiner. This “Internal Assessment” component of the grade is usually a research paper, a portfolio of investigations or laboratory reports and/or written compositions applicable to the specific subject.

This very important part of the diploma requires a great deal of organization, which is why strict deadlines will be set.

2. Performance in each subject is graded using the following scale:

- 7 – Excellent
- 6 – Very Good
- 5 – Good
- 4 – Satisfactory
- 3 – Mediocre
- 2 – Poor
- 1 – Very Poor

A maximum of 3 extra points is awarded for combined performance in theory of knowledge and the extended essay. The maximum total Diploma Program points score is, therefore, 45.

3. The IB diploma will be awarded to a candidate whose total score reaches or exceeds 24 points, does not contain any failing condition, and meets all requirements stated in the IB Diploma program regulations.
4. A copy of the regulations will be given to each student and his/her parents by the coordinator.

## ASSESSMENT OF TOK AND EXTENDED ESSAYS

The total number of points awarded is determined by the combination of the performance levels achieved in both components according to the matrix below

### EXTENDED ESSAY

	Excellent A	Good B	Satisfactory C	Mediocre D	Elementary E
<b>TOK</b> Excellent A	3	3	2	2	Failing condition
Good B	3	2	1	1	Failing condition
Satisfactory C	2	1	1	0	Failing condition
Mediocre D	2	1	0	0	Failing condition
Elementary E	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition

For questions please feel free to contact the Diploma Program coordinator at [bfiochi@aosr.org](mailto:bfiochi@aosr.org) or 06 33438337

Note :

The following pages of this booklet are written in Italian. They are intended only for Italian students needing to pursue a program of studies that leads to obtaining an “equipollenza” with an Italian maturita’.

**PER OTTENERE IL RICONOSCIMENTO**  
**DI EQUIPOLLENZA IN ITALIA**  
**DEL DIPLOMA DI BACCELLIERATO INTERNAZIONALE**

Uno studente iscritto ad AOSR deve soddisfare i requisiti interni per il diploma di High School insieme a quelli dell'International Baccalaureate (IB).

I diplomi di baccellierato internazionale rilasciati dall'American Overseas School di Roma sono riconosciuti quali diplomi di maturità aventi valore legale ai sensi della legge 30 ottobre 1986, n. 738.

Per aiutare a capire il percorso “quasi obbligato” di uno studente italiano che ambisce al nostro diploma insieme al diploma IB, troverete in seguito i due piani di studio proposti della nostra scuola.

Questi piani di studio sono forniti a titolo informativo per aiutare a capire l'impegno scolastico richiesto e le classi necessarie nei quattro anni di scuola superiore.

Maggiori dettagli sulle singole classi sono forniti dal opuscolo “Program of Studies” trovabile nel nostro sito [www.aosr.org](http://www.aosr.org)

AOSR riconosce le esigenze individuali di ogni studente e parte della funzione del coordinatore dell'IB e' di identificare il piano di studi che meglio risponde a tali esigenze.

Per ulteriori informazioni e dettagli riguardanti aspetti generali del diploma, potete chiedere appuntamento con il coordinatore Prof. Belinda Fiochi oppure contattarla tramite posta elettronica al indirizzo [bfiochi@aosr.org](mailto:bfiochi@aosr.org)

# **EQUIPOLLENZA PER MATURITA' LINGUISTICA**

	<b>GRADE 9</b>	<b>GRADE 10</b>	<b>GRADE 11</b>	<b>GRADE 12</b>
<b>ITALIANO</b>	Italian 3N	Italian 4	Italian 5	Italian IB
<b>INGLESE</b>	English 9	English 10	IB English I	IB English 2
<b>3a. LINGUA (un percorso)</b>	French 2 Spanish 2	French 3 Spanish 3	French 4 Spanish 4	French 5 Spanish 5
<b>STORIA</b>	Ancient	European	IB European	IB World
<b>SCIENZA (un percorso)</b>	Biology	Chemistry	Advanced Bio IB Chemistry Y1 Physics	AP/IB Bio IB Chemistry Y2 IB Physics SL
<b>MATEMATICA (un percorso)</b>	Algebra I  Geometry	Geometry  Algebra II/T	Algebra 2 / Trig  Pre Calculus	IB Math Studies  IB Math SL
<b>Obbligatori</b>	PE / Health  Computer Literacy	Fine Arts  Elective	IB pastoral and TOK	IB pastoral and TOK
<b>Common study periods will be scheduled if needed for HL courses</b>				

# **EQUIPOLLENZA PER MATURITA' SCIENTIFICA**

	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
<b>ITALIANO</b>	Italian 3N	Italian 4	Italian 5	Italian IB
<b>INGLESE</b>	English 9	English 10	IB English I	IB English 2
<b>3a. LINGUA</b>	French or Spanish	French or Spanish		Elective
<b>STORIA</b>	Ancient	European	IB European	IB World History
<b>SCIENZA</b>	Biology	Chemistry	IB Chemistry Y1	IB Chemistry Y2
<b>SCIENZA 2</b>			IB Physics 1 or Adv Biology	IB Physics 2 or IB Biology
<b>MATEMATICA</b>	Geometry	Algebra II/T	IB Precalc HL	HL Maths
<b>Obbligatori</b>	PE / Health  Computer Literacy	Fine Arts  Elective	IB pastoral and TOK	IB pastoral and TOK
<b>Common study periods will be scheduled if needed for HL courses</b>				