

## What is Internationalism?

*“An educated American in the 21st century should be proficient in at least one foreign language, have studied one global issue or region in depth, and be knowledgeable of the geography and history of our country as well as other world regions. Students should demonstrate geographic knowledge such as the characteristics, distribution and migration of human populations, the complexity of the world’s cultural mosaics, the patterns and networks of economic interdependence and how the forces of cooperation and conflict among peoples influence the makeup of our world.”* [**Committee for Economic Development, Education for Global Leadership (2006)**]

From the IB perspective, internationalism is the development of “responsible citizens of the world” with young people who are active participants in their local and national communities, as well as in the broader international community. IB emphasizes education of the whole person and focuses on the development of critical thinking and language skills necessary for success in the global community. Students are taught to be international and active learners as described in the IB Learner Profile. They are well-rounded individuals and engaged citizens, who gain practical experience by being part of an international community.

Q. What does it mean to be “international”?

- Genuine awareness of the interdependence of countries and peoples.
- Ability to see one’s own culture, language and nation in a global perspective
- Ability to recognize and rejoice in diversity

Q. What does it mean to be a “responsible citizen of the world”?

- Conservation of natural resources
- Responsible use of power
- Understanding needs of those less fortunate
- Responding to disasters