

Admissions policy

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1. General

All those who have completed comprehensive school (or the equivalent) are eligible to apply to the preDP year at Mattlidens gymnasium. Admission is based on academic achievements as well as the results of our entrance exam, held each spring at the school (check the website for details about when the exam will be held). The application must be submitted via the joint application system “*Opintopolku / Studieinfo / Studyinfo*” (<https://opintopolku.fi/wp/fi/>). See **2. Applicants from Finnish comprehensive schools** and **3. Applicants from outside the Finnish system** for more details on the application process. There are 50 study spots available in the preDP year.

Depending on availability, it may also be possible to apply directly to the IB Diploma Programme (IB1). These applications do NOT go through the joint application system, but go directly to the school. See **4. Applying directly to the IB diploma programme (IB1)** for details on how to submit the application.

Applications which do not follow the procedures outlined below will not be considered. Please read the instructions carefully and be in touch with the DP Coordinator if you have any questions about the application process (contact information can be found on the school website).

2. Applicants from Finnish comprehensive schools

Applicants who apply with a certificate from a Finnish comprehensive school MUST complete their application in the joint application system “*Opintopolku / Studieinfo / Studyinfo*” (<https://opintopolku.fi/wp/fi/>) by the deadline (the system is open for several weeks in February - March each year).

If multiple schools/programs are being applied to, they should be listed in order of preference by the applicant. It is also imperative to choose the correct program code: ***IB-programme (special educational mission) / Lukion IB-linja (erityinen koulutustehtävä)***. Do NOT select the code for the national curriculum: Gymnasium/Lukio.

The admission points are calculated as follows:

1. GPA (academic subjects only) from the comprehensive school report (with extra weight given to biology, chemistry, physics, history, and civics) - maximum 10 points
2. Entrance exam (see **5. Entrance exam** for more information) - maximum 10 points

3. Applicants from outside the Finnish system

Those who are applying to the preDP without the Finnish comprehensive school certificate must also apply via the joint application system “*Opintopolku / Studieinfo / Studyinfo*” (<https://opintopolku.fi/wp/fi/>), but should select the “*harkinnanvarainen valinta*”/ “*antagning enligt prövning*” option.

If multiple schools/programs are being applied to, they should be listed in order of preference. It is also imperative to choose the correct program code: ***IB-programme (special educational mission) / Lukion IB-linja (erityinen koulutustehtävä)***. Do NOT select the code for the national curriculum: Gymnasium/Lukio.

These applicants must also submit the following documents to the school:

1. The latest school report (with explanations of the grading system)
2. The “Candidate Application Form”
3. The “Appraisal of the Applicant” form - filled in at the applicant’s current school and returned to the DP coordinator directly (both of these forms can be found on the school website)

The forms are common to the IB schools in the greater Helsinki capital region (excluding the International School of Helsinki). A copy of the form should be sent to all the schools being applied to, the originals going to the applicant's first choice school.

These applicants must also participate in the entrance exam (see **5. Entrance exam** for more information). If the applicant resides in Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Baltic countries and Russia they must participate in the entrance exam at Mattlidens gymnasium on the given day in the spring. If the applicant resides elsewhere, it is possible to arrange to take the entrance exam at the applicant's current school, provided the arrangements can be made according to Mattlidens' requirements. More details about arranging the entrance exam can be provided by the DP coordinator.

All application documentation must be submitted by the day of the entrance exam at the latest. Check the school website for the precise date.

4. Applying directly to the IB diploma programme (IB1)

If there are spots available, it is possible to apply directly to the IB. The application is submitted directly to the school (NOT via the joint application system - Opintopolku / Studieinfo / Studyinfo).

These applicants must submit the following documents to the school:

1. The latest school report (with explanations of the grading system)
2. The "Candidate Application Form"
3. The "Appraisal of the Applicant" form - filled in at the applicant's current school and returned to the DP coordinator directly

The forms are common to the IB schools in the greater Helsinki capital region (excluding the International School of Helsinki). A copy of the form should be sent to all the schools being applied to, the originals going to the applicant's first choice school.

Applicants to the IB1 also participate in the entrance exam. If the applicant resides in Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Baltic countries and Russia they must participate in the entrance exam at Mattlidens gymnasium on the given day in the spring. If the applicant resides elsewhere, it is possible to arrange to take the entrance exam at the applicant's current school, provided the arrangements can be made according to our requirements. More details about arranging the entrance exam can be provided by the DP coordinator.

All application documentation must be submitted by the day of the entrance exam at the latest. Check the website for the precise date.

5. Entrance exam

All applicants to Mattlidens gymnasium IB programme (both preDP and IB1) must participate in the entrance exam in order to be considered for a study spot. The entrance exam takes place in the spring at the school. Please check the website for the date and time. Mattlidens gymnasium is not responsible for applicants unable to participate in the entrance examination.

There are three (3) different tests, each 45 minutes long. They are:

1. **Mathematics.** Multiple choice test. No calculators are allowed.
2. **English proficiency.** Reading comprehension and written response.
3. **Finnish OR Swedish language test.** Obligatory for all applicants who have studied either language in school, and/or have some background in the language (e.g. family connection). The test will comprise different tasks of increasing difficulty (reading comprehension and textual analysis). Applicants will indicate which level they have been studying (which will be verified with the school report).

If an applicant has not studied either language, there will be an additional writing task in English (composition based on a writing prompt).

The maximum total points for the entrance exam is 10. Each test must be completed at an acceptable level for the application to be considered. The breakdown of the points is as follows:

1. Mathematics - 4 points
2. English proficiency - 3 points
3. Finnish/Swedish language test - 3 points.

6. Results

The names of the students who have been admitted to preDP are published on the school's website and the school's outer door in mid-June, unless the student has requested that this information not be published. Admitted students must accept their study place during the days defined for that particular year.

Applicants who have been accepted to IB1 will be notified by email in late spring. Final decisions about study spots cannot be made until we know how many spots are available.

The school does not release the results of the entrance tests.

7. Promotion to IB1 / IB2

A student who has successfully completed the preDP year will be admitted to IB1. If it is determined by the DP coordinator, principal, guidance counselor, and subject teachers that the student has not successfully completed the preDP, they can continue their studies in Matlilidens Gymnasium National section towards the Finnish Matriculation Examination (this requires a good knowledge of the Swedish language). This also applies to students who choose not to continue with the IB programme at the end of the preparatory year.

There are also conditions of promotion from IB1 to IB2. They are outlined in more detail in the study guide.