

ZIS Diploma Programme Admissions policy

Our Mission and Philosophy

At ZIS we strive to develop dynamic and principled global citizens who have the skills and attitudes to enable them to become compassionate life-long learners who will contribute positively to the future of our world.

The Zhuhai International School (ZIS) has been educating young people from across the globe in a caring and inspirational environment since 2007. Working with students from the age of 3 to 18, we have around 30 different nationalities exploring challenging aspects of the world around us and experiencing the joys and rewards of inquiry-based concept learning.

As an IB World School, ZIS is uniquely placed to promote new perspectives and broaden the minds of the children in our care, and deepen their sense of understanding and wonder. ZIS prizes communication, holistic learning and intercultural awareness and is the perfect place for truly international families who are bringing up their children to be global citizens. ZIS students are a unique blend of nationalities, cultures and ethnicities, all eager to contribute actively and compassionately to the life of our school and the wider community around us.

ZIS students strive to do the right thing, even when they may be the only ones who will notice. Whether our students are with us for a year or two, or stay through to graduation and move on to the university of their dreams, we want our young people to look back on ZIS as a time when their desire to learn was awakened and they began to realize they have the power to change the lives of others and make a difference in our world.

Our general approach to admissions

In line with our Philosophy, admission to ZIS generally is an open-entry, non-selective and non-competitive. There are specific exceptions relating to physical and mental disabilities, as stipulated in the **Special Education Needs (SEN) Policy**, and there are specific conditions on admission regarding English language competencies at particular levels of schooling. These are laid out in our **Language Policy**, and in summary are:

Years K – 9: No restriction on entry based on language competency. New students with low or no English proficiency will follow Language Pathway 2

Year 10 and 11 – New or existing students will continue to follow Language Pathway 1

Year 10 (MYP 4) – New students with low or no English proficiency will follow Language Pathway 2

Year 11 (MYP 5) – New students with low or no English proficiency will follow Language Pathway 3

Note: All new students complete our English Proficiency Test, and our Mandarin Proficiency Test.



Our approach to Diploma Programme admissions

The Diploma Programme is high stakes – there is no safety net for students if they do not succeed, unlike in some national frameworks. It is a 2-year course that rarely tolerates a slow start, and it challenges students to find an achievable HL / SL mix of subjects.

Setting DP students for success is key. Success can, however, take different forms for different students, and it is important that the DP and its courses remain accessible at ZIS.

Who cannot enter the Diploma Programme at ZIS?

Excepting the particulars set out in the SEN policy, access to the DP is generally open to all. In practice, however, there may be issues of the timing of a student's enrolment at ZIS, their participation in ZIS's MYP, their language proficiency and their academic suitability.

Who can enter the Diploma Programme at ZIS?

Students who have completed the 5 years of the MYP at ZIS will be DP candidates, either for the full Diploma or for Courses, and students who receive permission from the DP Admissions Panel.

The admissions process:

All students, whether new or current, entering the IBDP at ZIS must gain approval from the IBDP Admissions Panel. This panel consists of the DP Coordinator and MYP Coordinator, and they may take direction from the Head of School.

For current students, the Panel will review:

- Personal Project performance and grades
- Year 11 Semester 1 and 2 MYP subject grades and teachers' comments

A grade of 5 and above in the Personal Project and reasonable grades across all relevant subjects in the MYP should assure a student of entry into the full Diploma. When this criteria is not met, and specific counselling with the DP Coordinator, parents and the student, a student may enter individual subjects or the full Diploma course on a provisional basis (subject to ongoing review and sustained academic performance and demonstrable action and development across their Learner Profile)

For students new to ZIS, the Panel will review:

1. School reports / transcripts
2. Samples of student work
3. TOEFL or IELTS grades
4. ZIS English Proficiency test
5. ZIS academic evaluations as deemed necessary
6. Attendance and performance at interview

1. School reports / transcripts: As with current students, at least reasonable grades in relevant subjects
2. Samples of student work: Substantial assessment pieces may be called for, and DP subject teachers asked to evaluate them.



3. TOEFL scores: A minimum grade of 70 (for the internet test), with consistency across the 4 tests of Reading, Listening, Speaking, Writing.

IELTS scores: A minimum Overall Band Score of 5.0, with consistency across the 4 tests of General /Academic Reading, Listening, Speaking, Writing.

Note that students entering the DP with these minimums will need ongoing EAL support.

4. ZIS English Proficiency test: A minimum score of 7, with consistency across the 4 tests of Reading, Listening, Speaking, Writing.

5. ZIS academic evaluations as deemed necessary: If there are unverifiable concerns over a student's academic levels, they may be asked to sit subject-specific tests for Group 1, 2, 4 and 5 DP subject entry

Some students may enter through our Scholarship program. This program is overseen by the Admissions Panel, and scholarship students need to continue to meet ongoing attendance, attitude and achievement requirements for the duration of their scholarship.

New students, or those that have not been at ZIS for the entire MYP, may not be ready academically or linguistically for the full Diploma. These students will be counselled on a case-by-case basis. Pathways at ZIS for them could include:

- Entering the Diploma as a Courses candidate (per subject)
- Language Pathway C (See Language Policy)

Admissions policy review

This policy will be reviewed informally on an ongoing basis and, formally, by the Head of School and Leadership Team by no later than the end of Semester 1. The DP Coordinator is responsible for placing the review on the Leadership Team's agenda and for facilitating the review.

