



# WESTERN ACADEMY OF BEIJING

## High School Profile 2016-2017

CEEB Code: 694203 • IB Code: 2162

PO Box 8547, 10 Lai Guang Ying Dong Lu, Chaoyang District, 100102, Beijing P.R.China

Tel: + (86 10) 5986 5588 • www.wab.edu

**Director**

Dr. J. Courtney Lowe

**Assistant Principal**

Murray Polglase

**Counselor**

Franko Cifizzari (Head of Department)  
franko\_cifizzari@wab.edu

**Counselor**

Natasha Tavares  
natasha\_tavares@wab.edu

**Principal**

Melanie Vrba

**Curriculum Coordinator**

Brent Abrahams

**Counselor**

Michelle Chow-Liu  
mchow@wab.edu

**Counselor**

Tim Stokes  
tim\_stokes@wab.edu

### School Description

Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) is a leading non-profit, independent IB World School. Founded in 1994, WAB prides itself on innovative and highly qualified teachers, world-class facilities, diverse community, warm and supportive environment and service-oriented culture. Students are the focus of WAB's learner-centered atmosphere, and are encouraged to take their place as responsible citizens of the world. The High School was established in 2005. The Class of 2017 (**108 students**) will be the eleventh graduating class in the 22-year history of the school.

Technology and information literacy are integrated throughout the rigorous curriculum, requiring that every student have a laptop computer. Both the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) and the IB Diploma Programme (DP) are offered in the High School. In addition, every graduate earns an accredited Western Academy of Beijing High School Diploma.

### Accreditation and Membership

**WAB is accredited by:**

- NCCT - National Center for Curriculum and Textbook Development  
(WAB was the first international school in China to be accredited by NCCT)
- NEASC - New England Association of Schools and Colleges
- CIS - Council of International Schools
- IB - International Baccalaureate

**WAB is an active member of:**

- ACAMIS - Association of China and Mongolia International Schools
- APAC - Asia Pacific Activities Conference
- CIS - Council of International Schools
- EARCOS - East Asia Regional Council of Schools
- ISAC - International School Athletics Conference
- NAIS - National Association of Independent Schools
- ISCA - International School Counselor Association
- NACAC - National Association for College Admissions Counseling
- IACAC - International Association for College Admissions Counseling

### Student Body

The High School of 426 students (EY-12: 1,360) is truly international, with students representing 46 nationalities and 36 languages. Currently, approximately 41% of students come from the United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand; 39% from Asian countries; 19% from European countries; and 1% other. WAB encourages a creative culture based on universal respect. The diversity is also reflected at the school with no single nationality exceeding 20% of the student body.

### Faculty

WAB's highly experienced and committed international faculty comes from a wide variety of countries, such as Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK and the US. There are 187 teachers at WAB - 67 at the High School with 18 nationalities represented, many of whom are educational leaders, IB trainers, examiners, moderators and curriculum writers.



## High School Curriculum

WAB students are encouraged to take the most challenging courses in which they can be academically successful. English is the language of instruction. Each course meets for 80 minutes on an alternate rotating day schedule throughout the school year, which runs from August through June. The academic year is divided into two semesters.

All Grade 9 and 10 students study eight courses each year. In Grade 10, students complete the MYP Personal Project outside of class time. The project exposes students early on to independent research and critical reflection.

In Grades 11 and 12, students can participate in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. **The full IB Diploma is open to all WAB students.** The Class of 2017 consists of 108 students, 88 of which are taking the full IB Diploma. Full IB Diploma students choose from six subject groups that include a broad range of courses with three at standard level and three at higher level. In addition, students must take the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course, complete an Extended Essay, and fulfill Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) commitments outside of class time. **WAB expects full DP students to enroll in no more than three courses at higher level and three courses at standard level. WAB only allows 10 applications to universities each yearly cycle.**

## Student Support Programs

A range of services is provided in the High School to assist learners with special needs and abilities, and for students whose academic language is not English. All student achievement and learning needs are monitored upon entry to the High School. An enrichment specialist provides additional opportunities for students identified with high ability in a variety of subject areas. Students who are non-native English language speakers are assessed to determine whether EAL support is required. The Learning Support Center actively supports students with learning needs, including maintaining documentation for testing accommodations. High School

counselors provide a range of support including academic, social and emotional counseling and guidance.

