VASA ÖVNINGSSKOLAS
GYMNASIUM

IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

Information booklet
2016 – 2017
## ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of school:</th>
<th>Vasa övningsskola, gymnasiet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td>Skolhusgatan 31, 65100 Vasa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School web site:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.abo.fi/vos/ib">www.abo.fi/vos/ib</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Switchboard:</td>
<td>06-324 7111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal:</td>
<td>Ulla Granfors 324 7610 050-3716051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-Principal:</td>
<td>Diane-Christine Blusi 324 7676 050-3151041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative officer:</td>
<td>Lena Engsbo 324 7612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careers counsellor:</td>
<td>Anne Ahlbom 046-9224368 Pia Lustig 324 7614 050-5512280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Arts:</td>
<td>Culturum 324 7625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinator, Programme for Visual Arts and Music:</td>
<td>Diane-Christine Blusi 324 7676 050-3151041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music studio:</td>
<td>324 7623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical education:</td>
<td>324 7621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IB Coordinator:</td>
<td>Henrik Lindgrén 324 7617 050-9186470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IB office/ Library:</td>
<td>Sabina Salmi 324 7678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS Coordinators</td>
<td>Anna-Lena Keski-Nisula 324 7634 Margita Nyman 324 7632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School nurse:</td>
<td>Gunilla Gref 325 2199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychologist:</td>
<td>Gundel Niemi 324 7605 050-5514531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School counselor:</td>
<td>Åsa Carlsson 0500-968466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custodian:</td>
<td>Patrik Backholm 324 7619 050-5910119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer responsible:</td>
<td>Tarja Grahn-Björkqvist 324 7358 046-9206099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special needs teacher</td>
<td>Anne Uppgård 050-5950412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen:</td>
<td>Fazer Amica Oy 040-4811266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student council board:</td>
<td>324 7611</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Workroom**

Mathematics/Physics/ Chemistry 324 7241
Mathematics 324 7680
Economics 324 7676
Chemistry 324 7679
Finnish/English/French/German 324 7676
Biology 324 7632
History 324 7631
Psychology/Philosophy 324 7633
Swedish/IB Finnish/IB English 324 7634
THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2016 – 2017

Spring term: 09.01 – 03.06.2017

HOLIDAYS

Christmas break: 23.12.2016 – 08.01.2017
Winter break: 25.02 – 05.03.2017
Easter: 13.04 – 17.04.2017
Ascension Day break: Thu 25.05.2017

The School year starts Tuesday 15.08.2016 at 9:00

Saturday 17.12.2016 is a school day (Christmas celebration)

The last day of school for the third-graders in the national system is Thursday 16.02.2017

The last day of school for the IB final-year students is Friday 31.03.2017

The Final Exams in the IB: 01.05 – 19.05.2017 (including 01.05).

Saturday 03.06.2017 is a school day (End-of-year celebration)

The Academic year 2016-17 is divided into 5 modules:

Module 1: 15.08 04.10 37
Module 2: 05.10 01.12 37
Module 3: 02.12 07.02 37
Module 4: 08.02 06.04 37
Module 5: 07.04 03.06 39

Total: 187 days
LESSON TIMES

Block 1 08.15 – 09.30
Block 2 09.45 – 11.00
Block 3a 11.45 – 13.00
  for those eating in the first lunch seating 11.00 – 11.45
Block 3b 11.10 – 13.00
  for those eating in the second lunch seating 11.40 – 12.15
Block 4 13.15 – 14.30
Block 5 14.45 – 16.00

FORM TUTORS 2016 – 2017

IA  Johanna Bonäs  johanna.bonas@abo.fi
IB  Jockum von Wright  jwright@abo.fi
ICB  Lisette Smedlund  lisette.smedlund@abo.fi
ICM  Diane-Christine Blusi  diane-christine.blusi@abo.fi
ID  Niklas Palmberg  niklas.palmberg@abo.fi
IIA  Ann-Louise Holmgren  ann-louise.holmgren@abo.fi
IIB  Margita Nyman  margita.nyman@abo.fi
IICB  Frida Crotts  frida.crotts@abo.fi
IICM  Anna-Lena Keski-Nisula  anna-lena.keski-nisula.fi
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IIIA  Stefan Röj  stefan.roj@abo.fi
IIIB  Joachim Hofman  joachim.hofman@abo.fi
IIICB  Moja Ladvelin  mladvelin@abo.fi
IIICM  Michael Frank  michael.frank@abo.fi
IIID  Tina Liljeblad  tina.liljeblad@abo.fi
IVA  Moja Ladvelin  mladvelin@abo.fi
# CONTACT INFORMATION—PRE-DP AND IB TEACHERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Subject(s)</th>
<th>Email address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ahlbom Anne</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:anne.ahlbom@abo.fi">anne.ahlbom@abo.fi</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Fransén Anders</td>
<td>CAS Coordinator, Economics (Pre-DP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Granfors Ulla</td>
<td>Headmaster</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
DYSLEXIA

