



MEDIA ADVISORY

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FIRST IN SINGAPORE TO OFFER THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE CAREER-RELATED CERTIFICATE

- SOTA creates new pathway for its students

Singapore, May 21, 2014 – The School of the Arts Singapore (SOTA) today announced the launch of its International Baccalaureate Career-related Certificate (IBCC) programme, an innovative education framework specifically tailored for students aged 16 to 19 who wish to engage in career-related learning. This is in addition to the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) currently offered by SOTA. SOTA is the first national school in Singapore to launch the IBCC programme.

2 The SOTA IBCC programme provides a new option for its Year 5 and 6 students who demonstrate exceptional artistic ability and potential and who have indicated strong interest in pursuing a career in the arts. Under the programme, students will undergo specialised training to develop their artistic skills which prepares them for admission into Arts Institutes and local and international Conservatories.

3 A total of twenty-five Year 5 students have been selected for the SOTA IBCC programme in 2014. They will take up career-related studies, which include arts modules that allow them more time and space for artistic practice and training. The students will also have a practicum with a professional arts company. Unlike the IBDP, the core subjects in the IBCC programme are taught in consideration of the students' artistic career, exposing the students to issues and practices in the arts industry. SOTA will also consider exceptionally talented students from other schools who show capacity to pursue a professional arts career for its 2015 IBCC student intake.

4 SOTA's IBCC qualification has gained recognition by Arts Institutes and Conservatories locally and internationally. The local institutions include the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, LASALLE College of the Arts and Yong Siew Toh Conservatory, while the overseas institutions include Birmingham Conservatoire (UK), Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (UK), Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (UK), Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance (UK), University of the Arts London (UK), New England Conservatory (USA), Cornish College of the Arts (USA) and Columbia College Chicago (USA).

5 “The launch of SOTA's IBCC is testament to SOTA's commitment to develop new articulation pathways for our students who want to focus more on developing their talents in the arts. Through the IBCC, students spend more time

honing their artistic skills and preparing their portfolios for admission into Arts Institutes and Conservatories. We envision that through the provision of this new programme, we will be able to nurture the artistic talents, academic merits and character of students and groom the next generation of professional artists for the local arts scene. We are very thankful to the International Baccalaureate Office for their support and encouragement during the accreditation process of SOTA's IBCC", said Ms Lim Geok Cheng, Principal, SOTA.

6 Please refer to Annexes A and B for more details on SOTA's IBCC and IBDP programmes.

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About The School of the Arts, Singapore

The School of the Arts (SOTA) is Singapore's first national pre-tertiary specialised arts school to offer a 6-year unique integrated arts and academic curriculum for youths aged 13-18 years old.

Under the ambit of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY), the School offers a dedicated development path for those who have interest and show early talent in the arts, providing a learning environment where both the artistic and academic potential can best be realised.

With a vision to identify and groom future generations of artists and creative professionals, SOTA builds on Singapore's unique strengths, including her multicultural Asian diversity and globally connected networks to synergise talents and resources.

A school of the future, SOTA embraces a holistic educational philosophy that celebrates experimentation, expression and discovery.

International Baccalaureate Career-Related Certificate (IBCC)

The IB Career-related Certificate (IBCC) is an innovative education framework for students aged 16 to 19 incorporating the vision and educational principles of the IB into a unique programme specifically tailored for students who wish to engage in career-related learning.

IBCC students engage with a challenging programme of study that genuinely interests them while gaining transferable and lifelong skills in applied knowledge, critical thinking, communication, and cross-cultural engagement. They are well prepared to succeed at institutions of higher learning. The IBCC enables students to:

- Develop a broad range of career-related competencies and to deepen their understanding in general areas of knowledge
- Prepare for effective participation in an ever-changing world of work
- Foster the attributes of the learner profile allowing students to become true lifelong learners willing to consider new perspectives
- Engage in learning that makes a positive difference to future lives
- Become a self confident person ready for life in the 21st century.

Source : www.ibo.org

During the IBCC years in Year 5 and 6, students are required to fulfill four core requirements of the IBCC, which include Approaches to Learning, Reflective Project, Language Development, and Community and Service. They will also be required to take at least two Diploma subjects that includes the compulsory Arts Subject at a Higher Level and Language B (Mother - Tongue Language) at the Standard Level. Students have the option of taking a third Diploma subject in Individuals and Societies at either the Higher or Standard Level. In the Career-related Study component, the students are required to complete three modules in their respective art forms. These modules cater specifically to the development of strong artistic fundamentals.

SOTA's IB Career-related Certificate is gaining recognition by Arts Institutes and Conservatories locally and internationally. Currently, the following institutes have recognised our programme:

1. Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts
2. LASALLE College of the Arts
3. Yong Siew Toh Conservatory
4. Birmingham Conservatoire (UK)

5. Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (UK)
6. Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (UK)
7. Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance (UK)
8. University of the Arts London (UK)
9. New England Conservatory (USA)
10. Cornish College of the Arts (USA)
11. Columbia College Chicago (USA)

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)

The Diploma Programme prepares students for effective participation in a rapidly evolving and increasingly global society as they:

- develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically
- acquire breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, studying courses from 6 subject groups
- develop the skills and a positive attitude toward learning that will prepare them for higher education
- study at least two languages and increase understanding of cultures, including their own
- make connections across traditional academic disciplines and explore the nature of knowledge through the programme's unique theory of knowledge course
- undertake in-depth research into an area of interest through the lens of one or more academic disciplines in the extended essay
- enhance their personal and interpersonal development through creativity, action and service

Source : www.ibo.org

During the IB years in Year 5 and 6, students are required to fulfil three core requirements of the IBDP, which include the Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay and Creativity, Action and Service. They will also be required to take three subjects at a Higher Level that includes an Arts subject and another three subjects at a Standard Level.

SOTA's IB Diploma is a qualification that is recognised by top universities worldwide. Armed with the IB Diploma and an extensive arts portfolio, students can look forward to taking on the arts as a career or leveraging on their arts-enriched educational experience to embark on diverse career options such as journalism, law and architecture, among others."