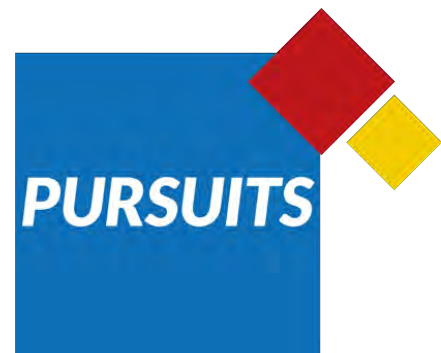




THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF KUALA LUMPUR



**PURSUIT**  
**AT ISKL**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**INTRODUCTION TO PURSUITS | 3**

**HOW DOES PURSUITS WORKS | 4**

**AREA OF DISTINCTION | 5**

**SAMPLE SCHEDULES | 6**

**SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING | 7**

**PURSUIT PRACTICUM | 8**

**KEY TAKEAWAYS | 9**

**HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING SUPPORT | 9**

**EDUCATOR TESTIMONIALS | 10**

**STUDENT TESTIMONIALS | 11 & 12**

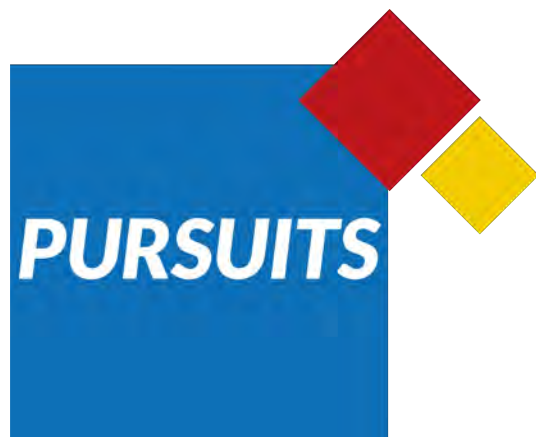
# INTRODUCTION TO PURSUITS

The **Pursuits Program** is an innovative, self-directed High School educational pathway that at its core is about IMPACT: using the skills, knowledge, and creativity to drive meaningful change. It provides students with a comprehensive and relevant, yet challenging, course of study that enables a deeper learning, based on personal interest.

## How Does Pursuits Work?

The Pursuits Program is a two-year program aimed at Grade 11 and 12 students who wish to gain educational recognition for a targeted area of study. It combines rigorous courses from the International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), Global Online Academy (GOA), and ISKL's High School curriculum, allowing students to build an individualized program tailored to their interests and future goals.

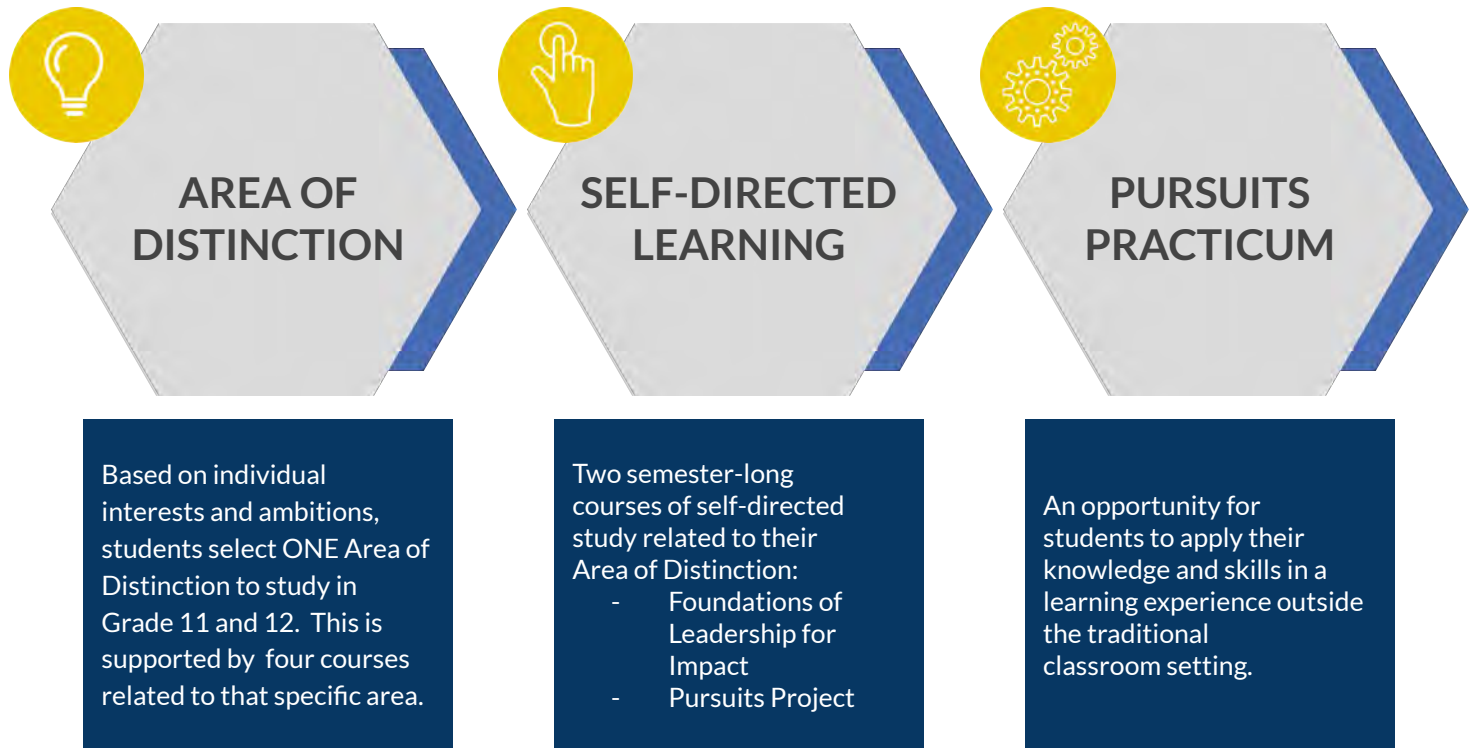
All Pursuits students who meet ISKL's graduation requirements will receive the ISKL High School Diploma which is equivalent to a U.S. High School Diploma.



