

Life after ISB

Guide to upper secondary education



**International
School of
Billund**

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ISB guide to upper secondary education

Updated August 2025

The information in this guide is relevant and updated at the time of writing.
However, changes might occur due to circumstances outside of our control.
ISB aims to update this guide every year.

Introduction

This guide, created for parents and students at ISB, aims to outline and clarify the process for helping students make choices about continued education in the upper secondary educational system. The process begins in M4, when students are first introduced to the many opportunities for continued education. It is here that students, in collaboration with their parents, teachers and the UU (Ungdommens Uddannelsesvejledning) education counsellor, begin to express an educational interest and articulate the wishes they might have for their future education and job possibilities. In comparison to many other countries, Denmark offers a broad range of educational possibilities and a lot of flexibility in the pathways to get there.

In M4, teachers will assess each student's overall level of readiness for continued education. This will include a review of the student's academic, personal as well as social competencies, and will be relayed to parents as part of the first M4 report card (see example in appendix). This will identify possible areas for improvement, enabling students to put in extra effort in the coming year.

In the eyes of the Danish school authorities, ISB is an "exam free" school, as students at ISB do not sit for the Folkeskole Afgangsprøve (the official public school exams). The same is true for many other private and independent schools in Denmark that follow an international or alternative curriculum. Students at ISB sit for official IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) exams that grant them direct access to the IB Diploma Programme (DP), for instance at the nearby Kolding Gymnasium or one of the 15 other Danish high schools offering the DP, or at an IB school abroad.

Students will also have access to the Danish upper secondary school system. There are several ways to qualify, and the Danish educational authorities direct the conditions for this procedure. Students may qualify directly based on their performance at ISB, or the process may involve an entrance test and/or a personal interview. The upper secondary education system in Denmark consists of a broad variety of educations, some with a general academic focus and others with a mercantile, technical, or vocational focus. Students may also opt to do a Danish grade 10 course or complete a year at a Danish efterskole (a type of boarding school), something that is common for students in the Danish system. These options distinguish themselves by providing a great potential for strengthening Danish language as well as students' personal and social competences.

The educational climate in Denmark stresses the importance of maturity and good information in making choices about continuing education. Hence, in order to equip students with the right tools to achieve success in their further studies, we must remember to consider the academic, personal as well as social aspects of their development. For some students, that might mean taking extra time to mature within these areas before they are ready to make important decisions about their future. Having the time and patience to get this right might well be the deciding factor between a successful future study period, or a stressful and unfulfilling path towards an education the student may not be ready for, interested in, or passionate about.



What happens in M4? Simplified overview.

September

Education Fair

Parents and students are invited to a youth education fair at Billund School. Some of the options for upper secondary education in Denmark will be introduced. Educational job session with and for students- at ISB.

October

Parent and student meetings

The youth education counsellor conducts an orientation for parents and has the first round of individual student meetings. Study readiness reports are issued.

December

Skills / Craftmanship fair

Skills-day in Grindsted.
Introduction to vocational careers.

January

Teacher assessment

MYP reports are issued.
UU counsellor meets with selected students.
Reports on student study-readiness are issued with the report card.

February

Skills / Craftmanship fair

Skills-day in Fredericia.
Introduction to vocational careers.

March

Bridge Building sessions

Students will spend four days visiting two different upper secondary educational institutions.

