

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.84-37

MEMORANDUM

To.....SENATE.....

From. SENATE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS BOARD.....

Subject.....INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE.....

Date.....APRIL 30, 1984.....

Action undertaken by the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board at its meeting of 28 February 1984 gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION:

"That Senate approve the changes to undergraduate admission policies and transfer credit relating to the International Baccalaureate, as set forth in S.84- 37 , that the admission changes be effective for admission to the Fall semester 1985 and thereafter, that the transfer credit changes be effective now."

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

SUAB 125 REVISED

To..... SENATE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

From..... N. HEATH, SECRETARY

..... BOARD

..... S.U.A.B.

Subject..... INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE
ADMISSION & TRANSFER CREDIT

Date..... 30TH APRIL, 1984

PROPOSED POLICY

That for admission to Fall, 1985, and subsequent semesters,

- (1) Where 2 credentials are completed through simultaneous study, (I.B. plus Canadian, or U.S. Grade 12), the local qualification be used for admission purposes. Transfer credit would be awarded in accordance with departmental recommendation to a maximum of 30 semester hours, where (a) the overall I.B. score is 27 and, (b) each Higher Level exam is passed with a 4, or better.
- (2) Where the I.B. is the sole qualification for admission, the required score be 27. Transfer credit would be awarded as in (1) above.
- (3) Where another qualification is appropriate for admission, certificates for individual I.B. course passes will be accepted for transfer credit only if passed with a grade of 5, or better, in accordance with departmental recommendations and up to 30 semester hours.

EXISTING POLICY

Current regulations enable students who have qualified for the I.B. Diploma to be admitted to Simon Fraser. Up to 30 semester hours of transfer credit may be awarded only for Higher Level subjects passed with a "3" or better. Since normally 6 hours of credit is assigned per exam, in practice, the normal maximum credit is 18 semester hours.

No policy exists for partial I.B. programs; ie: when the assessments have been made of transfer credit in some cases.

BACKGROUND

The International Baccalaureate was developed in response to

a desire for an international secondary school graduation qualification which would satisfy European, English and North American perceptions of education. The resulting diploma program is two years in length, roughly approximating a Grade 12/13 curriculum. There are subsidiary and higher level subjects and standardized exams. Grading is done by an examination centre in London, England. Exams include short answer and multiple choice questions.

Schools wishing to offer the I.B. apply to I.B. North America, or the parent organization in Switzerland. Recognition is granted, provided the school can ensure sufficient teacher support and is willing to pay the set of fees for course materials and testing. No investigation is made of a school, since exams are standardized. A series of cross-checks and channels for feedback to schools assist in ensuring adequate instruction.

STRUCTURE

The International Baccalaureate examination consists of six subjects:

1. Language A, including a syllabus of World Literature (A = first language).
2. Language B or second language A. (B = second language).
3. Study of man; one of the following: philosophy, psychology, social anthropology, history, geography, economics, business studies.
4. Experimental sciences; one of the following: biology, chemistry, applied chemistry, physics, physical science, scientific studies.
5. Mathematics; one of the following: higher level - subsidiary level, mathematics and computing, mathematical studies.
6. Practical and theoretical studies; one of the following: art/design, music, a classical language, a second language B, a second study of man subject, a second science subject, further mathematics, computer studies or a syllabus submitted by the school and approved by IB0.

Three of these six subjects have to be offered at higher level, and three at subsidiary level in order to qualify for the full

Diploma.

All candidates must have submitted an extended essay in one of the subjects they offer.

All candidates must have followed a common course in the theory of knowledge and engaged satisfactorily in extra-curricular activities.

IBO may authorise certain exemptions and substitutions as described in Article 4 of the Regulations. Candidates may also offer single subjects, for which they will receive Certificates.

GRADING

Grades are based on a scale of 1-7, ranging from very poor (1) through satisfactory (4) to excellent (7) and with distinction (7E). An additional Bonus point may be earned for superior performance in the Theory of Knowledge and one or two for an exceptional extended essay. Likewise, points may be deducted for poor performance in these areas. The Diploma is awarded to candidates achieving an overall score of 24 on the 3 Higher and 3 Subsidiary Level exams.

- Additionally:
- (a) One grade of 3 (mediocre) is permitted at the Higher Level if compensated for by a 5 (good).
 - (b) One grade of 2 is permitted at Subsidiary Level, provided the overall total is 24, or better.
 - (c) Overall, 3 grades of 3 are permitted; only one is permitted if a grade of 2 is also presented.

Individual subject certificates are issued if students will not be completing the full diploma.

CONTEXT

Very few applicants have entered SFU with the full I.B. Diploma. Such students have received their previous education at independent international schools, such as Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific or international high schools in Switzerland.

However, the I.B. program has recently been adopted by a number of Senior Secondary Schools in B.C., as a vehicle for providing an enriched curriculum to motivated, able students. In these instances, the student will typically complete normal B.C. Grade 12 courses, but will take a partial I.B. program in certain specific disciplines and receive subject certificates. This practice has recently been recognized by the B.C. Ministry of Education.

It is timely to establish formal policy for applicants offering the I.B. because -

- a) anticipated increase in numbers
- b) it is important in attracting the best students from secondary schools that some recognition, ie: transfer credit be given
- c) certain other universities have established transfer credit policies for the I.B., including the University of Victoria.