



**GESS**

*Ready*  
**FOR**  
**TOMORROW**

# HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMME



**International School  
of the Year 2023**

**SECONDARY**

**IB CURRICULUM**



## WELCOME TO GESS HIGH SCHOOL

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Where every learner can follow their own pathway to become a confident graduate, ready for the world.

GESS High School has guided learners from all around the world to become **confident** and **competent** graduates.

Our students leave school with an **impressive portfolio** of experiences, ready to join **top global** universities, build the careers they want, and **live with impact**.

And wherever they may go, they have the **support of a network** of international peers and friendships forged within a **tight-knit school community**.

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(Grades 11-12)





# IB-PROGRAMME

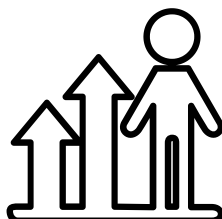
## SECONDARY SCHOOL

### CESS HIGH SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

#### Grades

**Lower High School**  
Grade 9-10

**Upper High School**  
Grade 11-12



#### Curriculum

International Baccalaureate (IB)  
Middle Years Programme in Lower  
High School



A choice between the International  
Baccalaureate Diploma Programme  
(DP) or the International  
Baccalaureate Careers Programme  
(CP) in Upper High School.



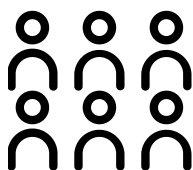
#### Class Size

Lower High School

Max **24**

Upper High School

Max **22**



Students

#### Language of Instruction

**English**



#### Languages

**English**

Main Language



Language  
Acquisition



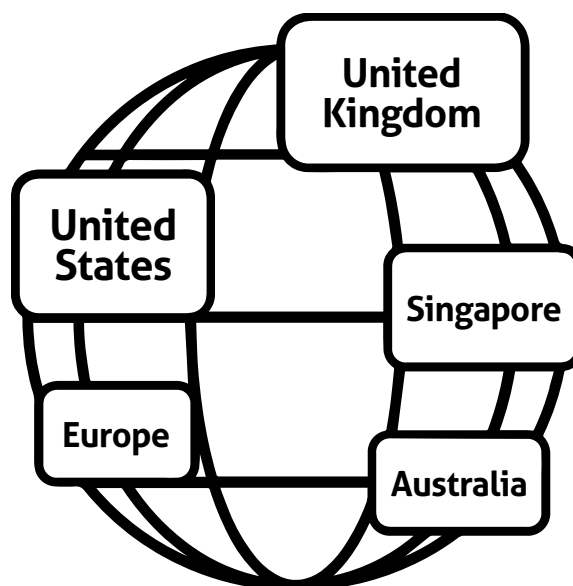
Mother  
Tongues



**Mandarin, Spanish,  
French, German**

**Over 7 languages  
available**

#### University Destinations of our Graduates



## WHY PARENTS AND STUDENTS CHOOSE THE GESS HIGH SCHOOL

**Our high school educators guide students to achieve their best while also being empathetic and supportive.**

We believe in helping students achieve individual academic excellence. Our educators mentor students towards academic growth and also prioritise caring for students' self-esteem, mental health, and emotional well-being.

**The school provides pathways for personal success.**

Our students can work towards their dream future by following the pathways that best fit their strengths, interests, and ambitions. We offer students more choices and opportunities than the average international school. There are 2 different pathways to graduation - the IB Diploma Programme or the IB Careers Programme - along with diverse subject choices, language offerings, and after-school programmes. Every student can design their unique educational pathway to success.

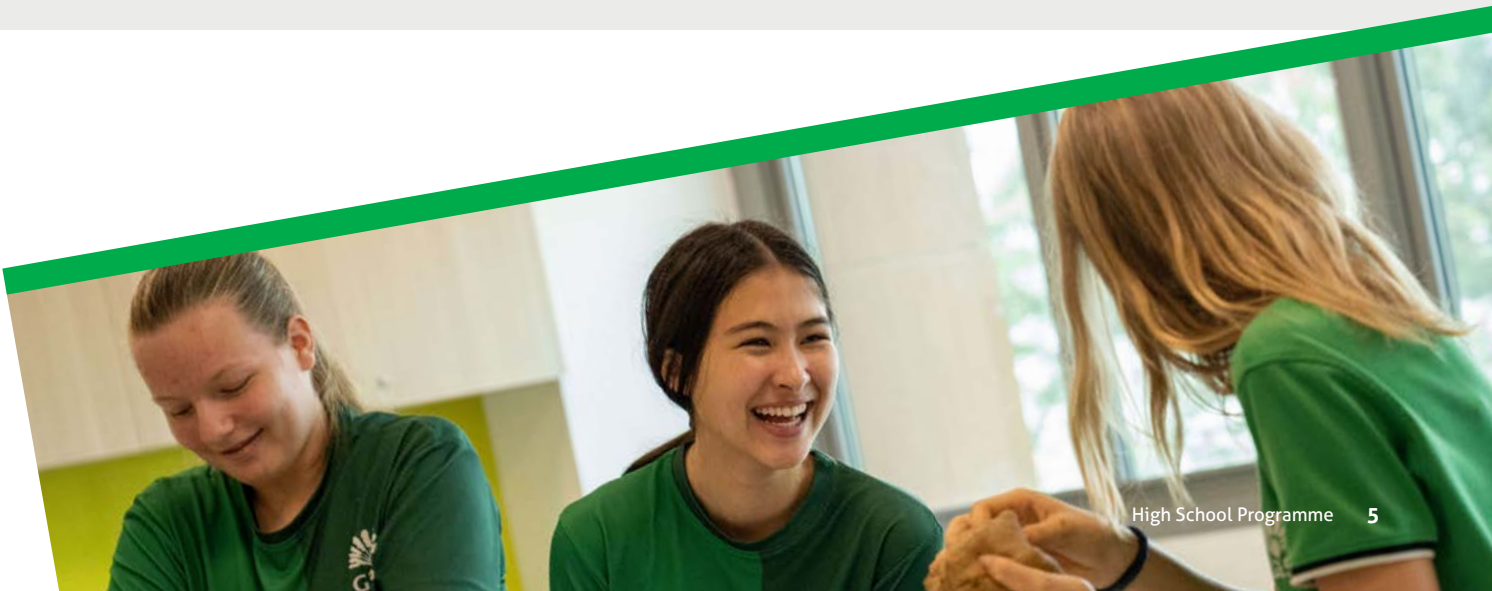
**A GESS education gives students a real-world advantage.**

We have a dedicated, award-winning BeyondClassrooms\* programme, delivered in partnership with leading global companies like BMW, Siemens, Evonik and more. Students get access to internships, industry expert talks, site and factory visits, and coaching from industry professionals.

Additionally, our university guidance and social education programmes help students plan for future careers in a structured manner. More than just academic excellence, we emphasise preparation for the real world.

**“** There's never been a dull moment during my time at the school, from work experience at the Singapore Committee for UN Women to community service in Cambodia and India... As someone who wants to pursue law, I feel that GESS has given me a big leg up for my future aspirations.”

**Kausar Hassan**  
GESS Graduate



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

## Our Students Get Admitted to Top Universities Worldwide.

GESS graduates leave school with a portfolio of experiences and achievements that open doors to their first-choice universities and desired fields of study.

Here are examples of universities our graduates attend:

### United Kingdom

- University College London
- King's College London
- University of Bath
- University of Durham

### United States

- New York University
- University of California, Los Angeles
- Boston University
- Parsons School of Design

### Singapore

- Nanyang Technological University
- LASALLE College of the Arts

### Europe

- Technical University of Munich
- INSEAD, University of Amsterdam
- ESSEC Business School

### Australia

- Monash University
- The University of Western Australia
- Griffith University

## GESS IB Diploma Results Exceed Global Average.

Our students consistently score above the global average. This is an achievement we are incredibly proud of as a non-selective high school where students of varying abilities get a fair chance to earn an IB Diploma.

