

Predicted Grades Policy

Context

ISV prepares students for a variety of post-18 opportunities, including further study in Higher Education (universities & colleges in Vietnam and abroad), apprenticeships, employment and vocational training. For some of these opportunities, Headmasterly in relation to university & college applications, the school is required to provide predictions/projections/estimations/anticipations of the grades that a student is expected to attain in each subject at IB Diploma, and maybe IGCSE, level. Please note that for the purpose of this document we will use the term 'Predicted grade' to encompass a predicted, estimated, projected or anticipated grade.

Timing

UNIVERSITY PREDICTED GRADES: Applications to universities around the world are accompanied usually by predicted grades. The grades are submitted along with the application by the stated deadlines (e.g. for UK: 2nd October for Conservatoires; 15th October for Oxford and Cambridge, and for certain universities' courses in Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science; 15th January for most other applications). Following long-standing practice we endeavour to submit all applications before the winter holiday as we believe it is in the students' interests to submit them during the Autumn Term.

IB DIPLOMA PREDICTED GRADES: These are given by DP staff to the DP Coordinator by 1st April each year in order to be sent to the IBO for their 20th April deadline.

Predicted Grades and the Application Process

Many universities advertise the typical offer grades for their courses on their web pages. These grades are also usually visible on MaiaLearning, the platform we use to support our applicants. Requirements are expressed in terms of IB points (e.g. 38-40 IB points) and for the UK in UCAS tariff points (e.g. 272-296 UCAS points). Sometimes a single grade is given (38 IB points); often a range is shown. Some universities publicise lower 'contextualised' grades: these are applicable to candidates from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. Whilst universities & colleges can and do make offers outside their publicised ranges, this tends to be exceptional. Grades, however, are only one element in the selection process. Universities & colleges weigh a number of factors, and there is no single formula for this. Universities & colleges consider



**THE INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF VIETNAM**

predicted grades, historical performance in public examinations, the pupil's Personal Statement/Essay, the school's Reference/Recommendation and, in some areas such as Medicine, relevant work experience. In addition, some universities, notably Oxford and Cambridge, require one or more of the following: an additional Personal Statement, samples of written work, a pre-interview written assessment, an interview (sometimes including written assessment). Whilst each element is important, the results of examination performance and pre-interview tests provide particularly valuable objective data. Universities & colleges in other countries may also consider semester grades, subject choices, standardised exams such as the SAT or ACT, extra-curricular activities and leadership, counselor school report, essays, resume, demonstrated interest, portfolios, and English proficiency. Universities & Colleges in the USA typically emphasise in-class performance from Grades 9 through 11, so they do not publicise average predicted grades and require them only on a case-by-case basis.

Predicting Grades

Both universities and the school appreciate the fact that predictions are estimates and cannot be 100% reliable (although experience shows a good correlation between our predictions and eventual outcomes). A temptation to 'inflate' such grades has led to poorer correlation for many schools, in turn undermining the credibility of their estimates. In common with other leading schools we do not collude in the practice of 'grade inflation'. Our policy follows the guidance of the UK Department for Education, whose spokesperson (reported in *The Independent*, 4th February 2016) said: "We trust teachers to act in the best interests of their students by giving fair predicted ... grades that accurately reflect their ability. Distorting grades would be unfair on the pupils involved and could result in universities having to artificially inflate their entrance requirements, rendering it pointless in the long run."

Our approach is based on the following principles:

- We have the students' best interests at heart. We wish to support their applications so that they make a successful transition to higher education.
- We draw on a wealth of professional judgement and experience. Teachers consider factors such as school reports, previous public examination performance; performance under test conditions in school; data drawn from tracking tests and termly assessments; classroom performance and engagement with the subject; comparative performance against the standards achieved by previous students on the course; any special factors which may have caused temporary under-performance.
- Heads of Department, in conjunction with the subject teachers, give predicted grades to the Diploma Coordinator and University Counselor which, based on the criteria above,



**THE INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF VIETNAM**

reflect a realistic optimistic assessment. That is, the prediction will indicate what the student might achieve, taking all factors into account, at the best in his or her range. Thus, a student who is working at IBDP 5 level but who demonstrates the clear potential to achieve an IBDP 6 will be given the benefit of an IBDP 6 prediction if an application of the criteria justify it. These predicted grades are shared by teachers with students individually so that students' university applications are made in light of these.

- We do not base predictions on what a student would like to achieve in order to get into a particular university or course. Nor do we predict on the basis of a student's promise to work harder in order to achieve it. This does the student no service, as university offers based on unrealistic grades are not likely to be met, and a university choice will have been wasted.
- On this basis, we are confident that the grades we predict are an honest assessment of the student's most likely achievement, based on evidence and professional judgement.

Please note that Pamoja-taught subjects follow the procedures set out by Pamoja Education.

After Predictions

Students are notified of their predicted grades by the University Counselor around the end of September of Grade 12. A student may appeal only to the Diploma Coordinator, not to an individual teacher, against a predicted grade: this must be done in writing within five days of receiving the prediction. However, appeals will be considered under the criteria above: a grade will not be altered simply because a student aspires to a higher grade or a particular course; nor because a student makes a commitment to improve. An appeal, to be successful, would have to show that the criteria used in making the prediction should reasonably have resulted in a higher predicted grade. If the grade is unchanged on appeal, the student may make a further appeal in writing to the Head of Secondary within three days of the original appeal decision. The Head of Secondary, along with the Headmaster, will review the case and give a final decision as soon as is practicably possible.

In the exceptional case that a student's prospects improve very significantly during the period following the submission of a university application, a further appeal in writing may be made to the Diploma Coordinator. This would need to be supported by substantive evidence of sustained and significant improvement. If a change in the predicted grade is warranted, the University Counselor will contact the student's chosen course providers to communicate this change.



**THE INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF VIETNAM**

Date of Policy: 1st August 2019

Next review: 1st August 2020

Created by: Colin BRADSHAW BASTIDA (Head of Secondary & IBDP Coordinator) & Alyssa PHOSRITHONG (University Counselor)

No. 6-7 Nguyen Cong Thai St., Dai Kim New Urban Area, Hoang Mai Dist., Hanoi

T (+84 4) 3540 9183 **F** facebook.com/ISVIETNAM

W www.isvietnam.edu.vn