

IB MYP Personal Project

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the personal project?

- It is a significant piece of work produced over an extended period- about one year.
- It is a product of a student's own initiative and must reflect their experience of the MYP.
- This is their opportunity to undertake something truly personal and creative.

2. When do students begin the personal project?

- Students begin the personal project when they start the Middle Years Programme!
- The skills learned in all of their subjects from grade 6 to grade 10 are used for their personal project.
- At the end of grade 9, students receive a brief overview of the project, which students complete in grade 10.
- Students should begin thinking about their personal project at the end of their 9th grade year so that they have enough time to plan and execute the project over the next year.

3. How should students choose a personal project?

- Students should look first to the global contexts as a way to explore possible outcomes for a topic in which they are especially interested.
- They should then consider their hobbies, talents, interests, dreams, loves and passions.
- They should receive guidance from a supervisor in making their final decision.

4. How do the supervisors help with students' personal projects?

- The personal project supervisor meets regularly with students to guide them in making decisions about their project. The supervisor will also provide guidelines about staying focused. Students may ask their supervisor for help when they struggle for ideas or experience difficulties.

5. When do students work on their personal projects?

- They should work on their projects in their free time. Students should plan this carefully.
- The project should not destroy a student's social life!

6. How is the personal project assessed?

- Like all subjects in the MYP, the personal project is assessed using published assessment criteria. These are used all over the world by every IBO school that offers the MYP.
- The supervisor assesses the project. The final report is then assessed by the other school staff members to standardize the scoring.
- Samples of personal projects will then be sent to an external moderator- appointed and trained by the IBO academic office. This ensures that all MYP schools use exactly the same standards.
- There are 4 assessment criteria A-D- all out of 8 to give a total of 32.
- *The Student Guide to the Personal Project* contains all of this information in detail, which is available electronically and as a hard copy.

7. Why is the personal project useful?

- Students may never have another opportunity of exploring something that is as much fun as this. Remember- it is what is of interest to the STUDENT!
- Students may discover skills and talents that they did not think they possessed.
- Students may realize what they would like to choose for a career.
- Students may realize what they would never ever like to have as a career!
- The skills used in working on this project for over a year will help students with IB Diploma work where they have to work on many assignments with limited supervision- this includes the compulsory Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge essay.

8. In which language can a student produce their personal project?

- Students may produce their Personal Project in one of the following languages because we have teachers who can work with these languages:
 - English
 - French
 - Spanish
 - Chinese
- Where possible students should choose their best language.

9. Which skills will students use for the personal project?

- Applying the whole Design Cycle from Design (Technology) and the Sciences.
- The Process Journal/ Developmental Workbook from the Arts and Design (Technology).
- Research and referencing methods from Individuals and Societies (Social Studies) and other subjects.
- Essay writing from Language and Literature (English), Language Acquisition (World Language), Sciences, and the Individuals and Societies (Social Studies).
- Bibliography writing from all subjects.
- Using graphs, maps, photographs and tables from Mathematics, Sciences and Individuals and Societies (Social Studies).
- Using initiative and showing responsibility in the learning process and showing self-motivation from Sciences, the Arts and Physical and Health Education!

10. Do students have to do this?

- As IB students, all sophomores are *expected* to complete a Personal Project regardless of their intent to enter into the IB Diploma Programme in their 11th and 12th grade years.
- B-CC is required to register all sophomores with the IB in October and to submit final Personal Project scores for all sophomores by April 10th each year. Projects are typically submitted for scoring in February, followed by an exhibition of the projects.