Applying for TUM Study courses with an IB diploma

The "International Baccalaureate Diploma /Diplôme du Baccalauréat International", short IB, is offered by a great variety of schools throughout the world. With this international degree, an application at TUM (or any other German university) is possible if certain preconditions are met.

Important are the following preconditions (translated by IBO.org, Resolution of the Conference of Ministers of Education of 10.03.1986, as amended on 31.05.2012):

- The IB must be obtained after attending at least twelve years of full-time education
- The six examination subjects taken must conform to IB conditions:
  - two languages at A or B level (one of which at least must be a foreign language studied uninterruptedly as "Language A" or "Language B HL"),
  - one natural science subject (Biology, Chemistry, Physics),
  - Mathematics (Mathematical SL or Mathematics HL or Further Mathematics together with Mathematics HL)
  - One social science subject (History, Geography, Economics).
  - The sixth compulsory subject may be one of the above or one of the following subjects recognized by the IB:
- One of the three subjects to be taken at higher level must be Mathematics or a Natural Science subject such as Biology, Chemistry or Physics.
- All subjects must have been taken uninterruptedly (lasting two years) up to the end of the school career.
- Candidates must earn a minimum IB Grade of 4 on the six compulsory subjects. Where an IB grade of 3 is awarded in one subject only, it is possible to compensate for this if another subject taken at the same level has been awarded at least an IB Grade 5, and an aggregate of 24 points has been attained.
- Please note that only an IB with German A as Higher Level is recognized as proof of German language skills. Otherwise, you need so supply separate proof of sufficient German skills with your application at TUM.
- The most commonly seen pitfall regarding the preconditions is the social science subject. Many IB schools don’t offer or request this as part of the curriculum. Make sure when you choose your IB school as well as your subjects that you include social sciences.
- An English translation of the entire text is provided by the IBO:
What to do if you don’t meet the preconditions?

It might be that you don’t meet all preconditions and thus can’t apply directly at a German university. In this case you have several options:

- The German state provides so called “Studienkollegs”. If you successfully attend a preparatory study course at the Studienkolleg which belongs to the German state that your university of interest is in (e.g. for TUM Bavaria, Munich) you can reach a subjects-specific university entrance diploma. Therefore make sure, you know what you want to study, so you can choose the correct courses at the Studienkolleg. (For Munich see: http://www.studienkolleg.mhn.de/default_e.html)

- Another option is that you enroll in your course of interest at a university abroad. After your first year there and if you have successfully completed the requested classes, you can apply for the same course of study at TUM (or any other German university).

Further information is also provided on our homepage at: