



# Garibaldi IB Diploma Program Graduate Profiles



# BROOKE PORTER



Since graduating from Garibaldi with an IB Diploma in 2018, Brooke Porter has significantly advanced her education. She completed her Bachelor of Science, majoring in Behavioral Neuroscience and minoring in English Literature at UBC. Currently, she is pursuing a double Masters Degree in Art Therapy and Clinical Counseling at Adler University.

Throughout her academic journey, Brooke navigated her way from working at grocery stores to positions aligned with her degrees. She has held roles as a support worker, behavioral interventionist, and community inclusion CSW. Presently, she is engaged in her counseling practicum in the Surrey School District and at Constellations Counseling.

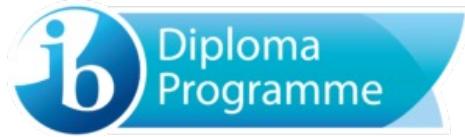
Reflecting on her time in the IB Diploma Program at GSS, Brooke underscores the strong connections forged among fellow IB students—a sentiment echoed by many GSS IB DP graduates. These connections carried over to UBC, where she notes, "Having friends from IB at UBC helped me adjust and stay connected."

She further elaborates on the impact of the IB program, stating, "Doing IB taught me the skills to be successful and manage high-stress situations. It has been instrumental in honing my time management abilities to balance school, work, and relationships. The coursework at university felt at the same challenging level, allowing me to focus on additional challenges such as living on my own for the first time and being away from home."

(2024)



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## AIDAN BODNER

*“The IB Program taught me to be independent and take charge of my education in a way that has served me well in post-secondary.”*

Aidan Bodner earned his IB Diploma at Garibaldi in 2017. He recently completed a Bachelor of Science (Major in Health Sciences) at Simon Fraser University. As of September 2022, he is attending the University of Toronto for a Masters of Science in Health Services Research with an emphasis on health policy. While at SFU, Aidan completed the Cooperative Education Program and worked as a research assistant in health services and policy research, focusing on topics impacting population health equity. He recently published a paper documenting the nature of private payment for primary care in Canada and coauthored another paper examining primary care service use by income quintile in BC.

Aidan says that “my fondest memory of the IB Diploma Program was my time researching and writing the Extended Essay. I really enjoyed how the project gave me room to pursue my interests and develop my research skills. The IB Program taught me to be independent and take charge of my education in a way that has served me well in post-secondary”. (2023)

# MICHAEL GRUNDY



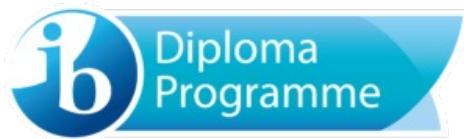
Michael Grundy, a 2021 GSS IB Diploma Program graduate, is at UBC majoring in Microbiology and Immunology. He has enjoyed his first year in university, “my favourite being the chemistry labs I performed using equipment that I had never experienced before.”

While doing the IB Program at Garibaldi, he was able to balance a part-time job, first at A&W and then at Save-On-Foods. “With the proper time management skills, I was able to work while also completing the IB Diploma Program.”

“My favourite memory of the IB Program was the sense of fulfilment I felt after completing it. It was such a big achievement in my life that I worked hard to complete in those two years.” He adds that “the IB Diploma Program is a huge help in preparing you for post-secondary education for a number of reasons”, including obtaining credits from HL courses (History, English, and Biology) and TOK. On top of that, he says “IB has prepared me for university life by teaching me organizational skills, how to write essays and scientific papers, and many other important skills. The IB Program has definitely made the transition into university a lot easier.” (2023)



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“The university workload is a lot easier to handle once you've done IB. You really learn how to research and write academically which gives you an advantage.”

## RINI LIU

Rini Liu has been very active since graduating from the IB Diploma Program at GSS in 2021. She is a Political Sciences major at SFU and is currently in the SFU Co-op Program as a Junior Policy Analyst at Employment and Social Development Canada. She volunteers at SFU with the Climate Action Student Collaborative and as a mentor at CommuniCreate.

Rini reports that she has made good use of the IB transfer credits, and says that “the university workload is a lot easier to handle once you've done IB. You really learn how to research and write academically which gives you an advantage”. (2023)



*"IB has helped me save time, money, and effort in the long run."*



## SIOBHAN MCALEESE

Siobhan McAleese didn't waste any time after graduating in 2021. She spent the summer at CapU (online) learning 2D animation, and she now has two semesters at KPU for Fine Arts under her belt. She is currently attending CapU's 2D Animation program.

While at GSS in the IB Diploma Program, Siobhan was able to also commit to playing on a soccer team and participating in many activities with Girl Guides. She has many good memories of doing the IB Diploma Program at GSS. "Whenever my friends explained a math problem to me for the 10th time and it FINALLY clicked with me. Also, working with my teachers on a project I was passionate about was very snazzy. Lastly, FINISHING the program remains a fond memory of mine. All that hard work paid off! Yay!"

She also says that the IB Program taught her how to meet deadlines and organize her time. As well, she has been able to transfer credits from IB courses to two different universities (KPU and CapU). "So IB has helped me save time, money, and effort in the long run!" (2023)

# GABI ROSU



Gabi Rosu earned her IB Diploma at Garibaldi in 2016. She attended UBC and in May 2020 she was awarded a Bachelor of Science with Distinction (Combined Major in Science - Life Sciences, Chemistry, Earth and Ocean Sciences).

After graduating from UBC, she completed an internship with the provincial government as a part of a program for recent grads with disabilities, helping people find sustainable employment. She is now Project and Engagement Coordinator within the same team in the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. She says she is “so grateful to have gotten this opportunity. My career is my life and I love every day at work!”

