

# The Career-related Programme at International School Almere

The IB Career-related Programme (CP) is an educational framework designed for students aged 16-19 who want to combine academic study with practical, career-related learning. It integrates IB Diploma Programme (DP) courses with a career-related study (CRS)—in our case, an Information Technology BTEC course—and includes a CP Core that develops personal and professional skills. The CP is ideal for students interested in a specific career pathway while still benefiting from an internationally recognized education that fosters critical thinking, intercultural understanding, and lifelong learning. At our school, this career pathway focuses on Information Technology combined with Business.

## Curriculum

CP students will take the following courses:

- Career-related Study (CRS) in Information Technology
- 2 DP courses, chosen from:
  - English A Language and Literature
  - Business and Management
  - Mathematics Applications and Interpretation
- CP Core, which consists of:
  - Personal and Professional Skills (PPS)
  - Language and Cultural Studies (LCS)
  - Reflective Project (RP)
  - Community Engagement (CE)

## Career-related Study in Information Technology

At our school, students will complete a BTEC in Information Technology, with selected Business units incorporated into the CRS. BTEC is a vocational training program run by Pearson, which has officially authorized our school to deliver this course. Upon completion, students will receive dual certification: a BTEC certificate and a CP certificate, both of which are internationally recognized.

BTEC units are assessed through coursework-based assessments that simulate industry-specific tasks. Instead of traditional written exams, students will create relevant and meaningful projects, such as presentations, podcasts, videos, or written reports, depending

on the unit requirements. Once a unit is completed, no further examination will be required for that unit.

#### BTEC Units:

- Information Technology Systems - Strategy, Management and Infrastructure
- Programming
- Cloud Storage and Collaboration Tools
- Using Social Media in Business
- Website Development
- Enterprise in IT
- Introduction to Robotics and Automation
- Introduction to AI
- Market Research
- Work Experience in Business (one-week internship of 40 hours)

### Diploma Programme Courses

To complement their practical learning in the CRS, CP students will also take two DP courses at Standard Level. The available options are:

- English A Language and Literature
- Business and Management
- Mathematics Applications and Interpretation

Admission to these DP courses is subject to academic results prior to entering the program. The minimum criteria are:

- English A: Minimum 4 for all criteria in MYP5 English A; or minimum 6 for all criteria in MYP5 English B
- Business and Management: Minimum 4 overall in MYP5 Individual and Societies
- Mathematics AI: Minimum 4 overall in MYP5 Mathematics

### CP Core

The CP Core consists of 4 components:

- Personal and Professional Skills (PPS) – Taught for 2 hours per week in CP1 and 1 hour per week in CP2, this course develops employability skills such as teamwork, communication, and social skills.
- Language and Cultural Studies (LCS) – Taught 1 hour per week, focusing on Chinese as the chosen language and culture. Students develop basic proficiency and intercultural understanding through projects and guest speakers, enhancing their international mindedness.

- Reflective Project (RP) – A research-based investigation into an ethical dilemma within their career pathway or another industry. Students can present their findings in written, visual, audio, or multimedia formats, such as podcasts or videos.
- Community Engagement (CE) – Encourages students to work collaboratively with communities to address real-world challenges and contribute meaningfully. Students identify relevant issues and engage in projects that promote active citizenship and problem-solving.

## Passing requirements

To earn the CP certificate, student must meet the following criteria:

- The school has confirmed that the candidate has completed the specified career-related study.
- The candidate has been awarded a grade 3 or more in at least two of the DP courses.
- The candidate has been awarded at least a D grade for the reflective project.
- The school has confirmed that all personal and professional skills, community engagement and language and cultural studies requirements have been met.
- The candidate has not received a penalty for academic misconduct from the Final Award Committee.

## Post-secondary education options

In the Netherlands, many CP graduates continue their education at Universities of Applied Sciences (*Hogeschole*), such as Fontys, Avans, HAN, or The Hague University of Applied Sciences, enrolling in programs like International Business, Computer Science, Software Engineering, or Cyber Security. These universities emphasize practical, career-oriented learning and often include internships with industry partners.

For students looking to study abroad, CP qualifications are recognized by many international universities, particularly in the UK, Canada, the US, and other European countries. Some universities may require additional qualifications, but many institutions welcome CP students into business, IT, or technology-related degree programs.

Alternatively, students can enter the workforce directly or pursue further vocational training to develop specialized skills in their chosen career field.