



Lanhao (Daniel) Wen '15

Daniel Wen graduated from grade 12, having also completed the two-year International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

Why did you opt for the IB Diploma Programme?

DW: Originally, I was considering doing one year of the IB Diploma Programme, graduating from grade 11, and then going on to CEGEP. But then I decided that it would be beneficial to do something that was similar in structure to what the rest of the world was doing. I thought that IB would provide me with a diploma that would be recognized by universities in many parts of the world.

Where are you now?

DW: I am at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh studying computer science.

How did the IB Diploma Programme help you prepare for your post-secondary education?

DW: The IB Diploma Programme has a very heavy workload. University is a lot more work than IB, but the IB Programme was helpful in that it taught me a certain work ethic and how to manage my time. I am not sure if it played a role in my getting into university because there are so many factors, but it probably did because it shows that you can handle a lot of work.

In particular, the 4,000-word extended essay, which is essentially a research paper, helped me to prepare for what I would face in university. No matter what field you go into, you will have to do research and write your own opinions and findings.

The IB Programme also gave me a head start because my university recognized and gave me credit for five university courses since I had taken several IB higher level courses.

Would you recommend the IB Diploma Programme? What advice might you give a student who is considering it?

DW: I would recommend the Programme but you have to expect a lot more work. And I would advise students to get started on the extended essay early on. I took advantage of the summer break before grade 12 to work on it.