## WABX Extracurricular Activities and Global Citizenship/CAS

WAB believes in balancing the educational needs of students with their social, physical and character development. Students are encouraged to pursue individual interests through a broad range of activities including competitive and intramural sports, music and the creative arts. There are 14 competitive sports and over 200 creative and service activities available to our High School students to take part in, including GSBTQ Alliance, International Youth Award, Pro-Farmer, Global Issues Network, and Forensics. WAB strongly encourages our students to connect, inspire and make a difference in their daily lives.

In order for students to receive the WAB High School Diploma, all students commit to global citizenship projects. Students in Grades 11 and 12 participate in CAS projects with clearly defined IB learning objectives. These projects should be, by their very nature, a learning experience for the student with reflection as an integral part of the process. WAB encourages all students to become caring global citizens who demonstrate empathy and compassion and show awareness toward people and the environment. Global citizenship projects uphold a WAB core value of being fully engaged in our host country, China.

## China Studies Program

An annual China Studies field trip for each grade level is a key element in engaging students with our host country while supporting the High School curriculum. All High School students participate in a one-week trip to different regions of China, providing an opportunity to broaden the student's curricular experience, to develop environmental and cultural awareness, and to foster a sense of community living and sharing.

## COURSE OFFERINGS: 2016 - 2017 All courses are IB unless specifically denoted as High School (HS) courses.

### ENGLISH

**MYP:**  
English A  
English Language Acquisition

**DP:**  
English Literature A (SL/HL)  
English Language and Literature A (SL/HL)  
IB English B (HL)

### HUMANITIES

**MYP:**  
Individuals & Societies  
Humanities English for Academic Purposes (HEAP)

**DP:**  
Economics (SL/HL)  
Geography (SL/HL)  
History (SL/HL)  
Information Technology in a Global Society (ITGS) (SL/HL)  
Psychology (SL/HL)  
HS Business & Management in a Global Society  
HS Global Studies

### MATHEMATICS

**MYP:**  
Mathematics  
(Studies, Standard, and Extended levels)

**DP:**  
IB Mathematics Studies (SL)

IB Mathematics (SL/HL)  
HS Mathematical Applications

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**MYP:**  
Science (Integrated Biology, Chemistry, and Physics lab sciences)  
Product Design Technology  
Digital Design Technology

**DP:**  
Biology (SL/HL)  
Chemistry (SL/HL)  
Physics (SL/HL)  
Design Technology (DT) (SL/HL)  
Environmental Systems & Society (SL)  
HS Integrated Science

### LANGUAGES

**MYP:**  
Mandarin Foundation (Phase 1/2)  
Mandarin Standard (3/4)  
Mandarin Advanced (5)  
Spanish (Foundation, Standard, Advanced levels- Phases 1-5)  
French (Foundation, Standard, Advanced levels- Phases 1-5)

**DP:**  
Mandarin Ab Initio (SL)  
Mandarin Literature A (SL/HL)  
Mandarin Language and Literature A (SL/HL)  
Mandarin B (SL/HL)

Spanish Ab Initio (SL)  
Spanish B (SL/HL)  
IB French B (SL/HL)  
Literature A  
School-Supported/Self-Taught (SL)

### THE ARTS

**MYP:**  
Art  
Dance  
Drama  
Film  
Music

**DP:**  
Visual Arts (SL/HL)  
Dance (SL/HL)  
Theatre (SL/HL)  
Film Studies (SL/HL)  
Music (SL/HL)  
HS Art & Design

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**MYP:**  
Health and Physical Education  
HS Lifelong Wellness

### OTHER

**DP:**  
Theory of Knowledge (TOK)

## Western Academy of Beijing - IB Diploma Results (past 4 years)

Range of WAB IB Diploma results

Year	< 24	24 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 45	Highest diploma points awarded to a WAB candidate
2016	1	18	42	34	8	45
2015	-	13	26	34	18	44
2014	1	13	37	16	22	45
2013	2	19	37	28	18	45

WAB is academically non-selective with more than 90% of the students completing the full IB Diploma Programme. Over the last four years, 20% of WAB students have averaged 40 points in the full IB Diploma Programme.

