



Academic Summer and You!

The IB/A levels Curriculum

The course is for students who:

- are following or planning to follow the IB Diploma or A-levels
- are in school years 11, 12 or 13 in the UK
- need to revise a particular academic subject
- want to achieve higher academic results
- are considering a boarding school education
- are interested in the ethos of the IB Diploma but are unsure whether to commit to it
- plan to use English for study and work in the future
- are looking for a stimulating and enjoyable summer learning experience
- enjoy meeting and communicating with people from a wide range of countries and cultures

In today's world, Academic Summer believes everyone is a native speaker of English as an international language; whether or not English is their first language, students will have the opportunity to develop their skills in *interpersonal communication* and in *academic language proficiency*. When these skills are integrated, they will help them to study and communicate in the global world of today and tomorrow.

Personal Best

The Academic Summer programme gives students the chance to reach their personal best in every way. PB - the philosophy of Personal Best - extends to all aspects of the experience at Academic Summer. Achievements in social and personal development, contribution to the community, cultural awareness and physical education are all highly valued. The PB philosophy is shared by the academic and pastoral staff of Academic Summer and as a team we will work to help students to achieve their Personal Best.

The Academic Programme

Academic Summer offers a good range of academic subjects in classes of up to fifteen students. The medium of instruction is English and there are 30 hours of study a week; students are encouraged to work independently outside the classroom to develop study skills to take with them to school, university and beyond into their professional lives. Students also participate in workshops and lectures so they are introduced to different ways of learning.

The subjects offered depend on the expertise of the teachers, the needs of the students and the facilities and location of the school. We aim to integrate content (academic subject matter) and language development.

The IB has a very liberal approach to learning: discovery and exploration are more highly valued than simple learning of what is taught.

We want students to develop their competence in the communicative use of English as an international language. Whether they are native or non-native users of English, Academic Summer students will need to study and work in international and inter-cultural settings in the future and we can help them develop their:



Academic Summer and You!

- Interpersonal communication skills – spoken interaction to discuss academic subjects informally.
- Academic language proficiency – more formal written and spoken presentation of the subject specific knowledge.

The programme is a rich mix of academic content, language development and learning theory put into practice. The curriculum is organised into study blocks to maximise student choice and we offer the following subjects:

Art	ICT
Biology	Literature
Chemistry	Mathematics
Design & Technology	Media Studies
Drama	Music
Economics and Business	Physics
English	Presentation skills
Environmental systems & societies	Psychology
Essay writing	Theory of Knowledge (ToK)
History	

Art

At Academic Summer we offer both Art and Art History. Students have access to well-equipped art studios and are able to make use of a range of stimulating resources to develop both their technical knowledge and their artistic skills. Through both practical and theory work students improve their understanding of the formal elements of Art and Art History, including pencil work, a range of painting techniques and sculpture work. Students are encouraged to develop their skills of evaluation, of both their own work and that of well-known artists, a skill that helps to take our students work to a higher level. Art and Art History students at Academic Summer explore a variety of cultures and their attitude to art, helping them to make informed choices in the work that they produce and the way they respond to the art in general. Students have the opportunity to visit art galleries and meet other artists. Some of the topics our Art and Art History students cover include:

- History of Art – development from cave paintings to graffiti
- Critical and contextual drawing
- Using different techniques and mediums in painting
- Digital media art
- Expressing reasoned judgements and critiques of art work
- Life drawing
- Landscape drawing
- Art as propaganda
- British history through art
- Study of famous artists and their work
- Mixed media art work
- Screen printing
- Expressionism and Abstractionism
- Creating postcards
- Self-critiquing
- Portraits, posters and comics
- Creating perspective and purpose
- Colour and composition



Academic Summer and You!

Biology

The biology program at Academic Summer trains students to explore and investigate the living world. From study of animals to plants, large to small organisms, students will deepen their understanding of our world's inhabitants. The lessons will comprise of both theory and practical work, giving students the opportunity to not only think like a biologist, but work like one too. Areas of study may include:

- Microscopy Energy and the body
- Chemical energy from food
- Cell biology
- DNA extraction from a plant
- Natural History diversity
- Chromatography
- The human nervous system
- The use of experimental apparatus
- Dissection
- Ecology and Biodiversity
- Biochemistry
- How to write up an experiment

Chemistry

Chemistry is an ideal subject choice for students who enjoy a rounded learning experience which balances investigation and theory. Students will gain hands on experience through carefully designed practicals in the science labs, supported through teacher led and independently designed projects. Lessons are highly cross-curricular, combining maths, physical sciences and humanities. We encourage our students to think deeply about the world around us. Some of the topics studied may include:

