School Description

Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) was established in 1994 as an international, independent, English language, coeducational day school serving the expatriate community in Beijing. WAB’s excellent facilities includes a state-of-the-art high school building, sports, arts, & technology center, spacious fields, and swimming pool, as well as separate school centers for early childhood, elementary, middle school and high school. The high school was established in 2005. The Class of 2018 (121 students) will be the twelfth graduating class in the 23-year history of the school.

Technology and information literacy are integrated throughout the rigorous curriculum, requiring that every student has a laptop computer. The IB Middle Years Programme (MYP), the IB Diploma Programme (IB DP) and the Capstone Program 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:

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

WAB is an active member of:

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

Student Body

The high school consists of 425 students (EY-12, 1360). WAB is truly international, with students representing 51 nationalities and 36 languages. Currently, approximately 40% of students come from the USA, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand; 39% from Asian countries; 20% from European countries (excluding UK); and 1% other. WAB encourages a creative culture based on universal respect. The diversity is also reflected at the school with no one 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, UK and the US. There are 184 teachers at WAB - 64 at the High School with 17 nationalities represented - many of whom are educational leaders, IB trainers, examiners, moderators and curriculum writers.
High School Curriculum (IB and beyond)
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 70 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, Capstone or the Individualized Curricula Programme (a selection of IB and High School courses that best meets the student’s future goals).

The full IB Diploma is open to all WAB students. The Capstone is selective, and students must apply. The Class of 2018 consists of 121 students: 98 students are pursuing the full IB Diploma and WAB High diploma, 4 are pursuing the Capstone and WAB HS Diploma, and 19 are pursuing the WAB High School Diploma (individualized curricula program). 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 academic yearly cycle.

Capstone Program
The Capstone Program is an academic self-directed learning program for students in Grades 11 and 12. Students take five IB or WAB offered courses and opt for a passion course as their sixth subject: the Capstone. Students determine their Capstone core learning areas for study, create an extended project, and are involved with an internship element over two years. Students have a teacher of record who monitors their progress on a weekly basis. In addition, students work with mentors who advise them in their areas of expertise. Four times over the two years, students must defend their learning before a committee (Deputy Director, Principal, a Counselor, Teacher of Record and at least one mentor). There is clear documentation of learning and assessment. Students can earn credit each semester with a final determination of level of achievement made at the end of the two-year program. Successful students can earn basic, proficient, distinguished or highly distinguished levels of achievement. Students must go through an application process to enter the program.

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. An enrichment specialist provides additional opportunities for students. Students who are non-native English language speakers are assessed to determine whether EAL (English as an Additional Language) support is required. The Learning Support Center actively supports students with learning needs. High School counselors provide a range of support, including academic, university, social and emotional counseling.

WABX Extracurricular Activities and Global Citizenship/CAS
In the WAB High School, there are more than 50 competitive sports teams, and more than 150 clubs, service projects and extracurricular activities.

WAB believes in balancing the educational needs of students with their social, physical and character development. Some examples include GSBTQ Alliance, International Youth Award, Pro-Farmer, Global Issues Network and Forensics. WAB expects all of the 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.

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: 2017 - 2018  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), HS English

**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 Global Issues

**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 - Phase 1-5), French (Foundation, Standard, Advanced levels - Phase 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), HS Conversational Chinese

**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, HS Film

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
- MYP: Health and Physical Education
- OTHER
- DP: Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Capstone
Destinations for Class of 2017 (108 students)
Includes Gap Year and National Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap year/National Service</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe (Non-UK)</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class of 2017 SAT Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Middle 50%</th>
<th>Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Reading</td>
<td>570 - 680</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>610 - 710</td>
<td>681</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduation</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Language</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credit is given for successful completion of WAB courses with a grade of 3 or higher. Transfer students have their previous transcript/school reports verified and appropriate credit is awarded (not stated on WAB transcript). Some students may be waived from certain requirements (i.e. technology) only if entering mid-way through High School. WAB does not Rank or calculate Grade Point Averages (GPA).

Grading System (1-7 Scale)
The WAB assessment system follows the established IB criteria and conversion table, whose descriptors are noted below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>North American Conversion</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Mediocre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Very Poor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Standardized Tests & External Exams
WAB offers the following external exams on site:
- IB
- ISA (International Schools' Assessment)
- ACT
- PSAT
- SAT
- UK Admissions tests
- SAT Subject Tests
Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) *(2)

Korean National University of Arts

Korea University *(2)

Seoul National University *(7)**

Sogang University *(2)

Yonsei University *(7)**

United States

American University *(6)*

Auburn University

Babson College

Bard College

Barnard College *(2)

Bates College

Bentley University

Berklee College of Music

Biola University

Boston College

Boston Conservatory

Boston University *(7)*

Bowdoin College *(2)

Brandeis University *(2)

Brown University *(6)*

Bryant University *(2)*

California Institute of the Arts *

Carleton College *

Chapman University *(3)*

Clark University

College of the Atlantic

College of Wooster

Columbia University *(3)*

Dartmouth College

Drexel University

Duke University

Emory University *(5)*

Fordham University

Georgia Southern University

Grinnell College *

Hamilton College

Illinois State University

Indiana University-Bloomington *(2)

Johns Hopkins University *(2)

Kalamazoo College

Lafayette College *

Landmark College

Lehigh University

Lewis & Clark College *

Loyola University, Chicago *

Lycoming College

Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) *(2)

Michigan State University *(2)*

Mount Holyoke College

New York Film Academy

New York University (NYU) *(12)*

NYU Tisch School of the Arts *(4)

Northeastern University *(8)**

Northwestern University *(6)

Oberlin College

Ohio University *

Parsons School of Design - The New School *(3)*

Penn State University, University Park *(2)

Pitzer College

Pratt Institute *(4)

Purdue University *(4)**

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 *(2)*

Sarah Lawrence College *(2)

Savannah College of Art and Design *(2)

School of Art Institute- Chicago

Scripps College

Seattle University

Stony Brook University *

Syracuse University *

Trinity College

Tufts University *(3)*

Union College

University of California, Berkeley *(11)****

University of California, Irvine *(2)

University of California, Los Angeles *(7)**

University of California, Riverside

University of California, San Diego *(2)*

University of California, Santa Cruz *(4)

University of Chicago

University of Colorado, Boulder

University of Hawaii, Manoa *(2)

University of Iowa, Iowa City *(2)

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

University of Miami

University of Michigan *

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill *

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

University of Pennsylvania *(3)*

University of San Diego

University of San Francisco *

University of Southern California *(7)**

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

University of Texas, Austin *(2)*

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)

Westfield State University

Wheaton College

Western Michigan University

Wesleyan University

Yale University

* Denotes Class of 2017 (one * per matriculation)

Australian, European, & Korean matriculation numbers are incomplete – offers continue to arrive & tracking is difficult due to lack of student disclosure.