Online IB Diploma Courses: What do they mean for your school?

IB Schools of Michigan (IBSOM)
November 2010

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The IB vision
Online education and the International Baccalaureate

• Extend subject choice for students in IB Schools (IB Access Agenda)

• Create international and intercultural classrooms

• Develop 21st century skills that will equip students for life after school
About Pamoja Education

• Founded in 2009 to offer high quality DP online courses for IB Schools

• A social enterprise, established by Pamoja Capital
  – social entrepreneurs and investors in alternative energy and education
  – profits benefit the McCall MacBain Foundation and its work in Sub-Saharan Africa

• Working in close cooperation with the IB
  – Development
  – Staffing
  – Quality assurance
  – Research
Pamoja Education is committed to:

• Create **27 courses** over a 5-year period, covering the 6 subject areas and the IB core

• Design courses using **IB-approved Subject Matter Experts** following the IB’s strict course development and delivery guidelines

• Employ **experienced IB teachers** and support their continued professional development

• Invest as necessary to ensure that courses provide students and their schools with an **online IB experience**
The IB is committed to:

• Assist in recruitment of Subject Matter Experts and Teachers

• Support Pamoja Education during course development and delivery

• Provide the necessary dedicated resources within the IB

• Collaborate with Pamoja Education on research and development in subject areas which present special challenges online (e.g. Group 4 Subjects - experimental sciences and Group 1 and Group 2 languages)
Pamoja Education’s “Project Jump Start”

• A successful “test run”, initiated in September 2009
  – uniting 68 students
  – studying 4 subjects in 6 sections
  – residing in 16 countries
  – attending 22 IB World Schools
  – working with experienced IB teachers from 6 countries
Jumpstart – where are they now?

- May 2010 Examination Session
  - Economics SL: 25 students
  - Business & Management SL: 17 students

- September 2010 class resumes
  - Economics HL: 17 students
  - ITGS HL: 5 students
Our approach to online education

- Link technology with teaching and the IB learner profile
- Facilitate effective communication between schools, students and teachers
- Teach small cohorts of students
- Integrate assessment
- Adhere to IB curriculum and quality standards (“IB-ness”) through
  - IBO course evaluation
  - in-class monitoring
  - annual external evaluation
Delivering a true international classroom

• Limited to 25 students
  - Maximum of 5 students per section per school
• Student-centered
• Teacher facilitated
• Encourage collaboration
• Foster a global perspective
Alignment with the IB’s requirements for assessment

- Students complete the same internal and external IB assessments as f2f students.
- The IB World School registers students taking an online IB course for external assessments.
- Students complete their external assessments at their IB World School.
Online Grading – Formative Assessment

• Assessed according to specific descriptors regarding
  - Quality of work
  - Discussion participation
  - Application and analysis of concepts and theories
  - Organisation and presentation
  - Timeliness
  - Group Work
Online Grading – Summative Assessment

• Three to five summative assessments per standard term.

• All summative assessments are graded on the IB 1 to 7 scale
How we approach Internal Assessment

• As in traditional face to face courses, internal assessments are graded by the IB teachers and work samples are sent for formal moderation upon request by the IB

• The students’ IB World School is responsible for entering the IA and Predicted Grade into IBIS and obtaining a signature on the IA cover sheet
• Delivered within the **academic year**
  – Courses delivered over two years
  – Semester-based schedule
  – September 15, 2010 – May 24, 2011
  – September 14, 2011 – April 24, 2012

• **Structured** weekly lessons
  – runs Wednesday to Tuesday
  – expect 5 – 7 hours per week
    (includes homework)

• Recommended as part of **daily school schedule**
Success requires effective communication and support
We work with IB World schools to ensure student success

We provide

• Outstanding courses
• Balanced cohorts
• Excellent teachers, working under the guidance of our Principal
• A high degree of transparency regarding student performance
• A robust technology platform

The school provides

• A Site-based Coordinator, to serve as mentor to students and an adult point of contact for our teacher
• Selection of students with the necessary maturity and discipline to succeed in an online course
• Time during the student’s schedule to work on the course
Our online teaching staff

• Teach the online IB Diploma Program course by:
  – facilitating learning
  – student centred learning
  – interacting with the students
  – providing feedback
  – guiding online discussion
  – 10 hours per week

• Participate in professional development where they:
  – develop 21st century skills for effective online instruction
  – learn best practices in online instruction
Who would be the ideal student?

- Self-motivated
- Independent learner
- Good written communication skills
- Tech-friendly, though proficiency not necessary
- Interested in the subject
School Site-based Coordinator

- Monitors, advises and supports students taking online courses
- Links the students and the online teacher
- Acts as a teacher presence to parents of students taking online course
- Participates in professional development gaining transferrable skills
September 2010 Cohort - What a classroom!!

- Pamoja Education Online Diploma Classes are:
  - Uniting nearly 300 students, from 70 schools in 37 countries
    - North and Latin America: 116
    - Africa/Europe/Middle East: 87
    - Asia Pacific: 78
  - Studying 7 subjects (3HL and 4SL) in 15 course sections
  - Working with 11 IB teachers from: Netherlands, Ukraine, Hong Kong, UK, USA, China, Japan, India, South Korea and Bali.
September 2011 Planned course offering

**Group 2**
- Spanish *ab initio*
- Mandarin *ab initio*

**Group 3**
- Business & Management SL
- Economics SL
- Economics HL
- ITGS SL
- ITGS HL
- Psychology SL

**Group 5**
- Mathematics HL

**Group 1**
- German (Language A) HL
- German (Language A) SL

**Group 6**
- Film SL
Reasons why schools choose online courses

• Increased subject choice

• Scheduling flexibility

• Dealing with last minute “situations”

• Providing students with a truly global educational experience

• Teaching students a new approach to learning
Course-by-Course Pricing for courses beginning September 2011

• Two-year Standard Level Course  US $950/year
• Two-year Higher Level Course  US $950/year

School Partnerships  (savings up to $200 per seat)

• Level 1 Partnership (4 seats)  US $3,200/year
• Level 2 Partnership (8 seats)  US $6,200/year
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