



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



# **Guide to Academic Certificate**

## **Equivalency for Licensed UAE-based Private Schools**

**2024 - 2025**



---

## Guide Content

|           |                                                                                                           |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>01</b> | Private schools' classifications                                                                          |
| <b>02</b> | Academic Certificates issued by Private Schools that follow the Ministry of Education's Curriculum        |
| <b>03</b> | Academic Certificates issued by Private Schools that do not follow the Ministry of Education's Curriculum |

---



---

# Private schools' classifications

---

**UAE-based private schools are classified as follows:**

**First:** Schools that follow the Ministry of Education's curriculum

**Second:** Schools that follow a curriculum other than the Ministry of Education's curriculum:

American Curriculum Schools

British Curriculum Schools

International Baccalaureate (IB) Schools

Canadian Curriculum Schools

Australian Curriculum Schools

French Baccalaureate System Schools

Schools Following Other Curricula

---



---

# Academic Certificates' Equivalency

---

## 1. Academic Certificates issued by private schools following the Ministry's curriculum:

1- Private school students who follow the Ministry's curriculum are subject to the same rules and regulations as public school students. They take the Grade-12 general education certificate exam and those who pass receive the General Secondary Certificate from the Ministry.

2- Academic certificates issued by private schools that follow the Ministry's curriculum are considered equivalent to those issued by public schools and are attested according to applicable regulatory decisions.

---



---

## 2. Academic Certificates issued by private schools that follow curriculum other than the Ministry of Education's curriculum:

### General conditions:

#### Equivalency Conditions for Secondary School Certificates issued by Private Schools Following Non-Ministry Curricula:

1. The curriculum and education system must be officially recognised and licensed in the country.

2. The certifying educational authority must be recognised and licensed in the country.

3. The private school must be licensed and recognised to operate in the country.

4. The private school must be accredited by the certifying educational authority.

5. The education structure in the certifying country must match that of the UAE.

6. The student must complete 12 years of schooling from the primary level.

7. The certificate must qualify the student for university admission in the certifying country.

8. The student must pass Islamic Studies (for Muslim students) and Arabic Language (for Arab students) in Grades 10, 11 and 12, as required by applicable laws and regulations.

---



---

## Special conditions:

In addition to the above-mentioned general conditions, the following specific conditions apply to each educational system

### American system

- The student must successfully complete Grades 10, 11 and 12, with a minimum of five subjects per grade, each with a passing score of at least D or 60%. Islamic Education and Arabic Language are not included in the subject count.
- The student must earn a secondary school completion certificate.
- The student must pass the required tests below

#### English language test in one of the tests listed below:

- TOEFL test with a score of no less than 61 on the Internet-based test (iBT)
- IELTS Academic test with a score of no less than 5.0
- SAT I – Math Reasoning Test with a score of no less than 450

#### Note:

Graduates of the current academic year 2024/2025 (Grade 12 – American Curriculum) are exempted from the English language proficiency tests (IELTS, TOEFL iBT) and the Mathematics test (SAT).

---



---

## British system

- The student must successfully complete Grade 12 or its equivalent.
- The student must pass one of the two tracks:

### First track:

**The student must pass the IGCSE/GCSE and Advanced Subsidiary/Advanced level subjects as follows:**

- Ordinary Level (GCSE/IGCSE): The student must pass five subjects with a grade of (A\*, A, B, C, D, E) or (9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3).
  - Higher Subsidiary Level (GCE Advanced Subsidiary) or Higher Level (GCE Advanced): The student must pass two subjects at the Subsidiary Level or one subject at the Advanced Level with a grade of (A\*, A, B, C, D, E).
- Islamic Education and Arabic Language are not considered subjects at either level.

### Second track:

- The BTEC Level 3 Diploma is equivalent to the vocational secondary school certificate according to the following conditions:

#### First condition:

**The student must achieve one of the following:**

- The student must pass five subjects at the Ordinary Level (IGCSE or GCSE) with a grade of (A\*, A, B, C, D, E) or (9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3).
- The student must successfully obtain the International BTEC Level 2 Diploma, with a minimum of 480 guided learning hours (GLH).
- The student must successfully obtain the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) Certificate.

#### Second condition:

**The student must successfully obtain a BTEC Level 3 Diploma with at least 120 credit points or 720 guided learning hours (GLH).**

---



---

## International Baccalaureate system

- The school must be recognised by the International Baccalaureate organisation.
- The student must successfully complete Grade 12 or its equivalent.
- The student must select subjects for study from the lists approved by the International Baccalaureate organisation.
- The student may choose the Arabic language subject from the International Baccalaureate curriculum as an alternative to the regular Arabic language subject.
- The student must successfully complete one of the following tracks:

### First track:

**The student must successfully obtain the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, provided that Islamic Education is not included among the required subjects for the diploma.**

### Second track:

**The student must successfully pass six subjects from the IB Subject Certificates, meeting the following conditions:**

1. The grade in each subject must be at least 3.
  2. The student's total score must be no less than 21.
  3. The student must pass the following compulsory subjects: English, Mathematics, and one science subject. These can be studied at either the Standard Level (SL) or Higher Level (HL).
  4. Islamic Education is not counted among the six subjects required for equivalency.
-



---

### Third track:

**The IB Career-Related Programme (CP) certificate is equivalent to the vocational high school certificate, subject to the following conditions:**

- The student must successfully obtain the IB Career-Related Programme (CP) certificate.
- The student must pass two IB subjects with a grade of at least 3. These subjects can be taken at the Standard Level (SL) or Higher Level (HL). The subjects must be selected from the approved list, and Islamic Education is not included among the two subjects required for equivalency.
- The student must successfully obtain the BTEC Level 3 Diploma with at least 90 credit points or 540 guided learning hours (GLH).

### Canadian system

- The school must be recognised by the Department of Education in a Canadian province.
  - The student must pass the required subjects for grades 10, 11, and 12 based on the province's curriculum.
  - The student must obtain a high school graduation diploma.
  - The final certificate must be issued and certified by the province granting the school's recognition.
-



---

## Australian system

- The school must be recognised by the Department of Education in an Australian state or territory.
- The student must pass the required subjects for grades 10, 11, and 12 based on the curriculum of the relevant state or territory.
- The student must obtain a high school graduation diploma.
- The final certificate must be issued and accredited by the state or territory that granted the school recognition, in accordance with its requirements.

## French Baccalaureate System

- The student must obtain the French Baccalaureate Diploma (Diplôme du Baccalauréat Général).

## Other systems

- The student must pass grades 10, 11, and 12 according to the curriculum requirements.
  - The student must obtain a graduation certificate or diploma based on the curriculum.
-