## Students Learn from Highly Qualified and Experienced Educators.

GESS High School educators bring strong credentials, extensive experience teaching the IB curriculum in other top international schools, and a heart for helping students reach their personal best.



### Hear from GESS IB Programme Alumni

“Attending GESS for over 12 years opened me up to new cultures and challenges. I think that has been the most defining element of my journey. Without being open to new challenges, I would not be where I am today.

Also, previously I wouldn't have imagined myself saying this, but the constant reflections on our work done throughout our curriculum at GESS provided me with an instinct to later routinely reflect on all processes as an Area Manager and then an Operations Manager. Thorough reflections have been one of my keys to success, working with and training other Area Managers to become strong leaders at Amazon Logistics Germany.”

#### Sophie Deden

Associate Consultant at McKinsey & Company and  
formerly Operations Manager at Amazon Logistics Germany  
*Masters in International Business (University of Maastricht)*  
*Bachelors in Human Geography (University of Durham)*

# STUDENT SUPPORT & LEARNING

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## Prioritising Students' Wellbeing

We prepare students to step into the world with confidence, purpose, and a strong sense of self. We believe that true academic success is closely connected to emotional wellbeing. Our students benefit from personalised support, expert guidance, and a caring environment that helps them thrive.



### Professional Counselling

We have a team of professional counsellors on campus who bring years of experience in psychology and counselling to the GESS community. Our counsellors are also familiar with the unique challenges that international students face. Be it personal struggles, conflicts with peers, academic stress, or other anxieties, our counsellors offer a warm and safe space for students to openly share and seek help.



### School-Family Partnership

We believe in the importance of partnering closely with families to support students. By communicating consistently with families, we gain better insights into students as individuals, their background, and home experiences so our teachers can cater to that in school. Similarly, by keeping families updated about their children's school life and academic progress, we can ensure students get the right support at home for their learning.

## Personalised Support for Academic Growth

We recognise the path to academic growth looks different for every student, and we have different channels to maximise the personalised support students can receive on their individual journeys. We aim to address students' academic challenges promptly, pay attention to areas of improvement, and teach students to make use of their strengths.

### Homeroom Partnership (Grades 9 to 12)

Homeroom teachers conduct regular check-ins and one-to-one meetings with students. These sessions give every student a chance to discuss their academic challenges and other concerns with their teachers and get practical advice, encouragement, and support.

### Coaching and Mentoring Programme (Grades 9 to 12)

This programme gives structure to students' long-term academic and personal goals. Students learn how to plan better, take manageable steps towards their goals, and monitor their progress over time. Eventually, students are able to take ownership over their learning and handle projects, assignments, and exams with preparation and confidence to achieve better outcomes.

### After School Subject Support (Grades 11 and 12)

We offer tutoring sessions twice a week for English, mathematics and science subject groups to provide an extra avenue for students to clarify doubts, reinforce understanding of concepts, and work on weaker areas.

### Study Hall Sessions (Grades 11 and 12)

Free periods in the day are converted to study hall sessions where students can focus on assignments, project work, and revision under teacher supervision.



# LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



To make learning an engaging and multi-dimensional experience with relevance to the real world, we bring lessons outside of the traditional classroom and into many other contexts.

## BeyondClassrooms Programme

Our award-winning BeyondClassrooms programme gives students a rare glimpse into the workings of today's top industries, global companies, and organisations. It shows students the power of their knowledge and how it can be a starting point to achieve practical, impactful outcomes in the real world. Students get a perspective of the exciting education and career pathways ahead of them and can make better decisions about their future.

### The many initiatives in the BeyondClassrooms Programme:

- Internships with leading global companies
- Industry expert talks
- Site and factory visits
- Career counselling and guidance from professionals
- Mentorship with industry leaders
- Opportunities to collaborate on projects

### We work with remarkable partners such as:

- **BMW** – manufacturer of luxury vehicles and motorcycles
- **Alba Berlin** – a professional basketball club based in Berlin
- **Evonik** – a speciality chemicals company
- **Danfoss** – engineering and sustainable innovation company
- **Invitrocue** – a bio-analytics solutions provider

and more...





