

Information about School Based Syllabuses (September 2016)

School Based Syllabuses provide an opportunity for schools to develop a course that is not otherwise offered by the IB and that meets the particular needs or interests of their students. School Based Syllabuses can only be offered at Standard Level, and no candidate may count more than one School Based Syllabus (or a School Based Syllabus and a pilot course) towards their Diploma.

School Based Syllabuses are developed by a designated host school in close collaboration with the IB. All School Based Syllabuses must be officially approved by the IB before they may be offered by a school.

All proposed School Based Syllabuses are reviewed by internal IB staff and by the Diploma Review Committee. The materials are reviewed against a number of criteria, including that:

- The syllabus must cover a minimum required 150 teaching hours (the same as all other Standard Level Diploma subjects)
- The syllabus must adopt the aims of the subject group in the Diploma Programme model to which the syllabus relates
- The syllabus must present a challenge comparable to other Standard Level subjects in the subject group
- The syllabus must encourage the development of critical and conceptual thinking
- The syllabus content must not overlap significantly with that of another Diploma Programme subject
- The assessment objectives must be tested using appropriate assessment tasks and assessment criteria that conform to the Diploma Programme assessment policy.

All School Based Syllabuses are updated through a process of curriculum review, usually every 7 years. The activities for this review include gathering feedback from teachers in all schools offering the course and having the course reviewed by an external advisor. Once an updated guide and specimen papers have been developed, these are then again reviewed by IB staff and by the Diploma Review Committee before the updated version of the course can begin teaching.

For more information about School Based Syllabuses please email dpdevelopment@ibo.org