



# ADMISSIONS POLICY

*The policy is annually reviewed and revised by IBDP Coordinator, Group Representatives and Faculty members - Current version September 2025*

### **International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) Mission Statement**

“The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment. These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.”

### **Pierce - The American College of Greece Mission Statement**

“The mission of Pierce is to provide a holistic education to form intellectually independent, morally responsible, socially engaged global citizens. “Non ministrari sed ministrare” (“Not to be served but to serve”) defines our institutional character and our aspiration for our students.”

## VALUES

Pierce IB Diploma Programme Admissions are rooted in the values of academic integrity, inclusiveness, and respect for diversity. The admissions process reflects the College's commitment to fostering an environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and personally. Core values include fairness, transparency, and dedication to the educational mission of The American College of Greece.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this Admissions Policy is to establish clear, equitable, and consistent guidelines for the admission of students into the Pierce IB Diploma Programme. It ensures that all applicants, whether internal (Pierce students) or external (non-Pierce students), are evaluated according to their academic achievements, personal potential, and readiness to undertake the challenges of the IB curriculum.

Admission to the Pierce IB DP is open to all Pierce and non-Pierce -Grade 10- students (A Lyceum). Student-applicants must demonstrate a competent international English language proficiency level in order to be successful in the IB DP. The three core components are in English as are the overwhelming majority of IB DP courses. Student-applicants must also have a mathematical background sufficient to successfully undertake one of the following: IB DP Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches (Higher or Standard Level) or Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation (Higher or Standard Level).

## PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles of the Admissions Policy include fairness, objectivity, and equal opportunity for all candidates. Selection is based on merit, ensuring that applicants possess the academic foundation and personal qualities required for success in the IB Diploma Programme. Additionally, the policy emphasizes respect for cultural and linguistic diversity, as well as adherence to the ethical standards of The American College of Greece.

## IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of this Admissions Policy is carried out through a structured and transparent admission procedure. Applicants must meet specific academic criteria, as detailed in the policy, and participate in a comprehensive admissions process. This process includes submission of academic records, written examinations (where required), and an interview with a panel of Pierce IB DP faculty and administrators. The interview serves as a critical component of the evaluation, ensuring that applicants are well-suited to the academic and personal demands of the programme. The Admissions Committee makes final decisions based on academic performance, examination results, and the outcome of the interview, while also considering scholarship opportunities where applicable.

## A. Pierce IB DP Admissions Procedure for Internal (Pierce) Candidates

1. All student-applicants must complete an application form by the announced deadline.
2. Student-applicants must fulfill the following **academic criteria**:
  - **English Language**: a minimum grade of 16/20, in C' Gymnasium (9<sup>th</sup> grade) Graduation's Certificate grade report, as well as in the grade report of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of A' Lyceum (10<sup>th</sup> grade).
    - The paper of the exams in English Language of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of A' Lyceum, will also be reviewed by the Group 2 (Language Acquisition) Representative.
  - **Mathematics**: a minimum grade of 16/20, in written –graduation- examinations of C' Gymnasium (9<sup>th</sup> grade), as well as in the grade report of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of A' Lyceum (10<sup>th</sup> grade).
    - The paper of the common exams in Mathematics of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of A' Lyceum, will also be reviewed by the Group 5 (Mathematics) Representative.
  - **Graduation Certificate Grade of C' Gymnasium (9<sup>th</sup> grade)**: a minimum of 17/20.
  - **Grade Point Average of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of A' Lyceum (10<sup>th</sup> grade)**: a minimum of 17/20.
3. **All student-applicants who meet the above academic criteria** will be invited to the next step, **an interview**, with a panel comprised of Pierce IB DP faculty and administrators.
  - the invitation to the interview is not admission into the Pierce IB DP, it is the next step in the admissions process,
  - the interview is a crucial component of the admission process and may be for a student a ground for non-admission into the program, even if he/she meets the academic criteria.
  - useful "interview tips" and the "Pierce IB DP Learner Profile", can be found on: [www.pierce.gr/en/ib-dp/how-to-apply/](http://www.pierce.gr/en/ib-dp/how-to-apply/)

Based upon the academic criteria, the interview and given that the student-applicants will continue to meet the academic criteria by the end of the current academic year, Pierce IB Admissions Committee will discuss and make a first choice for admission into the Pierce IB DP.

