

Shad and the IB diploma key requirements:

Creativity, Action, Service (CAS); Theory of Knowledge (TOK); and Extended Essay

Creativity, Action and Service (CAS)

Through their active participation in the design/entrepreneurship project that's a key element of Shad, IB diploma students fully satisfy the Creativity and Action aspects of CAS. Through their involvement in this entrepreneurial endeavor, they build their knowledge, skills and understanding; explore the ethical responsibilities that surround innovation; experience the excitement of inquiry and discovery; build confidence in their ability to initiate change, both as an individual and as a member of a team; practice autonomy and self-reliance; and develop a strong appreciation for their own, and others' talents. Many schools acknowledge participation in Shad as fully satisfying the Creativity and Action requirements; others allocate partial hours. Because CAS focuses on in-depth experiences, the month-long, residential nature of the Shad program makes it strongly aligned in helping satisfy this requirement.

Theory of Knowledge

The Shad program focuses on the integrated application of knowledge. At Shad, participants are encouraged to share ideas with others, and to listen and learn from others. Students come to Shad in a spirit of inquiry and exploration, and Shad is a place where they broaden their knowledge on a variety of topics, and where they use their intellect and other talents to tackle and solve important problems. Specifically related to TOK, Shad participants delve into three of the six areas of knowledge: mathematics, natural sciences and human sciences. They are encouraged to explore multiple ways of knowing, individually and in teams, to learn and solve problems.

They use reason, emotion, language and perception to assimilate knowledge, and to facilitate its transfer to others. Shad is a unique environment where IB diploma students explore methods of gaining knowledge, and is a forum where they reflect on beliefs, certainty, cultural context, interpretation and applications of technology as they relate to synthesizing knowledge. These are key skills for a successful TOK project. A student's Shad experience can also form the basis of their TOK assignment.

Extended Essay

The Extended Essay is an in-depth study of a focused topic. Participating in Shad prepares IB diploma students for the Extended Essay by giving them both theory and practical experience in:

- Planning and executing a research project
- Formulating precise research questions
- Gathering and interpreting material from appropriate sources
- Structuring a reasoned argument on the basis of the information gathered
- Presenting their findings
- Using terminology and language appropriate to the project
- Applying analytical and evaluative skills with an understanding of the implications and context of their research

IB students may base their Extended Essay on something they encounter at Shad, or on an entirely different topic. Regardless, the theory and practical experience gained at Shad informs the process of doing the Extended Essay, enhancing both their learning during the process, and the finished work.