April

Students meetings

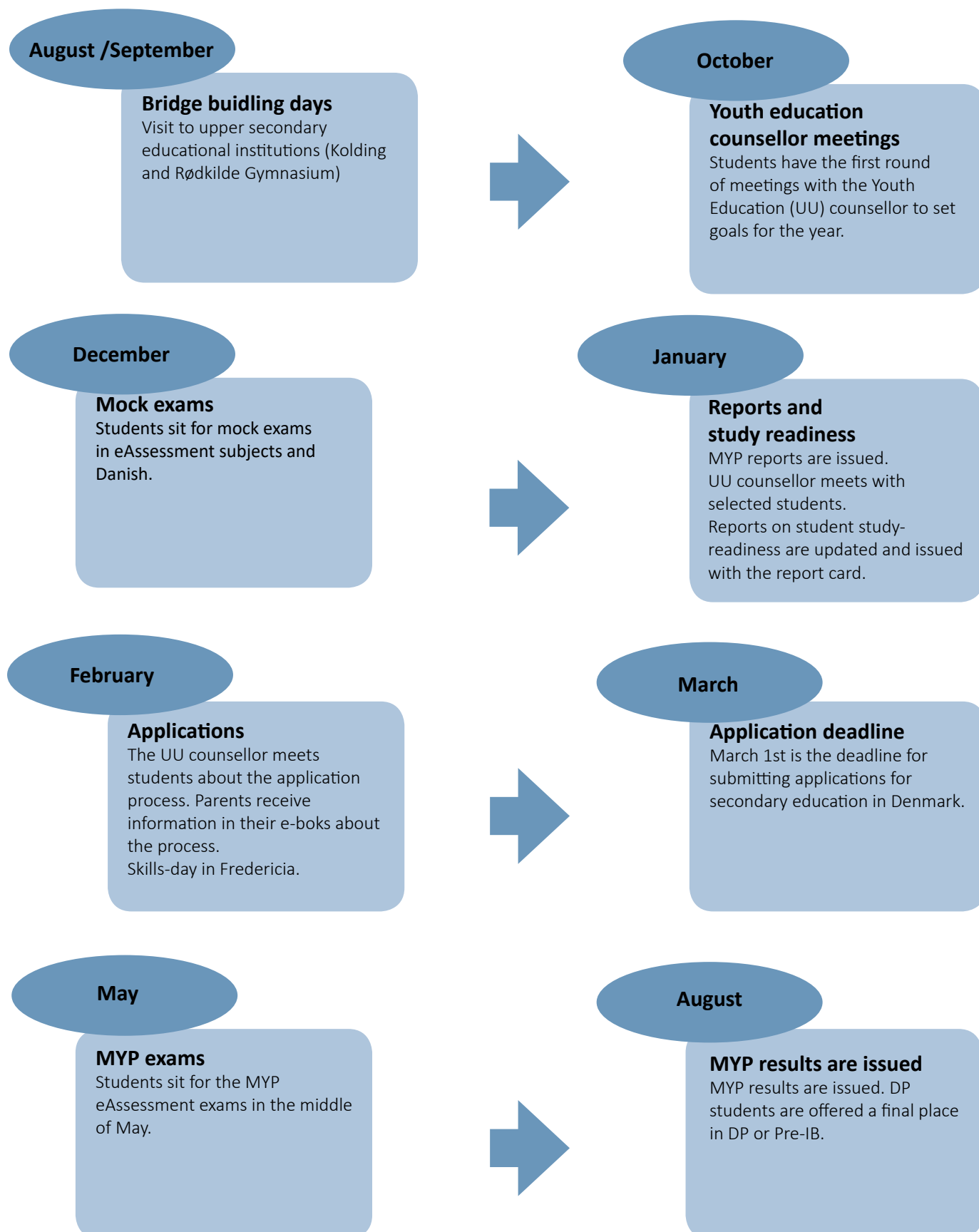
Second round of personal meetings with the youth education counsellor are conducted as needed.

May

Mock exams

Students sit for mock exams in eAssessment subjects.

What happens in M5? Simplified overview.



Which exams and tests await students in M5?

Students at ISB are offered the opportunity to sit for final eAssessments (online examinations) in accordance with the schedule below. In order to obtain an official MYP certification, students must complete all components (exceptions may be made in special cases).

The following subject exams are offered at ISB:

Subject	Test format
English language and literature	External IB MYP exam
Danish language and acquisition	International ISB test /FP9 (Danish public school exit exam equivalent)
Danish acquisition ¹	Internal ISB test
German or Spanish acquisition	External IB MYP portfolio assessment/on-screen exam
Mathematics	External IB MYP exam
Integrated natural sciences	External IB MYP exam
Integrated humanities	External IB MYP exam
Music or visual art	External IB MYP portfolio assessment
Physical and health education	External IB MYP portfolio assessment
Design	External IB MYP portfolio assessment

¹ Students who do not have Danish as a language and literature course will have Danish acquisition

Students are also assessed and receive grades from the following course components:

Component	Test format
Interdisciplinary exam	External IB MYP exam
Personal Project	External IB MYP moderation

In addition to completing the Personal Project, there is a requirement that students perform and completes a significant project involving 'Community and service' during each year of the MYP.