## Why Join Pursuits?

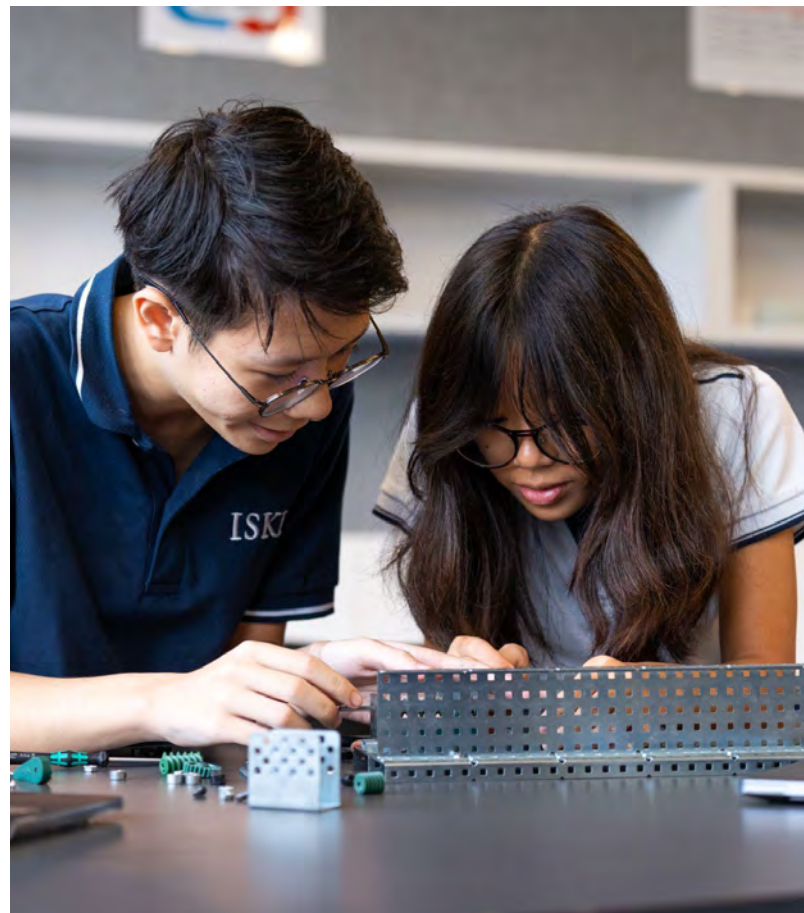
The Pursuits Program is aimed at students who thrive on self-directed learning and challenging themselves to explore and discover opportunities led by their personal interests and career aspirations. It develops a sense of independence, confidence and encourages their development as global citizens.

# HOW DOES PURSUITS WORK?



Pursuits students choose an Area of Distinction (AoD) from a variety of specializations, gaining deep knowledge and experience by:

- Exploring their AoD through structured mini research projects developing leadership skills to have impact (Foundations of Leadership).
- Developing their expertise through an independent research project (Pursuits Project).
- Learning real life skills in order to have impact (Pursuits Practicum).
- Completing 4 credits of classes that are in their Area of Distinction.



# AREA OF DISTINCTION

Based on interests and ambitions, students select one Area of Distinction upon which to focus in Grade 11 and 12. This focus is in addition to the remaining graduation requirements and post secondary aspirations they may have.

