



Empower your child

Every day Pamoja teaches over 2,000 IB students across the globe, online, leveraging the very best educational technology to boost student achievement. They become knowledgeable, internationally minded, independent learners, developing the essential study skills they need for success at university and in employment.

Your child could be part of this community. As a parent, you may have some concerns about online learning. We understand. Like you, we want an enriching learning experience for our students. We'd like to share with you some answers to frequently asked questions we've received from parents over the years, to help you to guide your child through their IB journey.

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1. Who is Pamoja?

Pamoja is the only provider approved by the IB to teach the Diploma and Career-related Programmes online.

We empower. We offer courses that inspire students to study what they love. We care about each individual by developing a personalised approach placing the attributes of the IB learner profile at the heart of our teaching strategies. We share with schools and teachers what we know about data driven leadership and instructional support to create opportunities to succeed each and every day.

2. Who can take Pamoja online courses?

Children aged 16-19 can study for the Diploma, the IB flagship programme taught since 1968, or for the Career-related Programme (IBCP). Launched in 2012, the IBCP leads to further education, apprenticeships or employment. We offer online learning opportunities to students on either one of these programmes.

It is not currently possible to complete the full IB Diploma or Career-related programmes solely online with Pamoja. Students therefore choose a few courses online and take others face-to-face at their IB World School.

3. What do we mean by online learning?

Students will access the course content through an online learning platform. Online courses are mostly taught asynchronously using the materials and resources already available on the platform. This gives them flexibility to learn at any time.

Activities are planned throughout the course to encourage collaboration and complement their self-study. Students have regular direct instant contact with IB experienced online teachers and classmates from around the world.

4. What benefits will Pamoja courses add to my child's education?

We help schools offer the broadest IB curriculum possible by adding new subjects online to their face-to-face course catalogue. Your child may therefore not need to compromise on their subjects of interest. We will enable them to take courses that their IB World School may not offer face-to-face.

Pamoja also supports students who need to change schools while they are studying. This means that if your family needs to relocate while your child is studying for their Diploma or Career-related Programme, they could continue studying the same subjects at their new school, online; this applies even if the student was already studying the subject(s) in a face-to-face class.

Dynamic course design and collaborative learning opportunities allow students to develop the essential online study skills they need for success at university and in employment. The courses are interactive in nature, providing a global classroom through which your child can have contact with teachers and other students from many geographical regions.

"I think the idea of interacting with people from other countries all over the world and other cultures brings in more of the International Baccalaureate idea, where we're a global community and we can interact with each other using the internet, which is becoming a global tool." Rocio, Online Psychology SL student

A recent study published by the Institute of Education, University of London, shows that Pamoja students:

- Gain experience in a range of online learning tools that they are now using as part of their university learning.
- Develop confidence in using technology to source information and so are most likely to research online rather than using print sources.
- Become independent learners who can manage their time well and are less likely than other students to turn to their university instructors for help.

“I am better at researching online, I am more confident at navigating the web, I know how to find extra resources to help me with my learning. Online learning helps you to develop your time management skills, your research skills, and gives you something extra that’s different to lots of other students when you apply to university.”

Alex, Online Business Management SL student accepted into all 8 Ivy Leagues

5. How do you ensure the quality of the online courses?

Carefully designed by IB Subject Matter Experts, our courses are developed by experienced Instructional Designers to stimulate critical thinking and promote lifelong learning habits. All our courses undergo a rigorous approval process by the IB itself.

Each one of our courses is taught by our highly experienced IB teachers, trained in our online teaching strategies. All our teachers have experience teaching their IB subject before they start teaching online with Pamoja. The large majority of them still teach the IB face-to-face in schools around the world. Some are IB examiners too. This experience around their Pamoja teaching gives teachers important insights into how students find the course and how best they might support them:

One Pamoja teacher said “typically in a face-to-face school where discussion forums are dominated by the loudest voices... discussion in a classroom can be really quick and fast and often the teacher tends to take over and dominate that. With the online forums, when they’re working well, students have more time; the quiet ones can contribute and get their voice heard and I just know by looking at the forums, some of the best forum contributors wouldn’t stand a chance in a face-to-face classroom.”

We also conduct an ongoing programme evaluation which gathers data across the organisation to determine whether, and to what degree, we are supporting students to achieve their full potential. The evaluation, supported by *the Institute for Learning Technologies Teachers College, Columbia University*, examines data from the following sources: student enrolment, surveys (students, teachers and SBCs), user behaviour and performance (from the Learning Management Systems), academic outcomes and Head of Department reports. The report is reviewed internally to address any procedural changes needed based on user feedback.