Youth education counselling (Ungdommens Uddannelsesvejledning)

In M4, students will meet the youth education counsellor (UU vejleder) for the first time and begin to hear about the upper secondary educations they might choose after completing M5 at ISB. As a starting point, students receive individual guidance, but the counsellor will also give group or collective guidance according to student and class needs.

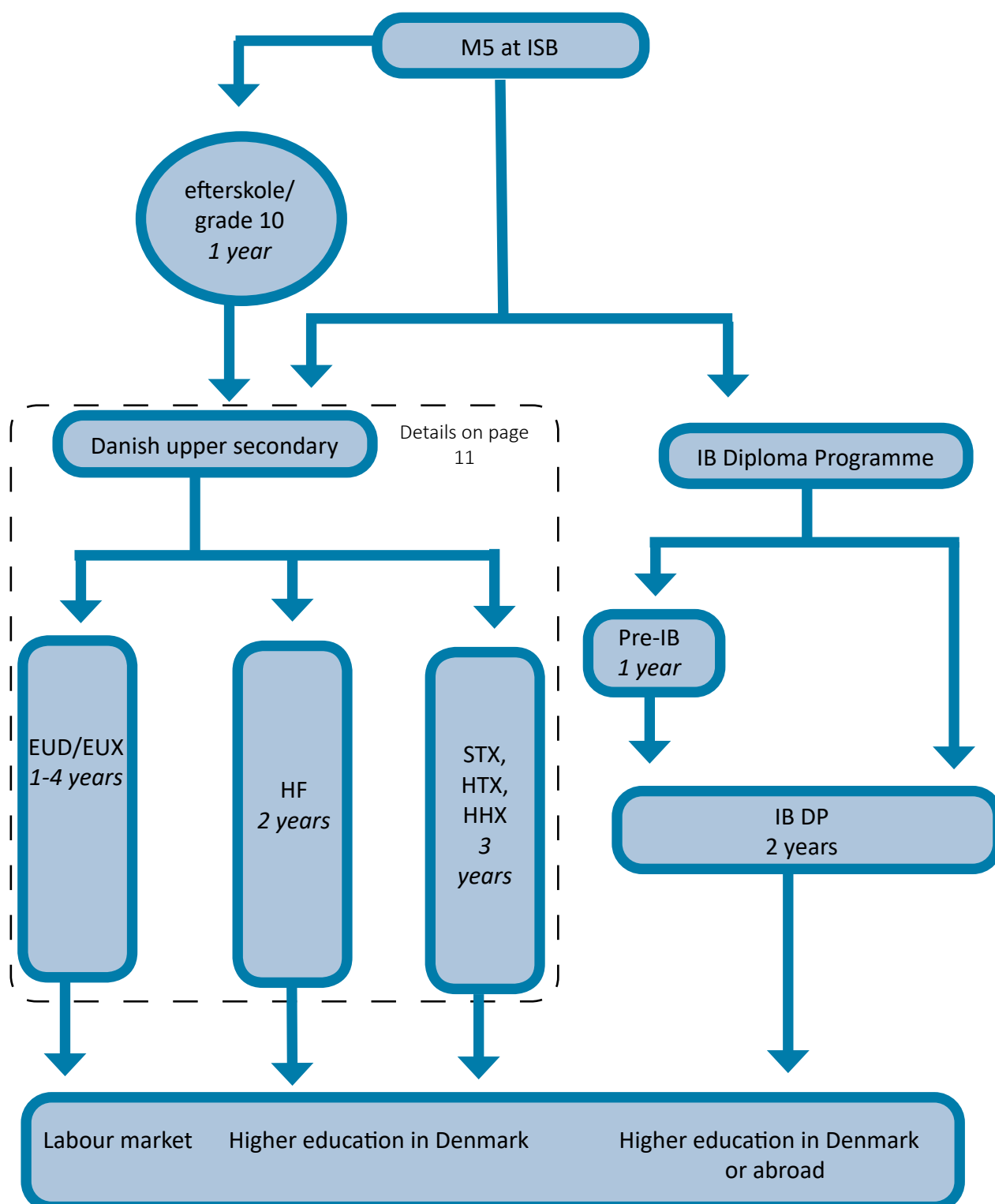
The counsellor will hold a general information meeting with parents, to outline and explain the possibilities available for upper secondary education in Denmark. The counsellor is always available for consultations, both for students and parents. While our counsellor is located in Grindsted, information on the Danish upper secondary school system is relevant for other places in the country.