- Atomic Structure
- Chemical Bonding
- The Periodic Table
- Acids and Alkalis
- Emission Spectra
- Stars and their elements
- Creating Polymers
- Medicines and drugs
- Classification

Design and Technology

At Academic Summer we encourage all of our students to challenge themselves. Our design technology lessons provide the perfect opportunity to do just this. From graphics to woodwork, metal work to product design, the subject offers students the chance to try something new whilst building on the skills they already hold. Design technology is a largely practical subject which allows learners to develop their technical language. Topics of study may include:



Academic Summer and You!

- Carcase construction
- Creating an MP3 amplifier
- Circuit construction
- Graphics: creating a board game
- Perspective drawing for design
- Principles of fashion design
- Designing and making clothing
- Creating a working sketchbook
- Designing and making toys

Drama

The Drama option at Academic Summer is an ideal choice for students who are interested in the many aspects of performance, from acting to stage design, play reading to television. The Drama module is a good choice for students looking for a creative outlet and for those who enjoy Literature. The performance aspect of the drama module helps students develop their speaking and presentation skills, as well as helping to increase their confidence. Students will explore different influences in drama, learning about famous playwrights and actors and the evolution of different drama forms. Students will study different performing techniques and have the opportunity to create their own work for performance. Themes studies may include:

- Character development
- Voice acting
- Silent movies
- Classical theatre
- Modern theatre
- Props and costumes
- Brechtian drama
- The history of cinema
- Puppetry
- Stage design
- Monologues
- Victorian drama
- How to analyse a piece of drama
- Shakespeare
- Writing a drama essay

Economics and Business Studies

Economics students at Academic Summer develop a strong understanding of economics as both an academic subject and its relevance on a personal level. The international environment of the student body at Academic Summer is the ideal backdrop for economic as it allows students to explore the global nature of economics first-hand. Students explore how and why economic growth takes place and how economic development can be predicted. Students are encouraged to think like an economist, discussing not only how economic success can be measured and predicted but debating whether economic growth is always a good thing. Students learn through practical and theory work and put into practice what they have learnt through creating presentations, taking part in debates and carrying out economic tasks. The economics option at Academic Summer prompts students to see the impact that economics has on not only our own lives but our world, and challenges our students to look for ways that economic studies can help improve our world.



Academic Summer and You!

- Macro and Micro Economics
- Supply and demand
- Unemployment and inflation
- Economics of the local area
- International Economics
- Measuring economic success
- Transfer of Wealth
- Personal economics
- Globalization
- Key Economics vocabulary
- The ethics of distribution of income

The Business Studies module at Academic Summer aims to equip our students with the tools they need to be the business leaders of tomorrow. Students explore what it means to run a business, from choosing an industry to developing a marketable product. Students carry out a range of practical activities to develop their subject knowledge and skills, including 'Apprentice' style group challenges, individual and group presentations and research projects. Students learn about the importance of the theory side of Business Studies and how proper research can lead to success. The Business Studies option makes use of the range of experiences and cultures our students bring to help students to think of the global business market, encouraging students to aim for worldwide success should they choose to pursue a career in business. As well as developing important subject knowledge students learn a range of transferable skills such as presentation skills, focusing on a task and time management. Some of the topics covered may include:

- Putting together a successful proposal
- Delivering a business presentation
- Dealing with customers
- Roles within a company
- Company structure
- Researching the business market
- Choosing an industry
- Efficiency
- Exploring success

English

In this class student's focus on learning to communicate in English in written and spoken form. Students study a wide range of interesting topics such as the environment, cuisine, fashion, film, cultural and historical events, celebrity and immigration, to develop their skills in listening, reading, writing, speaking and cultural interaction. Students explore the language and content of a variety of texts such as:

- Newspaper articles
- Journals
- Letters
- Excerpts from plays
- Reviews
- Interviews



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- Blogs
- Short stories
- Testimonies

The variety of sources studied helps students to develop a strong understanding of the differences in formal and informal language and the importance of communicating for purpose.

