



Admissions Policy



IB Learner Profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

As IB learners, we strive to be:

Inquirers

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

Knowledgeable

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

Thinkers

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

Communicators

We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

Principled

We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

Open-minded

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

Caring

We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

Risk-takers

We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

Balanced

We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

Reflective

We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities

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IB's Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organisation works with schools, governments and international organisations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

WAT's Mission Statement

The mission of the World Academy of Tirana (WAT) is to cultivate internationally-minded students who connect their acquired knowledge to action in the real world. Our goal is to inspire children to become active, compassionate, lifelong learners who can relate harmoniously with other people and cultures.

As an IB school, WAT's Vision, Mission and Values are closely aligned with the IB Learner Profile and provide a framework of values to which we aspire as a community. The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities

Admissions Policy

- WAT is an inclusive school and admits students irrespective of gender, religion and nationality.
- The school admits students with learning problems and physical handicaps on a case by case basis, depending on whether the school can accommodate their specific needs. Each student's safety, well-being and impact on the instructional program will be considered prior to a final decision.
- Parents of students with identified special needs must inform the school during the admissions process. Failure to inform the school adequately could result in the student's admission being revoked.
- The Head of School is ultimately responsible to determine the eligibility of individual applicants to enrol at WAT.

Admissions Procedures

Placement Criteria

Students should be 5 years old by September 1st of the school year in order to be enrolled in the Kindergarten programme.

The table below shows how the classes at WAT are organised compared to other national systems.

	Age	WAT	UK	USA
Primary	5 - 6	Kindergarten	Year 1	Kindergarten
	6 - 7	Grade 1	Year 2	Grade 1
	7 - 8	Grade 2	Year 3	Grade 2
	8 - 9	Grade 3	Year 4	Grade 3
	9 - 10	Grade 4	Year 5	Grade 4
	10 - 11	Grade 5	Year 6	Grade 5
Secondary	11 - 12	Grade 6	Year 7	Grade 6
	12 - 13	Grade 7	Year 8	Grade 7
	13 - 14	Grade 8	Year 9	Grade 8
	14 - 15	Grade 9	Year 10	Grade 9
	15 - 16	Grade 10	Year 11	Grade 10
	16 - 17	Grade 11	Year 12	Grade 11
	17 - 18	Grade 12	Year 13	Grade 12

Students can only be enrolled if the parents provide all documentation required, including the school reports for the past two years, officially translated into English if necessary. Reports must be complete and in the case of Gr 9 – 12, transcripts of all semesters must be included. For children who have not yet completed two years of schooling or for students who have attended a school that does not issue a report card, a confidential letter of recommendation completed by a teacher or Principal at the child's current school may be requested.

Students joining the secondary school must take an English Language Test in listening, writing, speaking and reading. The outcomes of this test do not affect admission to the school but they help the school determine the level of students and deliver a programme that suits their needs. The school provides English Language Support for students who need support in English.

It is preferable that the student visits the school to take the test but alternatively this test can be taken just before the students enter the school. Depending on the documentation provided, the school may decide to administer an additional Math Test and an interview on general scientific and humanities knowledge.

For admission to the Grades 9 - 12 the school needs to determine the degree of potential success for a student working in English language based classes.

Where there are more applicants than available places and all necessary conditions are met, admission shall be by date of application according to a waiting list.

Condition of Participation of school's own students

IB Diploma Programme

Students currently enrolled in our MYP5 programme who seek admission to the Diploma Programme will reach the following standard in their year ten school report:

- a total points score of at least 36/63 points overall from the 8 subject groups and the Personal Project combined;
- at least a 3/7 in each subject area;
- at least a 3/7 on the Personal Project;
- that the student has met WAT's expectations for Service as Action;
- minimum 80% attendance.

WAT Diploma

Once DP1 (Grade 11) has been completed, if a student's Final Report at the end of Grade 11 suggests that the Diploma is at risk, taking the WAT Diploma (rather than the full DP) might be considered. This will be communicated to relevant parents/guardians in a meeting/through email. This might be taken alongside some Diploma Certificates (course by course), alongside the Albanian Matura, or on its own. Advice will be given on a case by case basis.

For the WAT Diploma, students are required to study and complete the following:

- a minimum of 2 languages (e.g. Albanian Lit, English B)
- 1 Humanities subject (e.g. History, BAM, Economics)
- 1 Science
- 1 Mathematics
- 1 Arts (students should choose a second Science or Humanities subject if they are not choosing Visual Arts)

- All Subjects will be taken at SL
- IAs (internal assessments) will be completed but will not be externally moderated
- Take PHE
- Meet Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) requirements
- Write a 2,000 word Extended Essay (Internally Assessed)

In addition, the following additional requirements should be met:

- There is no grade 1 awarded in a subject
- There are no more than two grade 2s awarded
- There are no more than three grade 3s or below awarded

Students are not required to study Theory of Knowledge and attending classes in G12 is not a requirement.

DP Transfer Students

- A DP Student might transfer to our Diploma Programme after completing the first year of the Diploma Programme (DP1) at another institution.
- If a Transfer student arrives at WAT after the first year of the Diploma Programme from a non-IB school, they would only be offered the opportunity to take the WAT Diploma.

Application Process

There are six steps within the admissions procedure:

- Step 1:** Contact the Admissions Officer.
- Step 2:** Visit our school.
- Step 3:** Complete a Student Application Form.
- Step 4:** Submit documents to enable evaluation of student application.
- Step 5:** Take part in an interview and assessment.
- Step 6:** Receive notification of enrolment decision.

Step 1. Contact the Admissions Officer.

We encourage parents to contact us by email (info@wat.al) or phone (+355696056123) in order to make an appointment with the Admissions Officer to discuss entrance to WAT.

Step 2. Visit our school.

The best way to find out about our school is to visit us in person. At this point you will be taken on a tour of the campus and your questions will be answered by the Admissions Officer and Principal or Head of School. Parents who are unable to visit us in person are encouraged to view our website. Here you will find information about our programmes, facilities and school community. You can also view newsletters and see examples of student work.

Step 3. Complete a Student Application Form.

A separate enrolment form is required for each child.

Step 4. Submit documents to enable evaluation of student application.

In order to evaluate the application, we need to review all necessary documents. Evaluation of documents can usually be completed within one week. The Admissions Officer then contacts parents to make arrangements for interview and assessment.

Step 5. Take part in interview (and assessment for secondary students)

Our students come from different countries with varying educational systems. Student age, previous school reports and other relevant records and assessment enable us to determine an appropriate grade level. Secondary students need to participate in the assessments described above. We prefer both primary and secondary students to visit the school at the time of the interview.

Required Documents

The following forms and documents must be submitted before interview and assessment takes place (see Step 4 above).

Student application form, including summary of student's academic history.

Enrolment Agreement Form

Medical Questionnaire

2 photos of the child (3x4cm).

Copies of the passports of the child and both parents (Please include the current visa page; **originals must be shown at the time of interview and assessment**).

School reports for the past two years, officially translated into English if necessary.

Reports must be complete and in the case of High School students must include transcripts of all semesters completed.

For children who have not yet completed two years of schooling or for students who have attended a school that does not issue a report card, a confidential letter of recommendation completed by a teacher or Principal at the child's current school may be requested.

Psychological-educational evaluations if available.

Parents may also be requested to provide the contact details of a teacher / the principal at the previous school to allow us to obtain a reference from this school.