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## Work Experience

Our Careers Experience Programme equips students with real-world skills and confidence, giving them a competitive edge for their future.

### Grade 9: Laying the Foundation

Students explore career options, write CVs, and practice interviews, building essential professional skills and preparing for future opportunities.

### Grade 10: Real-World Learning

The programme begins with a mini business unit and project, followed by a two-week work experience placement tailored to each student's professional interests. Guided by our careers team, students gain valuable insights, practical skills, and industry connections.

### A Competitive Advantage

This program inspires career aspirations, builds adaptability, and enhances confidence, setting students apart for internships, university, or the workforce.

At GESS, we empower students to thrive in their future endeavours.

## Service Learning and Sustainability

Our fully developed Service Learning and Sustainability programme teaches students to become active changemakers who use their skills and abilities to meet community and environmental needs. Students are encouraged to be responsible citizens who pay attention to the local and wider community as well as the environment and think about how they can create impact through service.

We have dedicated Service Learning and Sustainability coordinators who identify and create a range of service opportunities so that every student can find an area where they feel confident in contributing meaningfully. Students are also invited to participate in initiatives independently outside of the academic programme.

GESS is accredited by The Alliance for Sustainable Schools in recognition of our efforts to educate students about the importance of sustainability.

Here are examples of Service Learning and Sustainability initiatives at GESS:

- Mangrove planting
- Beach cleanup
- Commemorating World Mental Health Day, Peace Day, Earth Day etc.
- Giving Tree - donation drive for Christmas
- Love in a Bouquet - engagement with individuals from TOUCH Centre for Independent Living
- Volunteering to organise festive celebrations for the community





# LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

## School Trips and Enrichment Activities

Our school trips and enrichment activities challenge students to step out of their comfort zones and participate in experiences that foster character growth, promote intercultural understanding and encourage meaningful engagement with diverse communities, and the environment. These experiences provide additional physical and mental stimulation outside of academics.

Past school trips and enrichment activities have included:

- Bintan Outbound Activities Trip
- Tioman Island Watersports Trip
- Theatre Project in Malaysia
- Social Project in India and Cambodia
- Language Trips





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## After-School Programmes

There are over 100 after-school programmes across sports, leadership and global citizenship, performing arts, creative arts, and STEM. This range of programmes reflects the school's diversity of talents and ideas.

Here are examples of our popular after-school programmes:

- **Competitive team sports** whereby students participate in inter-school, regional, and international leagues and tournaments. Notable sports include football, basketball, and volleyball.
- **A world-class swim programme** with exceptional personalised coaching for competitive swimmers.
- **Vocal and Instrumental Programme** for students to learn from Singapore's finest professional musicians in a one-to-one setting.
- **Model United Nations**, where students roleplay as delegates in simulated local and international UN conferences and learn more about global diplomacy and foreign affairs.





# UNIVERSITY AND CAREER GUIDANCE

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## University and Career Guidance Counsellors

The university and career guidance counsellors play an important role in helping students make informed decisions about their future. Career guidance starts in grade 9 and continues till students graduate in grade 12.

Our counsellors organise career information exchanges, host university fairs, and engage external trainers to teach students important skills such as effective interview techniques. For students unsure about what to do after GESS, the counsellors serve as reliable guides, helping students to concretise their education and career goals based on strengths and interests.

Additionally, the team helps students prepare compelling university applications and prepare for admissions interviews to ensure they get into their first-choice universities.

## Career Pathways and Support by Grade

### University and Career Guidance at a Glance:

#### Grades 9 and 10 - Career Pathways Programme

Students are taught about the types of career pathways available and how to pursue their dream careers. They are introduced to CV writing and internships, with grade 10 students participating in a 2-week work experience programme where they get first-hand exposure to the working world.

#### Grade 11

Weekly lessons guide students through selecting universities, choosing suitable undergraduate degree courses, and preparing for university applications. Topics covered include university application processes, writing personal statements, and preparing for admissions interviews.