Students accepted into the Pierce IB DP, **wishing to claim an academic scholarship**, must participate in the following DP-related Scholarship/Entrance Exams:

- A written response on a topic related to the IB DP philosophy (duration: 1/2 hour)
- A Mathematics exam (duration: 1 hour).

For the syllabus of the exams and past papers visit: [www.pierce.gr/en/ib-dp/how-to-apply/](http://www.pierce.gr/en/ib-dp/how-to-apply/)

The final allocation of scholarships will be based upon the exam results and the interview.

4. **All student-applicants who do not meet the above academic criteria** and wish to be accepted into the Pierce IB DP, must successfully complete and pass the following DP-related Entrance/Scholarship Exams:

- A written response on a topic related to the IB DP philosophy (duration: 1/2 hour)
- A Mathematics exam (duration: 1 hour).

The syllabus of the exams and past papers can be found on:

[www.pierce.gr/en/ib-dp/how-to-apply/](http://www.pierce.gr/en/ib-dp/how-to-apply/)

After the written exams, all student-applicants will be invited to the next step, **an interview**, with a panel comprised of Pierce IB DP faculty and administrators.

- the invitation to the interview is not admission into the Pierce IB DP, it is the next step in the admissions process,
- the interview is a crucial component of the admission process and may be for a student a ground for non-admission into the program, even if he/she meets the academic criteria.
- useful “interview tips” and the “Pierce IB DP Learner Profile”, can be found on:

[www.pierce.gr/en/ib-dp/how-to-apply/](http://www.pierce.gr/en/ib-dp/how-to-apply/)

Based upon the results of all written exams and the interview, Pierce IB Admissions Committee will discuss and make the final choice for admission into the Pierce IB DP.

Students accepted into the Pierce IB DP, may wish to claim an **academic scholarship**. The final allocation of scholarships will be based upon the exam results and the interview.

## **B. Pierce IB DP Admissions Procedure for External (non-Pierce) Candidates**

1. All student-applicants must complete an application form by the announced deadline.
2. Student-applicants must fulfill the following **academic criteria**:
  - English Language**: a minimum grade of 18/20, in C' Gymnasium (9<sup>th</sup> grade) Graduation's Certificate grade report, as well as in the grade report of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of A' Lyceum (10<sup>th</sup> grade).
  - Mathematics**: a minimum grade of 17/20, in written –graduation- examinations of C' Gymnasium (9<sup>th</sup> grade), as well as in the grade report of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of A' Lyceum (10<sup>th</sup> grade).
  - Graduation Certificate Grade of C' Gymnasium (9<sup>th</sup> grade)**: a minimum of 17/20.
  - Grade Point Average of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of A' Lyceum (10<sup>th</sup> grade)**: a minimum of 17/20.
3. All external student-applicants **must provide** both grade reports and relevant certifications.

4. **All student-applicants who meet the above academic criteria** will be invited to the next step, **an interview**, with a panel comprised of Pierce IB DP faculty and administrators.
- the invitation to the interview is not admission into the Pierce IB DP, it is the next step in the admissions process,
  - the interview is a crucial component of the admission process and may be for a student a ground for non-admission into the program, even if he/she meets the academic criteria.
  - useful "interview tips" and the "Pierce IB DP Learner Profile", can be found on: [www.pierce.gr/en/ib-dp/how-to-apply/](http://www.pierce.gr/en/ib-dp/how-to-apply/)

Based upon the academic criteria, the interview and given that the student-applicants will continue to meet the academic criteria by the end of the current academic year, Pierce IB Admissions Committee will discuss and make a first choice for admission into the Pierce IB DP.

Students accepted into the Pierce IB DP, **wishing to claim an academic scholarship**, must participate in the following DP-related Scholarship/ Entrance Exams:

- An English language comprehension exam (duration: 1/2 hour)
- A written response on a topic related to the IBDP philosophy (duration: 1/2 hour)
- A Mathematics exam (duration: 1 hour).