6. How does an online course work?

Students join a classroom with fellow classmates from all around the world. They are divided into sections of approximately 25 students, where each section has an allocated teacher.

The content is broken down into weekly lessons; each week, the online teacher introduces objectives to help students stay on track. The course encourages self-study, but students also have the opportunity to join a live lesson with their teacher and classmates every week. The Pamoja courses are founded on promoting collaboration. Students are encouraged to work with peers and teachers, as well as being able to review archived lessons as needed. Students' lives are made simpler accessing all the materials they need for our online courses within one platform.

Furthermore no two weeks are the same! Our courses include various activities to keep students engaged and interested in the lesson content.

"We have group projects. We've got wikis to which students contribute, we do a lot of Skype or Blackboard Collaborate sessions, where students attend at the same time, and we do discussions on different ideas and concepts that have been studied in that week."
Zena Taha-Bjorgen, Head of IT in a Global Society at Pamoja

For schools, our platform provides greater visibility of student engagement through easy-to-understand dashboards, allowing students' progress to be checked regularly and quickly.

7. Will my child be supported through their online course?

Members of our community will be available to assist your child throughout their online course.

"Students know that they're not out there alone and that they can reach out, ask the teacher questions, get support, move forward and increase in their independence and responsibility, but they're continually supported. So I think that helps with their self-confidence and they just continue to grow." Pamoja teacher

Students have many opportunities for one-to-one contact with online teachers, as well as for peer-to-peer review and feedback. As a member of our global community, students can support one another or seek support from teachers. We have also recently launched a new Help Centre to allow students to log requests. We always try and accommodate different time zones to ensure a teacher or a member of our school and student services team is available to help.

A trained Site-based Coordinator (SBC), who is a teacher at the student's school, also monitors student progress and provides a direct link between the school and Pamoja.

"The online Mandarin ab initio course allows me to make a personal connection to my teacher. I have weekly conversations with an online tutor that the Pamoja system sets up so that we can practice our speaking."
Carsten, online Mandarin ab initio student

8. What is my role in my child's online learning experience?

As a parent, you will be offered exclusive access to the online platform, enabling you to monitor your child's progress through their course in real time. You will also have access to gradebooks for review of your child's submissions, teacher feedback and students' responses.

We hope this extra level of information will be helpful in supporting and encouraging your child through their online learning experience. As you would do in a traditional classroom situation, we invite you to contact your child's SBC or online teacher if you have any concerns throughout the course.

9. How is an online experience perceived by universities and employers?

Universities have traditionally viewed students with IB experience favourably, and in many cases, will extend university credit based on the results of a student's IB exams. All Pamoja courses have recognised IB status for university admissions: there is no distinction on the final Diploma between face-to-face and online courses. Students taking Pamoja courses will enjoy the same admissions and credit benefits as students who take IB courses on campus.

Pamoja students complete the same internal and external assessments and take the same written examinations in the last year of the course at an IB World School, as they would if they had taken the course in a face-to-face classroom. Our students' results are equally recognised by university admissions as those taught in a traditional face-to-face IB classroom and for many undertaking a course online with Pamoja gives significant added value to the student's experience.

*"We're very keen on students who have been well supported through the online learning experience. That's actually a very good proxy for the experience when they come to Oxford."
Mike Nicholson, Former Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach, University of Oxford*

Pamoja teachers agree that the supportive and safe online environment we offer provides students with low risk challenges. They can learn from the experience; making mistakes and developing self-management, communication, research and social skills highly valued by future employers as well.

10. What subjects are available online?

DP Core:

- Theory of Knowledge
- Extended Essay Supervision

Group 2: Language Acquisition

- French ab initio
- Mandarin ab initio
- Spanish ab initio
- Spanish B

Group 3: Individuals and Societies

- Business Management SL
- Business Management HL
- Economics SL
- Economics SL (one-year)
- Economics HL
- IT in a Global Society SL
- IT in a Global Society HL
- Philosophy SL
- Psychology SL
- Psychology HL

Group 5: Mathematics

- Mathematics SL
- Mathematics HL

Group 6: The Arts

- Film SL

11. How can I sign my child up for a Pamoja course?

If your child is interested in studying online with us, here are our recommended next steps for you:

1. Help your child select the course(s) they want to take from our list.
2. Find out if your school already offers the IB Diploma or Career-related Programme (you can use the [Find an IB World School](#) tool on the IB website).
3. Talk to the IB Diploma Coordinator at your school, who will then get in touch with us to set up your child's registration.