Our counsellor is Ann-Louise Danielsen. She can be contacted directly on email adani@Billund.dk or on phone (0045) 79 72 76 72.

Some places students at ISB may choose to continue their studies

ISB has initiated close contact and collaboration with Kolding Gymnasium (which offers the DP- See “Appendix A”), Grindsted Campus and Rødkilde Gymnasium in Vejle (which has an e-class where selected classes are offered in english- see “Appendix B”). But this is far from an inclusive list. Below you’ll find links to these, and several other possibilities for continued studies after M5.

Pathways through the upper secondary education system in Denmark



On the following pages, the pathways to the IB Diploma Programme and the Danish upper secondary system will be explained.

ISB and the DP

The MYP especially prepares students for the IB Diploma Programme and the IB Career-related Programme. “There are IB World Schools in nearly 150 countries throughout the world, and students send exam results to higher education institutions in nearly 90 countries annually. Given the wide diversity of local education systems it can be difficult to understand how the IB is recognized in various parts of the world.” (ibo.org) To read more about the opportunities for higher education after IB in Denmark and abroad, visit ibo.org to read the [recognition statements](#) from various countries,

The following information is a result of direct collaboration between ISB and Kolding Gymnasium. For direct admission to the two-year IB Diploma Programme on the basis of MYP examinations:

- Students will normally be expected to achieve a minimum of 37 points in their MYP certificates, including a pass (grade 3 or above) in the Personal Project.
- For students wishing to take higher level courses in mathematics or sciences (chemistry, physics), students will need at least a grade 6 in criterion A (knowledge and understanding).

Admission to Pre-IB

This is an option for those who might not fully achieve the requirements for direct admission to the Diploma Programme, or for those who feel that they could benefit from an additional year, for example to gain more maturity. (The average age in the first year of the DP is 18+. Pre-IB students are mostly 15 to 17 at the start).

For admission to the Pre-IB Programme:

- Students must achieve a minimum of 28 points in their MYP certificates.

Confirmation of admission

- Students will receive an offer of admission, subject to meeting the entrance requirements once results are published.
- The student will deliver the MYP results to Kolding Gymnasium as soon as they are received.
- Kolding Gymnasium may exercise discretion with regard to the entrance requirements and will consider each case individually.
- Students whose MYP results do not meet the requirements may be offered a transfer to Kolding Gymnasium's Pre-IB programme.

Danish language options

As Danish is not a subject offered for the MYP certificate, Kolding Gymnasium will accept the following documentation to study Danish in the Pre-IB or Diploma Programme.

Danish B Higher Level or Standard Level

The student should have sufficient knowledge of Danish as a language acquisition subject. This can be documented by:

- An internal evaluation from the MYP school that the student has studied Danish for a stated number of years, and has acquired some basic skills in written and spoken Danish.

Danish A Literature Higher Level or Standard Level

The student should regard Danish as the “mother tongue” and have studied it at this level in school. This can be documented by:

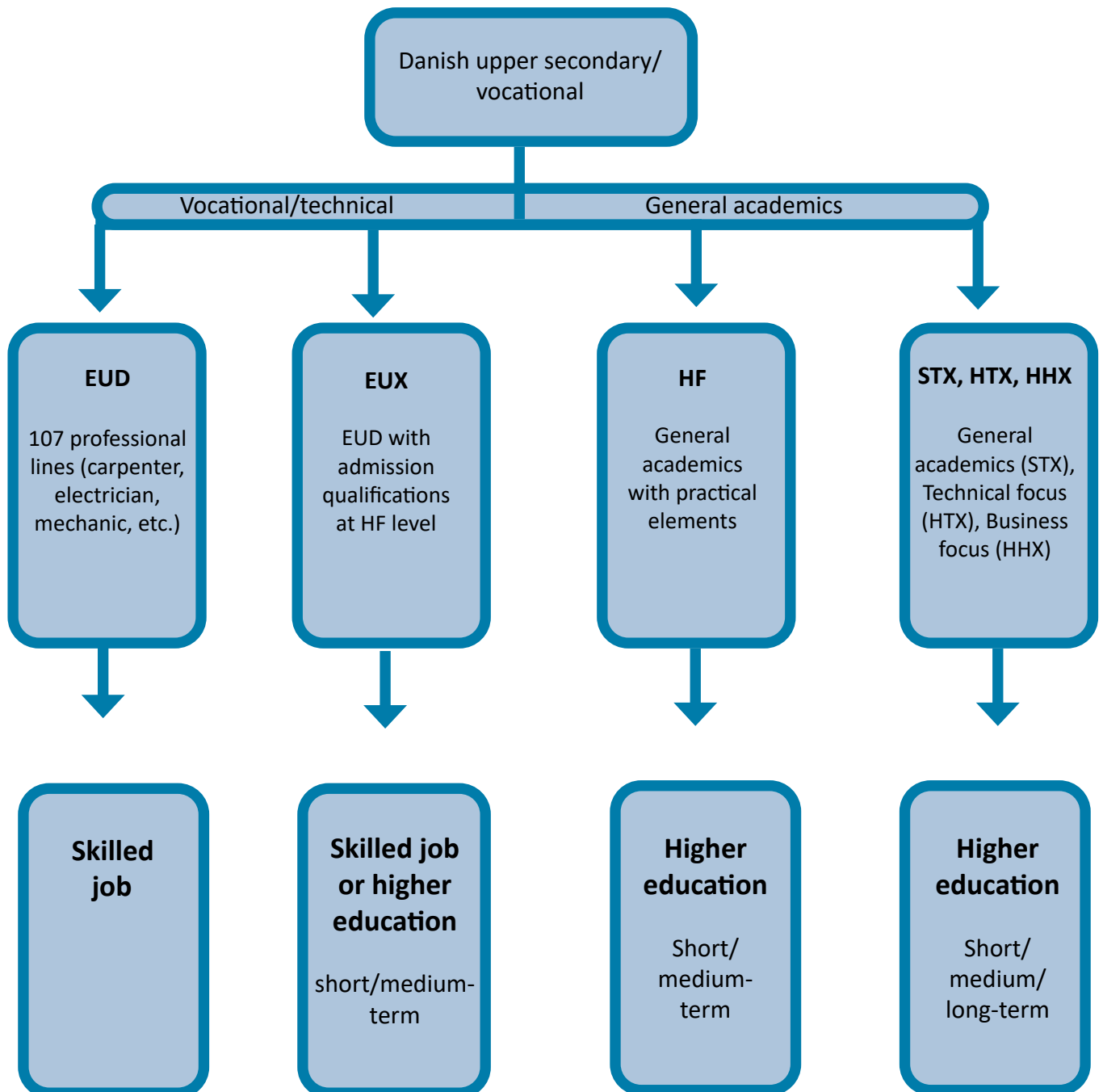
- Grade 9 public school exit exam (FSA) in Danish (with a grade of 7 or higher)
or
- An internal evaluation from the MYP school, that the student has studied Danish to a level equivalent of 9 grade in Danish folkeskole (M5), and has acquired skills in literary analysis, together with “mother tongue” competence in writing and speaking Danish (fluent, but not necessarily perfect).

Danish requirements for admission to a Danish university

Danish A Literature Higher Level and Standard Level, and Danish B Higher Level are all recognized as equivalent to meeting the requirements of Dansk A for study in Danish universities. (Note that Danish B Standard Level does not meet this requirement).



ISB and the Danish upper secondary system



Entry requirements for the Danish system

- Declaration of study-readiness, made by teachers, determined from personal, social, and academic competencies.
- Specific grade achievements from the Danish school system (FSA*):

EUD/EUX (Vocational education and training)	2.0 (average in Danish and Math only) or entrance test/interviews
HHX, HTX, STX (3-year upper secondary)	5.0 (average of all grades) or entrance test/interviews
HF (2-year upper secondary)	4.0 (average of all grades) or entrance test/interview

*Please note that these numbers are based on the Danish grading scale and only apply to students who have taken the Danish public school exit exams ("Folkeskolens afgangsprøve"). No official conversion yet exists, however a 5.0 GPA in Denmark roughly corresponds to a 4.0 in the MYP IB grading system. MYP students applying to a 3- or 2-year upper secondary education in the Danish system will have to take an entrance exam in Danish, maths and science (in Danish) and English. An interview will also be a part of the process.