Environmental systems and societies

Environmental systems and societies combines geography, anthropology and science in a multidiscipline area of study. Environmental systems and societies students develop critical thinking skills through the study of range of thought provoking and relevant topics which are selected to give them a greater understanding of our world and the impact our presence makes on it. The diverse range of countries and cultures our students come from gives an excellent opportunity for real, relevant comparison of life as it is experienced in different environmental systems and the attention different countries give to global issues. From group debates on the use and management of non-renewable energy to small group study of marine ecosystems, Environmental systems and societies gives our students an excellent opportunity to develop a greater awareness of environmental issues whilst building on their communication and analytical skills. Examples of the topics which may be studied include:

- Managing energy resources
- Human population growth and control
- Ecosystems
- Global warming and climate change
- Pollution and populations
- Carbon footprint and individual responsibility
- Individual and collective value systems
- Population growth and environmental damage
- Tradition and modernity

Essay Writing Skills

Students will learn about the importance of creating a well-planned and well-written essay. This is of course a valuable skill for students of all subjects and one which our students take with them to university and beyond. In this module students cover topics such as:

- Choosing the right topic
- Structuring your essay
- Organising your writing
- Constructing an introduction
- Creating a discursive narrative
- Creating 'flow' and effective linking
- Engaging the reader and creating a 'hook'
- Writing an effective conclusion



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History

At Academic Summer we understand that our past is truly relevant to our future. The history module at Academic Summer thusly aims to equip students with the skills to become true historians, promoting critical and analytical thinking. Students explore the different methods for interpreting evidence from history, handling a range of sources and analysing them from social, economic and political vantages. Our students benefit from working with peers from different countries and cultures, giving them a unique opportunity to explore events from history from different viewpoints. Learning takes place through individual investigation, group research and presentation and relevant field trips all of which help our students to become well rounded historians. Students who take the history option at Academic Summer study a range of interesting themes from history which are chosen for their ability to spark debate and higher level thinking. Such topics may include:

- Bristol and the slave trade
- Conducting historical enquiry
- The Cold War
- Women in 20th century history
- Medicine through time
- London through time
- The British Constitution
- Comparing Millenniums
- 100 years of Eastern European history
- The World Wars
- Cuba
- Korea

ICT

Students who choose to take the ICT (Information Communication Technology) module will build on and expand their knowledge of different technologies. They will learn about the development of ICT and explore the future of communication technologies. Students will develop their skills through practical work such as designing a web page, creating a business portfolio or making a mixed media video. Students will study a range of themes such as how ICT impacts society, how ICT can be used to enhance a business and the role of ICT in education. There is an emphasis on developing the practical skills needed to keep up-to-date in today's technological world. Topics studied may include:

- Webpage design
- ICT and the law
- Data handling
- ICT for business
- Internet safety
- Computer programing
- Graphic design
- Advanced spreadsheet design
- ICT solutions
- System analysis
- Digital media and ICT Art
- Global communications
- Emerging technologies



Academic Summer and You!

Literature

The course focuses on developing oral and written communication skills and performing literary analysis of works of literature produced in that language. Experience literature from a range of periods, genres and cultures; a clear world perspective in literature and an oral assessment and study of works in translation. It includes the following:

- Extended reading
- Compare and contrast
- Presentations
- Commentary
- Analysis
- Critical thinking
- Writing skills

Mathematics

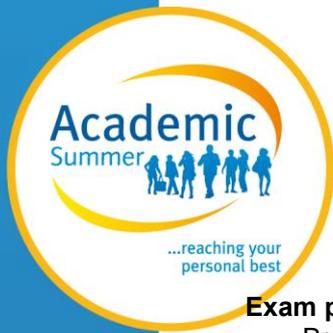
The Mathematics option covers algebra, geometry and statistics and is good preparation for the IB Diploma or A-Levels. Students from different learning backgrounds will work together to help one another understand challenging mathematical concepts and functions. The maths program is designed to develop students understanding of mathematics as well as fostering a deeper understanding of how mathematics shapes our world. Learning is both theoretical and practical and students make use of a variety of learning resources and spaces. The maths program is made fun and relevant with practical challenges such as the UK Maths Trust Challenge, which encourages students to develop mathematical dexterity, improve their team work and communication skills. Such challenges encourage students to see the relevance of mathematics to everyday life. A variety of topics are covered such as:

Mathematical theorem

- Conway's Theory of Life
- Circles Theorem
- Flatland Theory
- Pythagoras Theorem

Mathematical themes

- Fractals
- Trigonometry
- Algebraic problem solving
- Arithmetic and geometric sequencing
- Mathematics in nature
- Patterns and sequencing
- Complex numbers
- Statistics
- Surds
- Conditional probability
- Arithmetic and geometric sequencing



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Exam preparation

- Practicing past exam papers to identify personal areas of strength and weakness
- Looking at the specific challenges faced by international students sitting UK mathematics exams
- Good exam technique
- Method mathematics
- Transitioning from GCSE level to IB mathematics