#### Grade 12

Weekly lessons focusing on preparing students for life after school. Students explore what it means to live and study independently at university and learn the essential life skills they need to thrive. They also learn about building impressive career profiles, including landing the right internships, networking, and using LinkedIn effectively.



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## Personalised Education

As part of our commitment to high-quality teaching and learning, students in grades 9 and 10 receive additional tuition and mentoring embedded into the school day. This individualised attention improves learning outcomes and ensures our students thrive in high school.

- Learning to Learn: Study Skills
- Personal Project Guidance
- Work Experience Preparation
- Careers and University Guidance
- One-on-One Tutorials

“ In her last two years, my oldest daughter was feeling very lost about what to do after GESS. Her university guidance counsellor was very keen on supporting her through this journey. He guided her to better understand her talents and passions, reassuring her that she did not have to do what everyone else was doing but could figure out her own path.”

**Angelina Tan**  
Parent of GESS Graduate







## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW



# INTRODUCTION TO GESS LOWER HIGH SCHOOL

## Grades 9 and 10

### Curriculum: IB Middle Years Programme (MYP)

Lower High School is designed to support students as they transition from Middle School to the rigorous demands of the IB Diploma or IB Careers Programme. We focus on developing the academic skills and personal qualities needed for success in high school and beyond, including critical thinking, time management, and self-directed learning. By strengthening students' academic foundations and offering personalised guidance, we prepare students to excel in the high school pathway qualifications and confidently pursue their university aspirations.

Our educators mentor students to help them improve academic skills such as exam preparation, research techniques, essay writing, and presentation strategies necessary for success in the IB Diploma/IB Careers programme.

In the Lower High School years, students take part in specialist programmes including creative and performing arts, STEM, community service, and sports. Students choose from a range of specialist programmes and options based on their personal interests and career pathway.





## LOWER HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

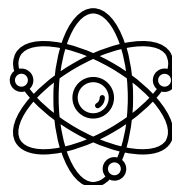
In lower high school, we follow the IB Middle Years Programme. And as part of that, students study the following subjects.



**ENGLISH**  
3 hours per week

The English programme supports and challenges students at their level of proficiency.

- **English Language and Literature course**  
Course for learners at native or advanced level of English language proficiency.



**SCIENCES**  
5 hours per week

Students study a comprehensive, in-depth science programme incorporating all three sciences.



**DESIGN TECHNOLOGY**  
2 hours per week

Students learn to work through the design cycle to investigate, design, create, and evaluate products.



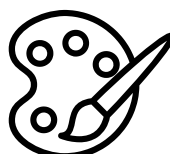
**MATHEMATICS**  
3.5 hours per week

Students are placed in streamed mathematics groups based on individual ability.



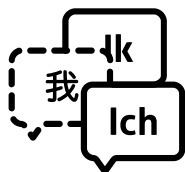
**PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION**  
1 hour per week

Creative movement, ball sports, athletics, and swimming.



**SPECIALIST ARTS PROGRAMME**  
2 hours per week

Students choose to specialise in 1 of 3 arts: music, theatre, or visual arts.



## LANGUAGES or ETHICS

3 hours per week,  
per subject



Students study at least one other language in addition to English.

- **Language acquisition courses**  
German, French, Spanish or Mandarin
- **Mother tongue courses**  
German, Dutch, Danish, Mandarin\*, Swedish\*, French\*, Spanish\*, others#

**Ethics** is a branch of philosophy that teaches students to examine concepts such as right and wrong, good and evil, justice and virtue in relation to human behaviour and decision-making.

*\*Students can now choose this subject in place of a third language.*

*\*Additional fees may apply.*

*#Check with the Admissions Team about which other language options might be available*



## INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES

3 hours per week

This is a humanities and social science subject group that focuses on the exploration of human societies, cultures and their interactions with the global environment.

- Geography
- History
- Economics
- Business Studies



## MYP CORE

In addition to the curriculum subjects, Grade 9 and 10 students are required to complete the MYP Core elements.

