



"Going to IB was one of the best decisions I've made in my life. ... In IB courses, the attitude is that the 'sky is the limit', and you are encouraged to go as far as you are willing to go."

Susan Lin

2002 IB Diploma Programme graduate
Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Fulfilling a passion for learning can become a way of life. Just ask Susan Lin, a 2002 International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme graduate who earned a bachelor of arts degree in psychology, with honours, from the University of British Columbia and a master of arts degree in psychology from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, where she is now a PhD candidate.

"The IB made me feel it was okay, or even 'cool', to feel passionate and excited about learning," Susan says. "This attitude carried me through my university years and now in my graduate school years."

Susan's academic journey took her from Canada to Honolulu to perform clinical research and serve mental health clients at the Hawai'i Department of Health and the state's psychiatric hospital. As a PhD candidate in clinical psychology, she has explored evidence-based practices, juvenile detention alternatives and cross-cultural health care.

The IB also nurtured Susan's international perspective. "The content of my IB classes focused more on global issues than my non-IB courses did, leading us to learn about history and issues in other parts of the world that we did not generally encounter," she says.

Susan has infused her research in psychology with this multicultural sensibility, writing a master's thesis titled "Airing Our Laundry: Explanatory Models of Mental Illness among Chinese-American Clients in Hawai'i's Public Adult

Mental Health System". Most recently, she co-authored an article for the *Hawai'i Medical Journal* on perceptions of cross-cultural care training. "Susan has been an outstanding graduate student in our clinical psychology doctoral program," praises Dr Stephen Haynes, Susan's academic supervisor at the University of Hawai'i. "She is also an active participant in professional psychology organizations."

Susan also credits the IB Diploma Programme with affirming her desire to give back to the community. "The IB validated the importance of participation in [creativity, action, service] projects in a young person's learning and growth, which is my learning philosophy today," she says. And because her rigorous research for the Diploma Programme extended essay requirement prepared her so well for the transition to university, she says she was comfortable taking on more extra-curricular and campus activities.

"We were trained to integrate knowledge and be self-motivated, and both are very important for university learning. IB students are very well trained not only academically, but also as responsible and active citizens."



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