Year Graduating Class	IBDP Candidates	WAB Mean	World Mean	Percentage of WAB DP candidates who earned the diploma	Number of WAB students who earned a bilingual diploma
2016	103	34	30.06	98%	23
2015	91	35	30.02	99%	21
2014	89	35	29.7	97%	28
2013	107	35	29.9	93%	27

### WAB Graduation Requirements

In order for students to receive the WAB High School Diploma they must successfully complete the minimum required credits listed below:

4 English	3 Science
3 Mathematics	3 Humanities
2 Arts	2 Other Language
2 Physical Education	2 Technology
3 Electives	

Credit is given for successful completion of WAB courses with a grade of 3 or higher. In discussion with a WAB counselor, new students have their previous transcript/school reports verified and appropriate credit awarded. Some students may be waived certain credits (technology) only if entering mid-way through High School. **WAB does not rank or calculate Grade Point Averages (GPAs).**

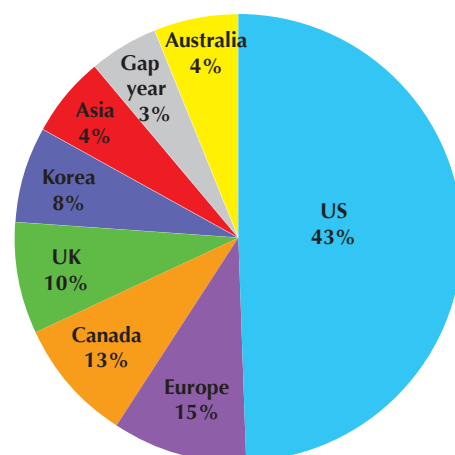
### Grading System (1-7 Scale)

The WAB assessment system follows the established IB criteria and conversion table, whose descriptors are noted below:

Grade	North American Conversion	Descriptor
7	A+	Excellent
6	A	Very Good
5	B	Good
4	C	Satisfactory
3	D	Mediocre
2	F	Poor
1	F	Very Poor

### Destinations for Class of 2016 (118 students)

Includes Gap Year and National Service



### Class of 2017 SAT Scores

#### SAT Summary 2400

Section	Middle 50%	Mean
Critical Reading	560 - 670	614
Math	650 - 760	688
Writing	610 - 710	649

#### SAT Summary New 1600

Section	Middle 50%	Mean
Critical Reading	570 - 680	650
Math	610 - 710	681

### Standardized Tests & External Exams

WAB offers the following external exams on site:

- ACT
- PSAT
- SAT
- SAT Subject Tests
- ISA (International Schools' Assessment)
- IB Diploma
- UK Admissions tests

# MATRICULATION - UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE: CLASSES OF 2013-2016

## ASIA/AFRICA

Beijing Language and Culture University (4)  
Hokkaido University (Japan)  
Hong Kong University of Sci. & Tech. (4)  
Lady Shri Ram College for Women  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Nanyang Technological Uni. (Singapore) \*  
Nagoya University (Japan)  
Peking University (China) (2)  
Sophia University \*  
Temple University (Japan) (1)  
Tsinghua University (China) (2) \*  
Waseda University Japan  
University of Hong Kong (2)  
Yale-NUS College (Singapore)

## AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Australia National University (2)  
Blue Mountains Hotel School  
La Trobe University (2)  
Monash University  
University of Brisbane  
University of Melbourne (1)  
University of Queensland (3) \*  
University of Sydney (2)

## CANADA

Bishop's University \*  
McGill University (10) \*\*\*  
McMaster University (2) \*  
Queen's University \*  
Quest University \*  
Simon Fraser University (2) \*  
University of British Columbia (18) \*\*\*\*\*  
University of Toronto (11) \*\*\*  
University of Waterloo (2)

## EUROPE

Aalto University (Finland) \*  
Amsterdam University College (NL)  
Delft University of Technology (NL) (2) \*  
Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne (3) \*\*  
Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam (NL) (4) \*  
Erasmus University College \*  
Esmod Paris (France)  
Hanzehogeschool Groningen (Netherlands)  
The Hague University (Netherlands)  
Hotel School den Haag (Netherlands) \*  
Leiden University (Netherlands)  
Les Roches –Hospitality, Switzerland (2)  
Lund University (Sweden)  
Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus, Netherlands (4) \*\*  
Szent Istva University, (Hungary)  
Universiteit Utrecht (Netherlands) (2)  
Universiteit van Amsterdam (Netherlands)  
University College Utrecht (2)  
University of Oslo (Norway) \*  
University of Szeged Medicine (Hungary)  
Uppsala University (Sweden) \*  
Webster University, Netherlands