### Service as Action

Lower high school students participate in 3 Service as Action activities every year, including 1 independent project.

Service as Action teaches students to apply their knowledge and skills to contribute to society and the environment.

Students examine current global and local issues and choose to respond to these through action. In the process, they also develop new skills such as planning, executing, and working collaboratively.

### Personal Project

Grade 10 students explore a topic they are interested in and create a project around it.

The project is largely self-directed, but students are paired with a mentor who provides consistent guidance along the way.

Students learn to take ownership over their learning, create project plans, find resources, solve challenges along the way, and make critical decisions.



# OVERVIEW OF GESS UPPER HIGH SCHOOL

## Grades 11 and 12

### Curriculum: IB Diploma Programme (DP) or IB Career Programme (CP)

In Upper High School, our dedicated team of experts works closely with each student to ensure they graduate as confident, well-prepared individuals ready to take their next steps in life. Our team of experienced educators, career advisors, and mentors provide personalised support, guidance, and mentorship tailored to each student's goals and aspirations.

Whether students are aiming for university, entrepreneurship, or a professional career, we focus on equipping them with the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to succeed. By fostering strong relationships and understanding each student's unique potential, our team helps every graduate navigate their chosen high school pathway with clarity and purpose.

To give GESS IB Diploma Programme/Career Programme students the best chance at success, we offer more study hours for IB subjects than many other IB schools.

IB Recommended Study Hours	Study Hours at GESS
150 hours for Standard Level Courses	200 hours for Standard Level Courses (33% more)
240 hours for Higher Level Courses	300 hours for Higher Level Courses (25% more)

### Pathways Available: IB Diploma vs. IB Careers Programme

Both pathways are internationally recognised and accredited by IB. The IB Diploma Programme is a rigorous academic programme with a global perspective. The comprehensive curriculum covering a broad range of subjects prepares students for higher education worldwide.

The IB Careers Programme provides a more holistic approach, integrating academics and practical career-related skills. It is a specialised programme where students learn to apply their knowledge to real-world career scenarios. After graduation, students in the IB Careers Programme can enter university or progress to a career.





## IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

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The IB Diploma Programme is primarily an academic-focused programme that has a rigorous curriculum and gives students both breadth and depth of knowledge. It prepares students for university studies by refining their critical thinking, research, and independent inquiry skills.

At GESS, IB Diploma students have the added advantage of many subject and language choices. This makes it possible for them to design the right subject combinations they need to pursue their dream university majors and career specialisations in future.

There are 2 components to the IB Diploma Programme:

1. Diploma Programme Curriculum
2. IB Diploma Core

# IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

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## 1. Diploma Programme Curriculum

Students are required to study 6 subjects from different subject groups. The variety of subject groups ensures breadth of knowledge.

Students must take at least 3 subjects at Higher Level and the rest at Standard Level. Higher Level subjects are more challenging in scope and deepen students' understanding and expertise. Over the 2 years, students receive 300 hours of instruction for Higher Level subjects and 200 hours of instruction for Standard Level subjects. The hours of instruction at GESS are higher than IB requirements and most international schools to allow students extra time to engage with the material at a pace suitable for them.

Our educators and university guidance counsellors are available to advise students on their subject combinations based on their interests and future university and career goals.



### LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

- English Language & Literature
- Danish Literature
- Dutch Language & Literature
- German Language & Literature
- Student Self Taught Literature SL



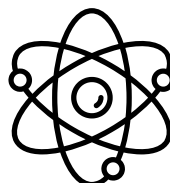
### LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

- English B HL
- French Ab initio SL
- Spanish Ab initio SL
- French B
- German B
- Mandarin B
- Spanish B



### HUMANITIES

- Business Management
- Economics
- Geography
- History
- Psychology



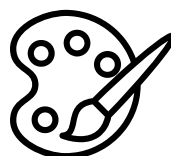
### SCIENCE

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Design Technology
- Computer Science SL
- Environmental Systems and Societies SL
- Sports, Exercise, and Health Science



### MATHEMATICS

- Mathematics Applications & Interpretations SL
- Mathematics Analysis & Approaches SL
- Mathematics Analysis & Approaches HL