Students who complete a Danish grade 10 (an extra year after M5- see below) may be accepted into HHX, HTX or STX with a lower average grade of 3.0 on the FSA, due to their presumed level of maturity. An interview with the head of the high school may further lower the grade requirement to a 2.0.

Grade 10 and Efterskoler

It is relatively common for Danish students to complete an optional additional year, either in grade 10 (the Danish 10. klasse, which would correspond to a fictional M11) or at an 'efterskole,' before commencing their education at the upper secondary level. Grade 10 is free and an efterskole requires payment, but both are part of the Danish lower secondary education system and do not have enrolment requirements. Following is a very short description of the two options.

Grade 10

Grade 10 is an optional year after the Danish grade 9 (M5) offered in some public schools or at grade 10 centres. Grade 10 is offered many places locally including Grindsted Campus, Hansenberg or IBC in Kolding, and Youth Center Vejle, as well as in a number of public schools in bigger cities.

Students who choose grade 10 typically do so to become more confident in choosing the next educational step, to improve academically in specific areas, to learn independence, to improve study skills, or to take the public grade 10 exams in subjects they want and need. The grade 10 exams are a way of directly qualifying for upper secondary educations in Denmark. Students study Danish, English, social studies and maths and can choose from a range of electives for the rest, usually including extra Danish or maths, arts, German, physical education or natural sciences. Furthermore, the grade 10 year typically offers further opportunities to explore different upper secondary educations, as well hands-on job training in different contexts according to personal interest.

You can read more by following the 'Grindsted Campus' button in "Some places students at ISB may choose to continue their studies" on page 7.

Efterskole

An 'efterskole' is a boarding school option many Danish students consider either for Danish grade 9 (M5) or for an additional year after that. Students live at school with their peers and teachers, and parents cover part of the cost for the stay and school fee. After the efterskole, students will normally have direct access to upper secondary education since many efterskoler follow the same academic standards as public schools. At many efterskoler students sit for the FSA – the Danish public school exams—at the end of the year, while others might offer the IGSCEs or other qualifications. Students who choose to attend an efterskole typically do so to learn independence and achieve personal development in a new, strong social community. Depending on the individual school, an efterskole may offer a range of electives such as music, theatre, sports, psychology or philosophy. While students in Danish schools may choose to go to efterskole either in grade 9 (M5) or the year after, at ISB we strongly recommend this choice after the completion of M5. This ensures that students will have completed their school-leaving certificate (the MYP certificate) in a known system, while enjoying academic and social support from teachers and peers who know them. With a school-leaving certificate already in hand, it will ease the challenge of transitioning to a new educational system and boarding school life. Should you wish to know more, please follow the link for efterskoler at "Some places students at ISB may choose to continue their studies" on page 7.



Contacts and further info

Ministry of Educations webpage with an overview of all the upper secondary education possibilities in Denmark (English): <http://eng.uvm.dk/>

Ministry of Education, the educational guidance system in Denmark (English):
<https://www.uvm.dk/publikationer/engelsksprogede/2014-guidance-in-education---the-educational-guidance-system-in-denmark>

Ministry of Education, overview of various education options (English):
<https://www.uvm.dk/publikationer/vejledning/2015-uddannelse-dit-barns-fremtid-engelsk>

Ministry of Education, vocational education (English)
<https://www.uvm.dk/publikationer/engelsksprogede/2014-improving-vocational-education-and-training>

UU Billund, career guidance (Danish): <http://uubillund.dk/>

While ISB does not offer the public school exams, it is important to note that ISB is an accredited IB World School under the annual supervision of the Danish Ministry of Education. Through regular visits, it is confirmed that we are offering an education that measures up to the standard required by the Danish education authorities.

As parents, we strongly encourage you to start discussing future options with your child and begin to get an overview of the possibilities and procedures for further education in Denmark or abroad. We hope you have found this publication to be of help in this regard.

Uddannelses parathedsvurdering, 8 klasse

In Denmark all students in M4 and M5 (IB system) are assessed on their readiness towards further secondary studies. The assessment is a holistic evaluation that takes into consideration academic, personal as well as social competences. The evaluation differentiates between academic and vocational directions separately. You can read more about this [here](#).