## KOREA

Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) (2) \*  
Korean National University of Arts  
Seoul National University (3) \*  
Sogang University  
Yonsei University (3) \*

## UNITED KINGDOM

Arts University Bournemouth \*  
Brighton and Sussex Medical School \*

Central St Martin's College-Art & Design (2)  
City University London  
Edinburgh Napier University  
Goldsmith College, University of London  
Imperial College  
Istituto Marangoni , London \*  
King's College of London (2) \*  
London Centre of Contemporary Music  
London School of Economics \*  
Loughborough University  
Middlesex University  
Newcastle University  
Nottingham Trent University  
School of Oriental and African Studies  
UCFB Wembley (2) \*\*  
University College London (6) \*  
University of Aberdeen  
University of Dundee (2) \*  
University of East Anglia \*  
University of Edinburgh (4)  
University of Exeter (2) \*  
University of Glasgow  
University of London (1)  
University of Manchester  
University of Nottingham  
University of St. Andrews  
University of Surrey  
University of Warwick (2) \*\*

## UNITED STATES

American University (5) \*  
Austin College  
Babson College  
Bard College  
Barnard College (2)  
Bates College \*  
Bentley University  
Berklee College of Music  
Biola University \*  
Boston College  
Boston Conservatory  
Boston University (5) \*  
Bowdoin College (2)  
Brandeis University (2)  
Brown University (5) \*\*  
Bryant University \*  
Chapman University (2)  
Clark University  
College of the Atlantic  
College of Wooster  
Columbia University (2)  
Dartmouth College  
Drexel University  
Duke University \*  
Emory University (4) \*\*\*  
Fordham University \*  
Georgia Southern University  
Hamilton College \*  
Illinois State University  
Indiana University-Bloomington (2) \*  
Johns Hopkins University (2)  
Kalamazoo College \*  
Landmark College  
Lehigh University  
Lycoming College  
Marist College  
Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) (2)  
Michigan State University  
Mount Holyoke College  
New York Film Academy \*  
New York University (NYU) (11) \*\*\*\*\*

NYU Tisch School of the Arts (4) \*\*\*  
Northeastern University (6)  
Northwestern University (6) \*  
Oberlin College  
Parsons School of Design- The New School (2) \*  
Penn State University, University Park (2)  
Pitzer College  
Pratt Institute (4)  
Purdue University (2) \*  
Reed College \*  
Rhode Island School of Design (2) \*  
Rice University  
Ringling College of Art and Design \*  
Rutgers University (2)  
Saint John's University – Queen's  
San Diego State University \*  
San Jose State University  
Santa Clara University \*  
Santa Monica College \*  
Sarah Lawrence College (2) \*  
Savannah College of Art and Design (2) \*  
School of Art Institute- Chicago  
Scripps College  
Seattle University \*  
Trinity College  
Tufts University (2)  
Union College  
University of California, Berkeley (7) \*  
University of California, Irvine (2) \*\*  
University of California, Los Angeles (5) \*  
University of California, Riverside  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Cruz (4)  
University of Chicago  
University of Illinois, Chicago \*  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
University of Hawaii, Manoa (2)  
University of La Verne (2) \*  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst \*  
University of Miami  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
University of Pennsylvania (2)  
University of Richmond \*  
University of San Diego  
University of Southern California (5)  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville \*  
University of Texas, Austin  
University of Vermont  
University of Virginia (2) \*\*  
University of Washington (4)  
University of Wisconsin, Madison (2) \*  
Washington State University  
Washington University in St. Louis (3)  
Wellesley College (3) \*  
Wesleyan University  
Yale University

\* Denotes Class of 2016  
(one \* per matriculation)  
Korean and Australian matriculation numbers  
are incomplete - offers continue to arrive  
& tracking is difficult due to lack of student  
disclosure