### ARTS\*

- Visual Art
- Theatre Studies
- Music

*\*There is the option to replace Arts with another subject from the Science, Individuals and Societies, or Languages category.*



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## 2. IB Diploma Core

### Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS)

Creativity, Activity and Service is a required core component of the Diploma Programme. Each student is required to select activities, such as sports, arts or academic enrichment clubs, that demonstrate personal growth and experiential learning. Participation and reflection are equally important and students are expected to evidence their participation and achievements. Students must plan their own program which is a balance of creativity, activity and service which meets a number of defined learning outcomes.

### The Extended Essay (EE)

The essay requirement acquaints Diploma candidates with the kind of independent research and writing skills expected by universities. The essay encourages the students to add depth to their programme of study, for example, by selecting a topic from one of the higher level courses.

### Theory of Knowledge (TOK)

This is an interdisciplinary requirement intended to stimulate critical reflection on the knowledge and experience gained inside and outside the classroom. The course challenges students to question the bases of knowledge, to be aware of subjective and ideological biases, and to develop the ability to analyse evidence that is expressed in rational arguments. It is a key element in encouraging them to appreciate other cultural perspectives.





## IB CAREERS PROGRAMME

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For students who wish for a more career-focused study in a specialised field, the IB Careers Programme is a great choice. It balances academic study with experiential, career-related learning. Students gain high-level knowledge in their area of specialisation, get hands-on project experience, and develop personal and professional skills that make them ready for the 21st-century working world.

At GESS, “Business and Sustainability” is the specialised pathway offered for IB Careers Programme. Given predictions that by 2030 there will be 24 million jobs in the green economy, this pathway gives students a highly desirable skillset and expertise for the future job market.

There are 3 components to the IB Careers Programme:

1. Career-Related Studies
2. Diploma Programme Courses
3. IB Careers Programme Core

## 1. Career-Related Studies

Students pursue career-related studies focusing on business and sustainability management at the Sustainability Management School Switzerland (SUMAS).

SUMAS professors and tutors deliver the courses online. GESS students will study in a global classroom, connecting with peers from all around the world.

Examples of mandatory courses students will study:



Fundamentals of sustainability  
Leadership  
Sustainable innovation

Examples of specialist courses students can choose:

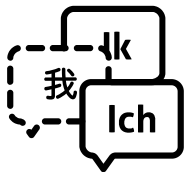


Sustainable fashion  
Sustainable finance and digitalisation  
Nature conservation

...and more

There will be opportunities to put knowledge into application through a Sustainability Leadership Camp/Experience and an Integrative Project Experience.

## 2. Diploma Programme Courses



Students are required to study 4 diploma programme subjects at standard level or higher level. Mathematics and language are mandatory subject groups. Students can choose the other 2 subjects from any IB subject group based on interest, ability, and desired career pathways.

Available subject groups are the same as for IBDP.

## 3. Careers Programme Core

The CP Core emphasises more experiential and reflections-based learning. The components within CP Core are (a) Personal and Professional Skills, (b) Service Learning, (c) Reflective Project and (d) Language Development.

Students develop personal and professional skills they need to succeed in future careers and work contexts. They learn to design and implement research-based projects and communicate their discoveries in writing and presentation. And students improve their language abilities to be effectively bilingual or multilingual.

Pathways for Graduates:

- Fast-track into the Sustainability Management School Switzerland's bachelor's degree programme.
- Enrol in other leading global universities.
- Start internships, apprenticeships, and full-time career positions fully equipped with skills necessary to succeed in the 21st-century workplace.

Career Prospects Available for Business and Sustainability Specialisation:

- Sustainability Consultant
- Corporate Social Responsibility Manager
- Sustainability Analyst
- Sustainable Product Developer
- Financial Advisor for Sustainability Projects

...and more



For enquiries call the Admissions Hotline  
+65 6461 0881 or fill in our  
online enquiry form via [gess.edu.sg](https://gess.edu.sg)

Connect with us:    



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