How possible cases of dyslexia are detected:

- The school psychologist informs the first graders about testing possibilities
- All first graders are tested at the beginning of the school year
- An information letter with the results, together with an offer for extended testing, is sent to the student and parents. The parents and student apply for extended testing and give their permission to the school to inform the teachers.
- The school psychologist tests the students who want an extended test
- The school psychologist and remedial teacher give the results orally to the student and his/her parents

STUDENT COUNCIL

All students of Vasa övningsskola belong to the Student Council. The students elect members to the board. The tasks of the board are to see to the rights of the students, to arrange student activities, etc.

INTERNAL TV

There are several TVs throughout the school. This system is used to post announcements and information relating to events happening at the school. Get in the habit of reading the announcements regularly to keep up-to-date on important information.

FORM TUTOR MEETINGS

At least once per module, you will meet with your form tutor. The dates for these meetings can be found on the school calendar (Händelsekalender — it is available on the school’s home page). Attendance is obligatory. They usually take place on Wednesdays during block 5. These meetings are used to distribute information to students (e.g. schedules and test week schedules), but they can also be used for guest lectures, group discussions, or other activities.

LIBRARY

The school library is located on the third floor of the ‘old building.’ It serves many purposes for the students, teachers, and staff of VÖS.

Borrowing books: You are allowed to borrow all fiction literature (skönlitteratur, kaunokirjallisuus) found in the library. Reference literature is for use in the library only.

When you borrow a book, use your city of Vaasa library card.
If you need to keep the book for a longer time, please check with the librarian.
Returning books: Returned books should be placed on the trolley marked ‘Returned books’ (by the librarian’s desk). DO NOT PUT THE BOOK(S) DIRECTLY ONTO THE SHELVES! If you are returning a class text (e.g. a novel that you have read for one of your courses), it is enough if you put the book on the trolley. Your name will then be crossed off the sign-up list.

Other features: There are several computers located in the library. They can be used as an additional resource when conducting research. There are large tables which are very suitable for group work, doing research, reading newspapers, etc. As well, there are several board games (e.g. chess) which you can play freely during skip lessons.

Remember to return any reading material (e.g. newspapers and magazines) to the shelves when you leave the library, and to respect others in the library by being quiet and not using your mobile telephone.

HEALTH CARE

The health care at Vasa övningsskola is organised within the Health Care Centre of the city of Vaasa. Students can visit the School Nurse:
8 - 16.00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
8 - 14.00 Friday
Residents of the city of Vaasa are invited to a dental check-up during their second year (IB1). In cases of emergency students from other municipalities can also contact the dental care at the Health Care Centre of the city of Vaasa.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

The School Counselor Åsa Carlsson has office hours on Mondays, Wednesdays and possibly Fridays. You can turn to her when you need to discuss issues concerning your schoolwork or your life situation in general with

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

The School Psychologist Gundel Niemi has office hours on Mondays, Tuesdays and (odd-numbered weeks) Wednesdays, phone hours 8.00 - 9.00. You can turn to her when you need to discuss issues concerning your schoolwork or your life situation in general with someone who is not directly involved.

IB SUPPORT ASSOCIATION

There is a separate Support Association for the IB Section at Vasa övningsskola. It supports the IB Programme at the school, both financially and morally. Currently, Eiric Timmerbacka is Chairperson, Mariann-Karlsson-Pasto is Secretary and Jockum von Wright is Treasurer.
THE IB SECTION AT VASA ÖVNINGSSKOLA

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The rule regarding compulsory attendance applies to students in the IB Section just as for the rest of the school. The same rules that apply in working life are also used in the school context: you are required to be present and punctual.

In the case of absence you must contact the IB or school office, your form tutor, or the Headmaster. You must also inform teachers about the reason for your absence. Absences are registered in the Wilma database and the reason for the absence must always be verified by your guardian or with a written certificate.

Valid excuses for absence are illness or having to represent the school. You can get permission to be absent for other reasons than the above mentioned. This however requires that you hand in a written application before the absence:

- 1 lesson: Permission from the subject teacher
- 1 - 2 days absence: Permission from your form tutor
- Longer absence: Permission from the headmaster

You are required to make up any work you have missed during your absence. Teachers may also ask you to complete extra assignments to compensate for missed lessons. Absence without a valid reason may lead to you not being allowed to write the end-of-term test. In extreme cases, the School can refuse to register you for the Final Exams.

NOTE: Driving lessons must not be scheduled during normal school hours. The only exceptions are practice lessons on the skid-pan (halkbana, liukurata) and driver’s tests.

TESTS

Students in the IB section have test weeks once each term (4 in total). The tests in the last spring term are called the Mock Exams and are made to resemble the Final Exams as much as possible. The Final Exams are in May and the final results come in July.

