

RESEARCH NEWS DIGEST

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New studies explore IB students' preparedness for success in the 21st century

Throughout the past few years, the International Baccalaureate (IB) has increased research efforts to better understand the impact of IB programmes, inform the global conversation on student success and continually contribute to the improvement of education.

The following summary of research findings reflects how the IB helps prepare students for continuing education, civic engagement and career readiness:

IB graduates are more likely to persist through college:

A new research [study](#) conducted by Dr. David Conley and a team of researchers from the Education Policy Improvement Center (EPIC) found that IB graduates in the University of Oregon's Honors College were more likely to stay in college and persist in their studies than their non-IB peers. The researchers found that IB students were able to better cope with demanding workloads, manage their time and meet expectations.

IB students are prepared for college-level coursework:

A series of research studies from [McGill University](#), [University of Warwick](#), and the [University of Virginia](#) (UVA) found that the DP extended essay prepares IB graduates to be successful in higher education research. The UVA study found that, when compared with former Advanced Placement (AP) students, IB students were significantly more likely to indicate that they felt prepared for college-level coursework involving research and found their research skills to be important to future success.

IB students demonstrate civic knowledge and skills:

A [study](#) conducted by Anna Rosefsky Saavedra of the RAND Corporation found that DP students demonstrate academic civic-mindedness. For the purpose of the study, "academic civic-mindedness" was defined as

student knowledge of the US government, public policy and effective advocacy techniques.

IB students graduate with a sense of civic responsibility: [RMC Research](#) found that IB students believe that they should engage in service activities to help the community.

IB students demonstrate strong critical thinking skills:

[Research](#) conducted by the University of Western Sydney suggests that Diploma Programme students are more confident in their ability to use critical thinking skills than their non-IB peers, and that DP students envision their future educational success more positively.

IB primary students demonstrate superior science literacy:

[Research](#) conducted by Deakin University of Australia found that Australian students participating in the IB's Primary Years Programme achieve particularly well in science literacy based on Australia's national assessment program.

The IB prepares students from around the world to attend top universities:

Researchers from the [University of Hong Kong](#) found that a majority of students who graduated from IB programmes in China between 2002 and 2012 attended one of the world's top 500 universities.

For more information about these study or any other research materials, please contact research@ibo.org.

Full reports of all Programme impact research are available online.