

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Amy Ohta** <aohta@uw.edu>

Date: Tue, Feb 19, 2019 at 10:29 AM

Subject: IB Credit and Japanese/Chinese/Korean program placement

To faculty in Japanese, Chinese and Korean:

The State of Washington recently passed SB 5917, which requires colleges in Washington to give credit for IB exams. IB has high school curricula in a variety of subjects. Students who take IB courses do not automatically earn college credit, but like AP, they can earn college credit by taking exams. SB 5917 states that for HL and SL foreign language "B" exams, colleges must give credit in "all appropriate instances" and grant "as many undergraduate college credits as possible and appropriate." If a college chooses NOT to award credit for a particular score, that unit must provide "evidence-based" reasons not to do so.

With this in mind, a committee of Japanese, Chinese and Korean faculty (composed of me (coordinating the process), Izumi, EunYoung and Chan), examined the IB exams for our languages, compared them to our curricula and our knowledge of our curricular outcomes, based on our instructional experience. We were guided by the spirit of this law requiring "as many undergraduate credits as *possible and appropriate*." I do not know when our recommendations will be implemented by the university, but the law requires these to be effective from Autumn 2018.

Here is information for you, in case students come to you asking about IB. (Please do not forward this message to students. This information is for advising purposes only, and will be updated, so we don't want something circulated that will soon become out of date):

- We have submitted a new credit policy to UW for implementation. When this new policy is implemented, the registrar will grant credit that will appear on their transcript. The law requires UW to grant IB credits according to the new policy effective Autumn 2018, but it may take some time for UW to do all of the approvals needed to implement the departments' recommended policies because they are working to coordinate between many departments.
- We are not informing students of our IB credit policy recommendations because these are not yet approved by UW.
- Since *Placement* into programs is not related to earning of college credit via IB, we are glad to place students into our courses. We don't need to know how many credits were granted via IB in order to do that. However many credits are earned, we will place students according to our established placement procedures, which work to put students in courses where they can be successful.
- If a student later finds that they have earned college credit via their IB test score, even if the credit they earned is at the same level as where they were placed in the program, the course number will be different so they will still have all of the credit that they are entitled to.

In order to serve as a rough guide for language programs as you are routing students to appropriate faculty for placement, please note that:

- Japanese/Chinese *ab initio*, scores of 4 or 5: Students may need further work in 1st year language.
- Japanese/Chinese *ab initio*, scores of 6 or 7: Somewhere in 2nd year may be the most appropriate placement, though it is possible that a student may have higher level skills that weren't measured by the test
- SL, Japanese/Chinese/Korean B, scores of 4 or 5: Students may need further work in 2nd year language.
- SL, Japanese/Chinese/Korean B, scores of 6 or 7: Students may belong in 3rd year, or higher level language courses. For very high scores it is possible that the student has higher level skills that weren't measured by the test.
- HL, Japanese/Chinese/Korean B, score of 4: Students may need further work in 2nd year language.
- HL, Japanese/Chinese/Korean B, score of 5: Students may belong in 3rd year Japanese or higher
- HL, Japanese/Chinese/Korean B, score of 6 or 7: Students may belong in 4th year courses. For very high scores it is possible that the student has higher level skills that weren't measured by the test.

I hope this information is helpful. I will update you as soon as the policy is implemented.

- Amy