BEING ABSENT FROM A TEST

If you are absent from a test without a valid cause, you will be left unassessed and your guardians will be contacted.

If your absence from a course test is due to illness you have to verify this with a written certificate from your guardian, a nurse or a doctor. Then you can retake the test as agreed upon with your teacher.
LEAVING AN ONGOING COURSE

In exceptional cases, you can be allowed to leave an ongoing course, change courses/subjects, or change subject levels (HL/SL) after discussions with the IB Coordinator and the subject teacher(s). However, the Diploma requirements must still be fulfilled. You must also complete the form ‘Request to change courses’, including a clear motivation for your change. The form has to be signed by your guardian.

DEADLINES

- Both official internal deadlines (for IA, EE, TOK Essay, and other externally assessed or moderated work) and deadlines within each subject (course assignments, tests, and presentations) must be met
- Deadlines can be found on the IB Internal Calendar
- If you cannot meet a set deadline, you must contact the teacher in question BEFORE the deadline
- If you do not do so, the teacher has the right to not accept work and/or leave it unassessed
- This includes class assignments (written and oral), internal deadlines (IA, EE)

COURSE EVALUATION

Each subject is assessed, but the evaluation varies somewhat from subject to subject and is based on the IB requirements in the subject. Your teachers will inform you in detail regarding assessment in their subjects.

In the IB, a scale of 1 – 7 is used in assessment. The correspondence between the IB and the national grades is:

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<tr>
<th>IB grade</th>
<th>National grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mediocre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Very poor</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IB grade</th>
<th>National grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 – 9</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 – 6</td>
<td>Good</td>
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<td>7 – 5</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Mediocre</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Very poor</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The grading of the Extended Essay and the final grade for Theory of Knowledge is

A = Excellent
B = Good
C = Satisfactory
D = Mediocre
E = Elementary
Your IB studies are divided into 4 terms (Autumn and Spring in IB1 and IB2), and you will be assessed on your performance during each term. The average of the term grades will determine the final grade on your school-leaving certificate.

**MINIMUMS FOR CONTINUING**

The key difference between the IB system and the Finnish national system is the notion of continuity. The IB programme is set up so that you have a continuous course of study, even though your schedule changes with each module.

For this reason, it is important to have ‘checkpoints’ to make sure that each student has reached a minimum standard to continue in the program.

**The general requirement for continuing from IB1 to IB2 are**
- a minimum total of 24 points (in 6 subjects)
- a first draft of EE must be handed in to the supervisor
- the World Literature Assignment must be handed in
- the CAS diary must be handed in to CAS Coordinator

Students in danger of not meeting these requirements will be informed in good time so that they can try to raise their grades before the end of the spring term.

Cases will be dealt with on an individual basis, but possible consequences of not meeting the minimum requirements are (the decision will also take into consideration attendance, participation in lessons, health, etc.):
- Make-up/additional assignments will be given to raise grades
- Retake tests

**DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS**

The total number of points in the Final Exams is sum of all grades (6 subjects, maximum grade 7, giving 42 points). Any seventh subject is extra and counted separately. TOK and EE can together give a maximum of 3 points, so the **total maximum number of points is 45**. To receive an IB Diploma, the following minimum requirements must be met:
**All students:**

- **All assessment components** for each subject and TOK, CAS, EE completed
- No malpractice
- Numeric grades in all six subjects, grades A – D for TOK and EE
- No grade 1
- No more than two grades 2 (HL or SL)
- No more than three grades 3 or below (HL or SL)
- At least 24 points gained in total
- At least 12 points gained on HL subjects (if four HL subjects then the 3 highest count)
- At least 9 points gained on SL subjects (if two SL: 5)

**FINNISH MATRICULATION EXAMINATION**

Some IB students may wish to take part in one or more exams in the Finnish matriculation exam. The IB Diploma is well recognized in Finnish post-secondary institutions, and so this option is really intended only for extra subjects. These are typically the 2nd national language (Finnish/Swedish) or an extra language (German or French).

In general, students who have Swedish as their mother tongue write their exams at Vasa övningsskola, and those having Finnish as mother tongue at Vaasan lyseeon lukio. More information is available from the schools’ offices and student counsellors or from [http://www.ylioppilastutkinto.fi](http://www.ylioppilastutkinto.fi).

**SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE**

Your school leaving certificate (avgångsbetyg, päätö todistus) consists of two pages. On one, you have the averages of the course grades (one average for each subject) you have obtained in the Pre-DP. The other contains the final school leaving grades for your IB subjects (the average of your term grades during the two IB years). You get this certificate on the last day of school.

After you receive the results from the Final Exams (in July), you get your IB Diploma (at the Diploma Ceremony, held at the end of August or the beginning of September), showing the grades you have obtained in the Final Exams.