Foundation IB overview

East Campus
Welcome to the East Campus High School and the Foundation International Baccalaureate (FIB) programme. For students joining the College during the important year prior to commencement of the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP), we offer this unique programme, which will challenge and prepare students academically while enriching them holistically.

The FIB programme comprises a mixture of prescribed and free choice subjects. The subjects are both demanding and varied, and we encourage our students to embrace the challenges offered by the various subjects in order to fully enjoy the learning experience. The FIB is designed to prepare students for a seamless transition into the IBDP.

Breadth of study is a key factor in the FIB academic curriculum, helping students make informed choices as they move into their final two years of schooling. The majority of students at this stage do not have a definite career in mind; therefore it is sensible to select subjects they enjoy and which will permit a reasonable degree of flexibility with regard to future courses and careers. The FIB course culminates in internal examinations at the end of the year, for which we offer support, expertise and preparation to ensure success.

Of equal value to a UWCSEA education is the extensive learning that takes place beyond the classroom. Students are offered a vast array of opportunities through the College's Activities, Outdoor Education, Personal and Social Education and Service programmes. All FIB students will participate in a service and outdoor education trip which allows them to further develop the skills and qualities embodied in the UWCSEA profile.

A student who values themself and others, and commits to the ideals of the UWC movement, is a student who will gain enormously from our High School FIB programme.

**Academics**

The FIB course provides students an academic curriculum at the appropriate depth in a wide range of subjects that lead to IB Diploma courses. After studying in the FIB programme, students are able to select IB Diploma subjects from a firm foundation of skill and understanding.

All FIB students study the following programme:

- **Coordinated Science** – one course covering the core subjects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- **Digital Perspectives** – a course that combines digital skills, creativity and critical thinking skills
- **Global Perspectives** – this course embodies the values of UWCSEA and is excellent preparation for the IBDP
- **Integrated Humanities** – one course covering the subjects of Economics, Geography, History and Psychology
- **Mathematics**
- **Physical Education** – compulsory for all students
- **First Language** – English, Chinese or School Supported Self-Taught language
- **Foreign Language** – English as an Additional Language, Chinese, French or Spanish
- **Core PE** – an option for students who are unable to take a foreign language course

**The Arts**: Music, Theatre or Visual Arts

Students who enter the FIB programme without a foreign language option will need to select a further Arts or Core PE subject (note that Music and Theatre cannot be taken together).
The depth and breadth of study for High School students means that they must adopt effective time management strategies to ensure that all work is not only completed, but is a reflection of their potential and understanding. Students may find the demands quite daunting at first, but this is to be expected at the start of any new programme. Students soon learn the necessary critical thinking and independent learning skills and before too long are able to cope with increased expectations.

Most FIB subjects culminate in an internal UWCSEA examination that is not externally accredited. Students are expected to actively contribute to all aspects of the UWCSEA learning programme for acceptance into the IBDP. Suitable academic attainment and effort profiles must also be maintained in order to be successful in the IB Diploma.

Activities
A wide range of activities in the arts, sports, leadership and service is offered during the school year in four ‘activity seasons,’ providing our students with many opportunities to develop new skills and explore their passions. All students are expected to participate in activities, usually about three to four hours per week during lunchtime or after school.

The strong sports programme includes representative opportunities in swimming, softball, sailing, rugby and touch, badminton, basketball, netball, volleyball, gymnastics, golf, cross country and tennis. A number of other sports, such as karate, climbing and ultimate frisbee, are offered on a recreational basis.

Many other activities are designed to appeal to students with artistic talents and interests, including music lessons and ensembles (e.g., orchestra, chamber ensemble, jazz, choir), drama (both on and off stage) as well as special interests such as science photography, pottery, robotics, creative writing and journalism for student-led publications, short film-making, debating and more.

There are also opportunities to participate in student leadership activities such as Student Council and Sports Council, Model United Nations conferences (in Singapore and overseas) and Round Square through committees, conferences and exchange programmes.

Outdoor education
Our distinctive Outdoor Education programme encourages students to push the boundaries of their experience and helps them to develop leadership and resilience through unexpected challenges. Students get great enjoyment and satisfaction out of these experiences and many are often surprised to find that they possess the determination, adaptability and sense of teamwork to rise to the challenges presented.

FIB Students participate in a 5-night trip to Endau river in Malaysia involving trekking and kayaking in a pristine environment. All students are expected to participate in this expedition.

Optional trips
A number of fully-supervised optional trips that support various parts of the curriculum are offered during the school holidays. Previous optional trips have included cultural immersion tours to Taiwan and Spain for students of these languages, an adventure ski trip to Switzerland and a service trip to India.

UWCSEA also provides students options to participate in the National Youth Achievement Award at Bronze and Silver level while in the first two years of High School, which involve preparation and then expeditions of varying lengths in Singapore and around the region.

Personal and social education
There are exciting new challenges and opportunities for students at UWCSEA. To ensure that the experience is both positive and enjoyable, and that every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential, the Principal, Vice Principal, Head of Grade and mentors work with subject teachers to provide support for all students in their care.
The dedicated Personal and Social Education (PSE) programme supports students to feel valued and confident. It builds self awareness and reflection, fosters physical, emotional and social well being, and addresses topics relevant to all teens such as relationships, study skills and preparation for future studies and career. The programme offers opportunities for our students to become more socially, culturally and politically aware, and appreciative of being part of a global community.

Students are assigned a mentor teacher at the beginning of the school year, and the PSE programme is delivered through daily meetings with the mentor group and via regular assemblies. The mentor is central to the care of students and works with the Head of Grade to help students make the most of their time in High School.

Professional guidance from the University Advisors is also available for students and families. Our University Advising programme commences in Grade 10, with advice on subject selection in preparation for the IBDP in Grade 11. Students are also helped to gauge their potential for future studies and the possible career paths that will best suit them.

Service
The College’s tiered model of service provides opportunities for High School students to become involved in all three levels of the uniquely structured programme. Within the College, there are opportunities to take active leadership roles. For example, some students are trained in sports leadership and coach younger teams. All students also join a Singapore-based local service project, visiting the service site weekly throughout the academic year. Service takes place after lessons, and students volunteer for one of more than 30 projects.

The third tier of the Service programme involves initiatives outside of Singapore, which we call Global Concerns. This dynamic programme enables students to put their ideals into action by establishing project groups which actively address specific development and environmental issues.

All students are expected to commit fully to their service and show initiative by planning and leading activities.

Two service trips to Bintan Island will be held later in the year. Students will select projects to support, and develop and work on plans with the people on the island. These projects might include assisting with mangrove studies, assisting with marketing arts and crafts, or recording oral histories of the local fishing people. Their research and action for these projects will be presented at the end of the year.

Technology
As part of the College’s commitment to integrating technology as a tool to facilitate learning, all FIB students are issued with a laptop. Students are supported in the responsible use of technology through our extensive digital citizenship programme as we aim to provide them with the skills and knowledge to become responsible, independent digital citizens.

Teachers are supported by digital literacy coaches and technology mentors in implementing effective uses of technology in their teaching and assignments.

We use the Generation Safe tools to provide our teachers with professional development in the areas of prevention, detection, intervention and response to cyber incidents. Because experiences online affect school climate, the Generation Safe programme provides the framework for a network of support for all stakeholders—teachers, administrators, school counsellors, network administrators, parents and, above all, students.

For more information
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