

Research Theme

IB Diploma students in Japanese Higher Education: Viewpoints of Faculty Academic Advisors Hosting IB students

Background

-The number of IB Diploma students taking admission in Japanese Universities is on the rise. Presently, Okayama University is playing a pioneering role in Japan as the only National University admitting IB Diploma students in all 11 faculties and one special course.

-In order to create a more IB friendly University, Okayama University Admission Center has set up an “IB Student Support System” to attend to IB student needs besides academia and create a balanced and harmonious environment, for IB students, University teachers and other students to interact in.

Method: Step 1

As a first step, IB student advisors at the Admission Center interviewed most IB students presently studying at Okayama University.

First Results & Publication

The summary of the report was published in the “**International Journal of Multidisciplinary Academic Research**” in 2016 with the title “*The International Baccalaureate Diploma Student Perspective on Student Life at Okayama University*”.

Method: Step 2

As the next step, over a period extending from **October 2016 to January 2017**, IB student advisors at the Admission Center interviewed **all Academic Advisors** (with permission) in each faculty, where 13 IB student are presently enrolled. During each interview which lasted between 30 minutes to 1 hour, Academic Advisors were given a **questionnaire with 10 questions** (previously approved at the Admission Center Meeting), and asked about their experiences with IB students; their advice on how to create a better environment for IB students and how to encourage IB admissions at Okayama University. Their valuable answers and comments are presently being analyzed and being summarized (anonymously) for publication in 2017.

Questionnaire for Teachers/Academic Advisors

1. What did you expect of IB students before they came to your department?
2. How did it change after you got to know them?
3. What aspects of IB students are impressive to you?
4. What aspects of the IB students are not so impressive to you?
5. How do you think other non-IB students in your department look at IB students?

6. How are IB students presently doing?

7. Was your department familiar with the IB education system before enrolling IB students?

8. Would you prefer to have a short briefing about IB education system/ students before IB student enrollment, every year?

9. How can IB advisors /admission center provide assistance with IB students?

10. Any other suggestions you may have to improve the IB student admission process and help them settle down?

Thank you for your cooperation!
Admission Center, Okayama University