While completing her studies at Garibaldi and at UBC Gabi struggled with Crohn’s Disease, but she has recently started a new treatment and is slowly starting to recover again. “I've got a ways to go but there is hope!”

Gabi says that “my highlight of IB was going through the program alongside a small group of fantastic people and developing such strong bonds that last to this day. I have a similar environment at work, and it made me realize how well I thrive as part of a tight-knit group of people who foster a respectful, wholesome environment where you can just be yourself.” (2023)



*Gabi's highlight of IB was thriving “as part of a tight-knit group of people who foster a respectful, wholesome environment where you can just be yourself.”*

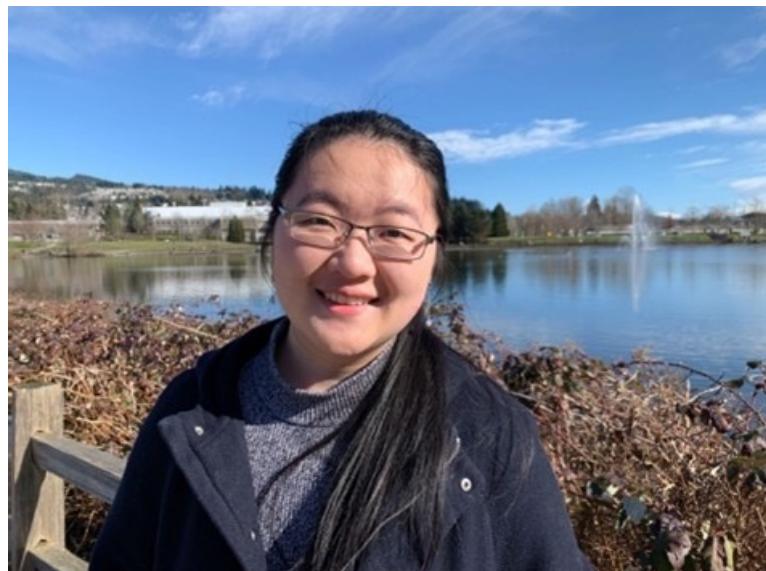


Since graduating from GSS with an IB Diploma in 2016, Emily Tsui enrolled at UBC and in 2021 earned a Bachelor in Science (Major in Biology, Minor in Psychology). She worked as a research assistant/study coordinator for a clinical study done out of UBC and BC Women's Hospital and is currently a genetic counselling assistant at UBC.

Thinking back to her time in the IB Diploma Program, Emily remembers her Extended Essay. "While it was laborious and challenging, writing the Extended Essay was a highlight during my time in the IB Program. Not only was I able to choose a topic that I was truly passionate about, but the skills I gained in research and citing sources have also been very valuable." (2023)

## EMILY TSUI

*"Writing the Extended Essay was a highlight during my time in the IB Program."*





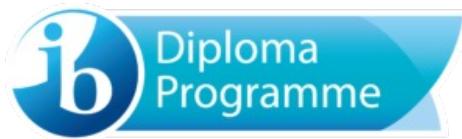
*“Some of my best memories and values stem from simple moments I shared with my friends in IB.”*

## PETER WON

Peter Won has been busy since graduating from GSS with an IB Diploma in 2016. He is currently at the University of Toronto, pursuing a Computer Engineering degree with a Minor in Business. Since taking a year long internship at Ciena Communications in the unit testing automation department, he now has an interest in going into the education technologies industry.

When asked about his key learnings from his IB experience at GSS, Peter says “A core idea that has stuck with me throughout the years is that learning can and should be an experience to enjoy and immerse yourself in with your community. Some of my best memories and values stem from simple moments I shared with my friends in IB such as our TOK debates or just studying Biology after class.”

He adds that “another thing I've learned from IB is that no idea is above criticism and improvement. It is important to be critical of every idea, especially the ones that are well established and widely accepted, as those are usually the ones that need the most change and are often ignored.”  
(2023)



“I loved how the teachers at Garibaldi were so sweet and always ready to help.”

## ILAYDA ULUOCAK

As an international student from Turkey, knowing she wanted to pursue the sciences, Ilayda chose IB because she thought it would prepare her well for university and that the program would be recognized by universities abroad. This proved true, as in 2021 she was accepted to every university she applied to and even received scholarships.

While at Garibaldi, Ilayda appreciated how welcomed and supported she felt, saying, “I especially appreciated how kind and friendly both the students and staff were, particularly since I was an international student.”

Ilayda is now completing a degree in Molecular Biology and Genetics at Koç University in Turkey and has applied to master’s programs in neuroscience and medical biology at top universities. During her applications, she was often first asked whether she had an IB diploma, and having it helped her navigate the process. “Even though I am soon to be a university graduate, my IB background still counts and remains important.” (2025)



Lucy graduated from Garibaldi Secondary School in 2024 with an IB Diploma and is currently in her first year at the University of Toronto, where she is pursuing a double major in History and Philosophy, as well as doing some online tutoring.

Reflecting on her IB experience, Lucy notes that the program helped her develop strong time management and organizational skills, allowing for a smooth transition to university-level studies. She also credits IB with teaching her how to efficiently read, analyze, and work with academic texts and sources, which are skills that are essential in her courses.

In addition, IB transfer credits helped reduce some of the academic pressure often associated with first-year university, relieving her of the need to complete some lower level required courses.

Finally, she notes that IB “fostered a unique sense of community with both peers and teachers, which made the whole experience more enjoyable.” (2025)

## LUCY CHEN

“My time in the IB Diploma program has . . .helped me easily transition into university-level studies.