Appendix A



International Baccalaureate



Applicants with International Baccalaureate MYP certificates

IB Diploma Programme

For direct admission to the two-year IB Diploma Programme on the basis of MYP examinations students will normally be expected to:

- achieve a minimum of 37 points in their MYP certificates, including a pass (grade 3 or above) in the Personal Project.
- for students wishing to take Higher Level in Mathematics or Sciences (Chemistry, Physics), at least a grade 6 in Criterion A (Knowledge and Understanding) is expected.

Admission to Pre-IB

This is an option for those who might not fully achieve the requirements for direct admission to the diploma programme, or those who feel that they could benefit from an additional year, for example to gain more maturity. (Average age in the first Diploma year is 18+. Pre-IB students are mostly 15 to 17 when starting).

Applicants to the Pre-IB Programme will normally be expected to have:

- achieved a minimum of 28 points in their MYP certificates

Danish Language options (see reverse).

Confirmation of admission

- Students will receive an offer of admission, subject to meeting the entrance requirements once results are published.
- The student will deliver the MYP results to Kolding Gymnasium as soon as they are received;
- KG may exercise discretion with regard to the entrance requirements and will consider each case individually.
- Students' whose MYP results do not meet these requirements may be offered a transfer to KG's Pre-IB programme.
-

Yours sincerely



Mel Malone IB Diploma Coordinator



International Baccalaureate



Danish Language options

As Danish is not a subject in the MYP certificate, Kolding Gymnasium will accept the following documentation to study Danish in the Pre-IB or Diploma programme.

Danish A Literature Higher Level or Standard Level

The student should regard Danish as the “mother tongue” and have studied it at this level in school. This can be documented by:

- 9. klasse afgangsprøve i Dansk (karakter 7 eller bedre)
- or
- An internal evaluation from the MYP school, that the student has studied Danish to a level equivalent of 9th class in Danish folkeskole, and has acquired skills in literary analysis, together with “mother tongue” competence in writing and speaking Danish (fluent, but not necessarily perfect).

Danish B Higher Level or Standard Level

The student should have sufficient knowledge of Danish as a Language Acquisition subject. This can be documented by:

- An internal evaluation from the MYP school, that the student has studied Danish for a stated number of years, and has acquired some basic skills in written and spoken Danish.

Danish requirements for admission to a Danish University

Danish A Literature Higher Level and Standard Level, and Danish B Higher Level are all recognized as equivalent to meeting the requirements of Dansk A for study in Danish universities. (Note, that Danish B SL does not meet this requirement).



E-class at Rødkilde Gymnasium in Vejle

Would you like to attend a modern school in beautiful surroundings, with a global perspective and a great variety of study programs specialised study areas. Would you like your classes and subjects to be a mixture of English and Danish? And would you like to spend your day in a modern, study-friendly environment?

Then you should take a closer look at Rødkilde Gymnasium in Vejle.

About Rødkilde Gymnasium

Rødkilde Gymnasium is situated right by the beautiful Vejle Fjord. The buildings were renovated in 2008 and 2012, and today the school offers up-to-date study facilities for our approximately 800 students.

Global perspective at Rødkilde Gymnasium

Rødkilde Gymnasium is a UNESCO school with a clear international profile. By collaborating with schools all over the world, we broaden the international perspective of our students and strengthen their intercultural competencies.

A wide variety of international activities are part of daily life at Rødkilde. An example is our engagement with the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network, a network that gives our students the possibility to work with schools all over the world, in China, Spain, Norway, the USA etc. In addition to this, we welcome a great number of foreign exchange students every year – their presence add diversity and value, and they highlight the international focus.

E-class at Rødkilde Gymnasium

Rødkilde Gymnasium in Vejle offers a Danish upper secondary education, STX (general academics), with a global perspective. Joining our special e-class you will be able to achieve a Danish approved exam where selected subjects will be taught in English. Apart from English, these subjects include social science, history, mathematics, chemistry, and classical studies (ancient Greek history and literature).

With an e-class STX exam you will be prepared for continuing your studies in Denmark or abroad.

If you would like to know more about e-class at Rødkilde Gymnasium, please contact Rødkilde Gymnasium directly.