

Shogaku Gakuen Educational Foundation
Okinawa Shogaku Senior High School
Admission Policy
June 15, 2020

Okisho seeks students from diverse socio-economic, ethnic, linguistic and national backgrounds, who will benefit from the challenging academic program and who will contribute to the life of the school and its community. While we have rigorous admission standards for all of our students, we strive to look beyond test scores and grades to provide opportunity for the broadest range of students who we feel will be able to both contribute and benefit from coming to Okisho.

IB DP Admissions Policy

Admission to the IB DP will be based upon:

1. Academic achievement (Japanese, Mathematics, English; including standardized achievement tests); with a desired 4.0 GPA on a 5.0 GPA scale.
2. Entrance Examination
3. English language proficiency test (Eiken)
4. Achievement outside the classroom
5. Interview (including parent or guardian)

None of the criteria takes precedent over the others, and all are used to provide a holistic assessment of each candidate.

1. Academic Achievement:

Traditionally, academic achievement has been considered the best indicator of future academic success. However, we are especially diligent in balancing academic achievement against the candidate's lifestyle and extracurricular activities. In order to be successful in the IB DP, we believe the candidate must have a well-balanced approach to school and their extra-curricular activities. Our school has specific admission requirements with regards to candidate grades. The requisite grade point average (GPA) is 4.0/5.0. There is no required GPA Special Admission Candidates, who are graduates of schools with which we have Special Admission Agreements in place (As of 2020: Okinawa AMICUS.)

2. Entrance Examination:

Almost all students entering Okisho take the Okisho entrance examination, consisting of 3 sections: English, Math, and Japanese. It is simply another method of assessing a student's ability and achievement, and is used holistically with the rest of a student's application materials. In the case where that student has limited Japanese ability, we waive the entrance examination. Additionally, Special Admission Candidates are not required to take the entrance examination.

3. English Language Proficiency:

For native Japanese speakers originating from junior high schools besides Okinawa Shogaku Junior High School, we require a passing grade on the English language proficiency test (Eiken) level pre-2. Since at least 2 of the IB DP courses will be in English, our experience has shown that students who have passed Eiken grade pre-2 will have the skills required for success in the IB DP.

For candidates originating from Okinawa Shogaku Junior High School, we require Eiken grade 2 as a prerequisite for admission to the IB DP.

4. Extracurricular Achievements:

An important part of evaluating candidates is their interests and achievements outside the classroom. Volunteer activities, sports, student government, speech contests, and being involved in the arts are all activities that will contribute to a candidate's chances of success. We recognize that young people have varied interests, and often express themselves most effectively through their hobbies. As such, we place great value on a student's extracurricular activities.

5. Interview:

Students who choose the IB DP as their first choice during the high school application process will be on the entrance exam test day. For students originating from Okinawa Shogaku Junior High School, interviews will be arranged during the 3rd semester of their 3rd year in junior high school. The interview serves to allow the students to showcase themselves and describe their goals for the future. The interview gives us the opportunity to bring all of the components of the application package together in discussion with the candidate and his/her guardian(s). For Special Admission candidates, in place of the entrance examination, a candidate will have only an admissions interview.

Overall, the primary goal of admissions to the IB DP program is one of inclusion, rather than exclusion. Currently, we are extremely limited in the number of students we can admit, and hope to expand the program in the future. Regardless of the number of students we admit, our primary goal in admitting students to the IB DP program is to admit students that will benefit the most, contribute the most, and have plans that match with the goals of the IB DP.

We encourage all students who wish to challenge the IB DP to try their best. If, at any time, it becomes evident that the candidate will not be able to complete all of the requirements of the IB DP, it is our goal to facilitate that candidate's needs and help them maximize their potential while here at Okisho. For candidates in this situation, upon consultation with the homeroom teacher, parents and/or guardians, and the candidate, an appropriate plan of action will be agreed upon. Each candidate's wishes will be respected. In all cases, if a student passes the required coursework, they will receive a Japanese High School Certificate of Graduation.