Media Studies

The Media Studies option focuses on the development and use of the various forms of media we have available to us today including television and film. Media Studies students explore the production processes of different media forms, gaining “behind the scenes” experience and then putting their new skills into practice by creating their own media work. In previous years students have created short films, music videos and stop motion animation videos. Media Studies students are able to gain first-hand experience through interaction with a range of media forms both at school and on excursions, with theoretical knowledge of the subject focusing on the history and technology behind development of different media. Students are able to work together on researching and developing their work, drawing from a range of experiences and backgrounds. Subjects covered may include:

- Stop motion animation
- The history of cinema
- Creating a short film
- Script and Storyboard work
- Using Movie Maker
- Multimedia technology
- Practical work: Pre, Mid and Post production
- Digital Storytelling
- The history and future of media
- Audience demand

Music

The music program at Academic Summer is ideal for students who are experienced musicians as well as those who may not have had experience playing an instrument. Students will explore a range of themes in music as well as working on individual and group projects designed to stretch them whatever their level. A mixture of music theory and practical work will allow students to deepen their musical knowledge while performance and critique will encourage students to hone their musical ear. Some of the areas of study include:

- Exploring tempo
- Street music and performance
- Percussion
- Musical scores and recording music
- Instrument work
- History of music and performance
- Musical genres in the media
- Group and/or solo performance
- Trends in music
- Exploring and comparing musical styles
- Music technology



Academic Summer and You!

Physics

Physics lessons at Academic Summer are ideal for those who have a hunger to understand our world. With a focus on investigation and analytical thinking, students will explore a range of interesting and relevant themes in physics. Learning will take place through a mixture of practical, lab based work and theoretical, group and solo study. Students will develop an advanced understanding of principles in physics whilst improving their technical English, preparing them for scientific study in an international environment. Topics covered may include:

- Forces and Motion
- Electricity (Kirchoffs laws at a basic level)
- Energy equations
- Circuit systems
- Atoms
- Particles and radiation
- Magnetic fields
- Practical exploration of Further Mechanics

Presentation Skills

Good presentation skills are beneficial not only for students studying English but for all subjects. Students taking this module develop confidence and an awareness of how to deliver a strong presentation. Topics covered may include:

- Choosing the right topic
- Planning a presentation
- Effective use of ICT
- The basics of delivering a strong presentation
- Connectives and structuring
- 'Signposting' and capturing your audience's attention
- Achieving clarity in the information you deliver
- Answering questions

Psychology

The Psychology option at Academic Summer introduces students to the study of the human mind, its functions and the way it influences human behaviour. Students have the opportunity to explore the different approaches in psychology, including social, cognitive, psychodynamic and biological. The Psychology option combines science and humanities and is a good subject choice for students who are interested in the human mind and want to understand more about what makes us "tick". Students consolidate their learning with practical activities such as lab work and research projects. Group learning helps students to develop a thoughtful approach to their work, encouraging them to draw from different perspectives and develop a more holistic method of research. Students learn about a range of interesting topics such as:



Academic Summer and You!

- The principles of psychology
- The biology of the brain
- Memory and learning / Learning difficulties
- Developmental psychology
- How people behave within society – social psychology
- Ethics of psychology
- Personality testing
- The science of conformity
- Study of notable psychologists
- What is knowledge?
- Psychopaths and sociopaths
- Experiments in psychology

Theory of Knowledge

Students will explore the central question, 'How do we know what we know?' in a variety of ways and with reference to the acquisition of knowledge in a wide range of educational and cultural settings. They will learn to appreciate their own and others' knowledge gained through language, reason, emotion and sense perception. The contents of the *Theory of Knowledge* course component are:

'How do we know what we know?' Learning

- Learning via language and communication
- Learning through our emotions
- Learning by applying reason
- Learning through sensory perception

'What do we learn?' Areas of Knowledge

- Sciences
- Mathematics
- The Arts
- History
- Ethics

'How do we know that we know what we know?' Supporting claims to know things

- Sensory perception
- Logic
- Intuition
- Memory
- Faith
- Revelation
- Authority
- Consensus
- Self-awareness



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How do we test what we know?' Submitting to what we claim to know to tests

- Coherence
- Consensus
- Correspondence
- Pragmatism

'What do we do with what we know?' Applying what we know

- Discussing obligations as knowers
- Putting or knowledge into practice in real life
- Communicating what we know to others
- Accepting and evaluating what others know