



**introduction to the
advanced merit diploma**

dalat international school
tanjung bunga ♦ 11200 penang ♦ malaysia



introduction and purpose

the mission of Dalat International School is to prepare young people to live fully for God in a rapidly changing world by enabling them to understand, evaluate, and reconcile that world with the foundation of God's unchanging values

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Consistent with the school's mission statement and educational goals, the Board and Administration of Dalat International School announce the formation of a new diploma program. Beginning with the graduating Class of 2004, students at Dalat will have the opportunity to choose between the course of study which leads to the current college-preparatory diploma or the new ***Advanced Merit Diploma***. The Advanced Merit Diploma is designed to recognize and celebrate the outstanding accomplishment of students who have demonstrated characteristics and qualities consistent with the school's mission and goals. The requirements for the Advanced Merit Diploma include 1) high academic achievement, 2) involvement in community service and 3) completion of a Senior Exhibition. Each of these components was specifically selected as part of the assessment of a student's mastery of the school's educational goals which are further outlined in the *Expected School-wide Learning Results (ESLRS)*. Participation in the program is voluntary, and candidates must have the support of their parents and the approval of the school administration. Once in the program, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the school administration if s/he has parental consent to withdraw. For more information or questions, please contact a member of the Advanced Merit Diploma Counsel. The members of this counsel include the AMD coordinator, academic counselor and high school principal.

Dalat International School's educational goals are:

- ♦ to call students to Christian discipleship through the systematic teaching of the Bible within a Christ-centered learning community and through the modeling and personal involvement of staff members,
- ♦ to provide students with the skills and experiences they will need, within the context of an American college preparatory education, for pursuing the vocation into which God will lead them,
- ♦ to enable students to think logically, independently, and creatively and to see learning as a lifelong process that transcends cultural bounds, and
- ♦ to encourage students toward a life focus of offering their best efforts to God in all that they do in response to His unceasing love, and personal concern for each individual. Through this process, biblical leadership principles and skills will be developed for service in a multicultural world.



requirements

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Candidates for the Advanced Merit High School Diploma must complete an application for enrollment in the program and be approved by the guidance office and the high school principal during pre-registration for the first semester of their junior year.

English and Speech	4.0 credits
Math	3.0
Modern Language	2.0 or proficiency*
Science	3.0
Social Studies	3.0
Bible	each semester of enrollment
Visual and Performing Arts	1.0
Computer Science	1.0
Health	0.5
Fitness	0.5
<u>Electives</u>	<u>2.0+</u>
Total	24 credits

- complete ten hours of community service during each semester beginning with the second semester of the sophomore year and ending with the first semester of the senior year in which the student is enrolled at Dalat
- successfully complete two Advanced Placement courses and take the corresponding examinations
- successfully complete the Senior Exhibition
- maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher

*Modern language proficiency will be determined by the modern language department chairperson or by a person deemed appropriate in making the assessment.



community service

become productive members of the global community

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Each candidate for the Advanced Merit High School Diploma must complete ten hours of community service during each semester beginning with the second semester of the sophomore year and ending with the first semester of the senior year in which s/he is enrolled at Dalat International School. For this purpose, Dalat defines “community service” as voluntary assistance or work performed without compensation outside of school hours for the benefit of a non-profit or benevolent organization. It **does not** include services performed for ministries or individuals directly associated with the operation of Dalat International School. Likewise, the community service performed to meet the requirements for the Advanced Merit Diploma will not be eligible for service award points. Each service opportunity must have the prior approval of the AMD coordinator. After each service experience, the student must complete a *Community Service Summary* that will be placed in his/her Senior Portfolio. A current list of possible opportunities is available through the AMD coordinator.

“serve one another in love...” Galatians 5:13



senior exhibition

become life-long learners

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The Senior Exhibition is an integrated, multifaceted project, which is designed to provide students with an opportunity to synthesize many of the skills they have developed throughout their academic career.

There are four components that make up the Senior Exhibition: 1) a research paper, 2) a product, 3) a portfolio and 4) a presentation. This handbook is designed to provide you with the necessary information, guidelines and forms to assist you in the completion of your Senior Exhibition.

paper

demonstrate well-developed
cognitive skills

You must research and document information on a subject of your choice- a subject in which you have an interest, but are not already an expert. Your research must be a stretch beyond what you already know.

product

become life-long learners

Your project requires you to apply the information you have gained from your research to create a “product”. Your product can take a number of forms--demonstration, exhibit, performance, service or physical object. There should be a direct and clear correlation between your research and the type of product you choose. You are not required to spend money in order to complete the Senior Exhibition.

portfolio

demonstrate academic
responsibility

The portfolio is a compilation of materials that document your completion of the requirements for the Advanced Merit Diploma. A significant portion of the portfolio will be dedicated to your journey through the Senior Exhibition process.

presentation

become skilled
communicators

Your presentation will consist of a 20-25 minute speech which includes explaining research on your topic and a display of your product in front of a panel of judges and invited guests. You will select a date and time for your presentation which will be scheduled sometime during the fourth quarter of your senior year.



acing guide

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Dates	Events
Semester 2 Sophomore	
	Apply for Advanced Merit Diploma Program
	Complete 10 hours of Community Service
Semester 1 Junior	
	Complete <i>Senior Exhibition Research Topic/Product Proposal Approval</i> form
	Letter of Intent due
	Complete 10 hours of Community Service
Semester 2 Junior	
	Selection of Advisor
	Proclamation Poster due
	First Advisor Progress Report
	Second Advisor Progress Report- <i>Completion of Research Paper</i>
	Complete 10 hours of Community Service
Semester 1 Senior	
	Third Advisor Progress Report
	Fourth Advisor Progress Report- <i>Completion of Product</i>
	Resume due
	Letter to Judges due
	Fifth Advisor Progress Report- <i>Portfolio</i> due
	Senior Exhibition Presentation