



## Secondary School Graduation Policy

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide an overview of the Secondary School Graduation Ceremony, including clear criteria that students must meet in order to graduate, and to attend the International British School of Bucharest Graduation Ceremony that takes place at the end of the A Level programme in year 13.

### Overview

Graduating from the International British School of Bucharest is both a privilege and an honour that many of our students have worked toward since joining the school in the EYFS programme. It is an important occasion in the lives of our students, parents, and staff, and the ultimate embodiment of the final step of the school mission 'to Inspire, Support, and Celebrate Student Achievement'. It is therefore a ceremony that the school places great importance on, working closely with our students, parents, staff, and community partners to ensure it is a memorable experience that sends our graduates off in the manner in which they deserve.

As one of the preeminent British Schools in Europe, graduating from IBSB carries a weight of responsibility, as students leave us to pursue courses and advanced degrees in higher education institutions around the world, and thereafter careers in their respective fields of interest. At all times, our graduating alumni carry the name and reputation of IBSB with them, following in the footsteps of previous alumni, and paving the way for the generations of IBSB alumni to come.

As the culmination of a student's time at IBSB, it is expected that an IBSB graduate will reflect not just the high academic standards set or the High Performance Learning Competencies embedded across the curriculum, but of equal importance, embody our CORE Values, central to our school ethos, as role model citizens of high moral character and integrity, possessing a sincere concern for others, willing and able to make a positive contribution to both their immediate and wider community.

### Graduation Criteria

**In order to graduate** from the International British School of Bucharest, students must meet the following criteria:

1. Have achieved a minimum of 5 I/GCSE C-A\* certificates
2. Have achieved a minimum of 2 GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level E-A\* certificates
3. Have the minimum predicted grades E-A\* for 2 GCE Advanced Level subjects

**In order to participate in the International British School of Bucharest end of year graduation ceremony**, students must in addition to the criteria above also meet the following criteria:

4. Have attended a minimum of two years at IBSB
5. Have attended 80% of lessons (including CAS lessons) within the final year of graduation



## Graduation Ceremony

The graduation ceremony takes place annually in June. In times of a pandemic, the traditional format of the ceremony and location may change in accordance with any restrictions in place.

The graduation procedure starts in January when all graduating students are asked to reply to a letter confirming their intention to participate in the 'End of Year Graduation Ceremony'.

This ceremony is provided by the school to all graduates at no cost to the student or the accompanying family.

Traditionally, the ceremony takes place following the end of the summer exam session, on the evening of the penultimate Friday of the school term. The planned date will be included in a letter listing the 'Key Events' sent to all parents prior to the start of the new school year in August. The confirmed date will be included in the letter sent to parents in January announcing the event.

## Graduation Programme

The IBSB graduation programme is one that offers a well-established sense of tradition.

### Dress code

Students are encouraged to dress in formal attire, girls wearing a formal evening dress, and boys either a suit and tie or tuxedo and bowtie. All students will be required to wear a graduation gown and cap that will be provided by the school for the purposes of the ceremony. Students will be provided with a room to change into the gowns and caps upon arrival at the venue, with caps and gowns to be returned at the end of the ceremony before departing for the 'Graduation Dinner'.

### Speeches

Welcoming speeches are traditionally offered by the Head Girl and Head Boy, Head of Secondary, Head of School, and typically a single guest speaker.

### Graduation Diploma Ceremony

Each student will be presented in turn with a short introduction from their Form Tutor, before being invited on to stage to receive their graduation diploma and portfolio. Students and parents will know the order in which the students will be invited onto stage prior to the ceremony. An image of each graduate will appear on a screen behind the stage as each graduate is introduced.

### Optional Student Speeches

Each graduating student will be offered the opportunity to speak for 1-2 minutes, whilst on stage, to sum up their experience at IBSB, to wish their graduating peers well in their future endeavours, and to thank those who inspired and supported them on their learning journey to graduation. These speeches will be prepared beforehand with the support of the Form Tutor, the Key Stage Coordinator, and select secondary school staff.

### Group Photo

Following the presentation of graduation diplomas, all students will return to the stage for the traditional graduation photo and tossing of the caps.



## Graduation Toast

The ceremony ends with the traditional toast by the Head of Secondary, with all attending family members, staff, and guests invited to raise their glass in honour of the graduating class.

## Graduation Dinner

It is tradition that the students, with the support of the school, organise a graduation dinner. The price of the ticket is calculated to enable the students to invite the relevant staff to attend as guests. Experience has taught us that this is best achieved when the restaurant or hotel is in walking distance of the graduation venue. The approximate ticket price for the past five years have been 345 RON pp.

## Graduation Pack

Any student who graduates from IBSB will receive the following:

1. IBSB Graduation Diploma
2. IBSB Graduation Letter
3. IBSB Transcript of grades achieved with predicted grades for summer exams
4. CIE Certificates/Statements of Results
5. Individual graduate photo
6. Photo of graduating class
7. A digital copy of the graduation ceremony, including selected photos
8. Graduate tassel (placed on the graduate cap) noting the year of graduation

## Students moving on from IBSB without meeting the graduation criteria

Students who do not achieve the minimum academic requirements will receive the following documents when leaving, if applicable:

- Moving on Letter
- IBSB Transcript of grades achieved with predicted grades for final exams
- CIE Certificates/Statements of Results

## Related Policies

SS Behaviour for Learning Policy

SS Curriculum Policy

WS Community Action Service Policy

WS Awards Policy