The syllabus of the exams and past papers can be found on:

[www.pierce.gr/en/ib-dp/how-to-apply/](http://www.pierce.gr/en/ib-dp/how-to-apply/)

The final allocation of scholarships will be based upon the exam results and the interview.

5. **All student-applicants who do not meet the above academic criteria** and wish to be accepted into the Pierce IB DP, must successfully complete and pass the following DP-related Entrance/Scholarship Exams:
- An English language comprehension written exam (duration: 1/2 hour)
  - A written response on a topic related to the IBDP philosophy (duration: 1/2 hour)
  - A Mathematics exam (duration: 1 hour).

The syllabus of the exams and past papers can be found on:

[www.pierce.gr/en/ib-dp/how-to-apply/](http://www.pierce.gr/en/ib-dp/how-to-apply/)

After the written Exams, all student-applicants will be invited to the next step, an interview with a panel comprised of Pierce IB DP faculty and administrators.

- the invitation to the interview is not admission into the Pierce IB DP, it is the next step in the admissions process,
- the interview is a crucial component of the admission process and may be for a student a ground for non-admission into the program, even if he/she meets the academic criteria.

- useful “interview tips” and the “Pierce IB DP Learner Profile”, can be found on: [www.pierce.gr/en/ib-dp/how-to-apply/](http://www.pierce.gr/en/ib-dp/how-to-apply/)

Based upon the results of all written exams and the interview, Pierce IB Admissions Committee will discuss and make the final choice for admission into the Pierce IB DP.

Students accepted into the Pierce IB DP, may wish to claim an **academic scholarship**. The final allocation of scholarships will be based upon the exam results and the interview.

### **C. The Interview**

The evaluative interview is intended to help the Pierce IB DP interview committee assess a student-candidate’s preparedness for the Programme. The interview committee (consisting of 5 members) will be school Administrators, the IB DP Coordinator, and IB DP Faculty members. The interview, with a duration of 15-20 minutes, will assess student’s communication skills, motivation, maturity, well-rounded personality, time-management awareness, understanding of the IB Learner Profile and curriculum, future plans, area of study and extracurricular engagement.

### **D. Inclusive Assessment Arrangements**

This policy is intended to cover the entire range of diversity of IB candidates. It addresses provision of support where required due to issues and challenges. These may be related (but not restricted) to difficulties due to barriers of language, ability, emotional and mental wellness, economic deprivation, gender and sexual identity, ethnicity, medical issues, impairments and/or other long-term challenges. Students that have been evaluated with learning disabilities such as dyslexia, dysgraphia, and/or serious difficulties in math, reading and spelling, are provided with **25% extra time for the completion of a written examination**, either for entrance to the Programme or for a scholarship. A medical report must be issued by one of the National Centers for Diagnosis and Support of Students with Learning Disabilities (Hellenic: K.E.D.A.S.Y.) or by one of the accredited pedagogical medical centers of the Hellenic Ministry of Education.

### **E. Non-Native Greek Speakers**

Non-native Greek applicants must meet specific academic criteria, as detailed in the policy for external candidates, and participate in a comprehensive admissions process. This process includes submission of academic records, written examinations, and an interview with a panel of Pierce IB DP Faculty and Administrators. The applicants will take the same examination in English language as the candidates of paragraphs A, B, but a different examination in Mathematics, based on the syllabus covered so far in their current schools abroad (customized). This component does not allow the specific category of applicants to claim an academic scholarship, but only to enter Pierce IB DP.

## **F. IB2 Transfer Candidates**

Candidates who have already completed the first year in an IB DP school, may be considered for entrance in the second year of Pierce IB DP, if the following conditions are fulfilled:

- Student's course selection will not have to alter.
- The first-year overall grade in the IB DP is at least 38/42 (or 40/45).
- The applicant must successfully participate the evaluative interview.

## **G. Timeline of Procedures**

An indicative timeline for the admissions process has the following stages/steps:

- Online application by parents, during 10th grade (A' Lyceum), starting on September 11 each year and ending the day before the entrance exams.
- The Conduct of Interview: during the first two weeks of March, each year.
- The Conduct of Exams: in the last Saturday of March, each year.
- Release of Results: during the first two weeks of April, each year.