## Potential Areas of Distinction

**BUSINESS AND  
MARKETING**

**COMPUTER SCIENCE**

**ENGINEERING AND  
DESIGN**

**HEALTH AND  
WELLNESS**

**INTERDISCIPLINARY**

**MULTIMEDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS**

**SPORTS SCIENCE**

**VISUAL ARTS**

**WORLD LANGUAGE**

**GLOBAL ISSUES**

**PERFORMING ARTS**

They must choose a minimum of 4.0 credits from courses related to their Area of Distinction (IB, AP, ISKL HS and/or GOA courses)

Students then choose classes outside their Area of Distinction filling out their timetable enabling them to continue to explore and learn about other topics to fulfill graduation and post secondary aspirations..

# SAMPLE SCHEDULES

## Student A:

**Interests:** *Math, Economics, Chemistry, Sports, Gaming*

**Career Ambition:** *Computer Science Teacher, Lecturer*

### Course Options:

- Computer Science in the Modern World
- Robotics
- IB Computer Science SL/HL
- IB Math AA SL/HL
- IB Economics SL/HL
- GOA: Game Design

## Student B:

**Interests:** *Sports, Psychology, Singing, Anatomy, Business*

**Career Ambition:** *Sports Psychologist, Physiotherapist*

### Course Options:

- Human Anatomy/Physiology
- Sports Science
- Team Sports and Activities
- GOA: Social Psychology
- IB Psychology SL/HL
- IB Biology SL/HL
- IB Business HL

## COURSE OPTIONS

[ISKL's 2025-2026 Program Guide](#) (pg. 27-28) contains more detailed information about the course and the options available for each Area of Distinction.

## GLOBAL ONLINE ACADEMY

Additionally, students in the Pursuits Program can further deepen their knowledge and personalize their learning within their Area of Distinction by completing courses through the Global Online Academy (GOA). Common courses are:

- Social Psychology
- Video Game Design and Development
- Arts Entrepreneurship

Taking a GOA class is not a requirement of the Pursuits Program, just an additional offering.

For further information about the Pursuits Program contact Pursuits Coordinator Dan Miles at [dmiles@iskl.edu.my](mailto:dmiles@iskl.edu.my)

# SELF DIRECTED LEARNING

## Self-directed Learning

Two semester long courses based on student's area of distinction

### Foundations of Leadership for Impact

A mandatory semester course in Grade 11 where students learn leadership skills so they can implement projects that have a positive impact on their community. The course builds the foundation skills to complete the Pursuits Project.

### Pursuits Project

Students dive deeper into their interest with greater independence. In this aspect, students work with a mentor while independently creating a project directly related to their Area of Distinction that will have a positive impact on the community.

## Two-year Overview

|          | GRADE 11                             |                           | GRADE 12                  |                           |
|----------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|          | SEMESTER 1                           | SEMESTER 2                | SEMESTER 3                | SEMESTER 4                |
| Period 1 | Foundations of Leadership for Impact | Project                   | Practicum                 | Student Choice            |
| Period 2 | Area of Distinction Class            | Area of Distinction Class | Area of Distinction Class | Area of Distinction Class |
| Period 3 | Area of Distinction Class            | Area of Distinction Class | Area of Distinction Class | Area of Distinction Class |
| Period 4 | Student Choice Class 1               |                           | Student Choice Class 6    |                           |
| Period 5 | Student Choice Class 2               |                           | Student Choice Class 7    |                           |
| Period 6 | Student Choice Class 3               |                           | Student Choice Class 8    |                           |
| Period 7 | Student Choice Class 4               |                           | Student Choice Class 9    |                           |
| Period 8 | Student Choice Class 5*              |                           | Student Choice Class 10*  |                           |

Most Pursuits students take four IBDP courses and at least one GOA course resulting in a robust course of study. \*Could be a prep.

Student Choice must meet ISKL Graduation and desired university requirements

# PURSUITS PRACTICUM

## Pursuits Practicum

An opportunity for students to apply their knowledge and skills in a learning experience outside the traditional classroom setting.

**Off-campus opportunities** (e.g., internships, research assistant, dedicated service opportunities)

**Other opportunities** (chosen by the student and approved by ISKL)

**Work placement on campus**

Builds on ISKL's partnership with **FLIP** (Future Leaders Internship Program, Discovery Internship)



Scan the QR code to watch a short video on what ISKL's Pursuits program is about!

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

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- Develops skills in analysis, communication, and teamwork
- Expands critical decision-making skills
- Provides opportunities to personalize, specialize and create a tailored curriculum
- Enables real-world and hands-on experiences
- Provides access to industry experience with internships

## HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING SUPPORT

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Our HS Counseling team is available to support every student in finding the right fit pathway to best meet their needs and aspirations.



# WHAT ISKL'S EDUCATORS SAY ABOUT THE PROGRAM

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“

*ISKL is working to create a range of programs with enough flexibility to cater to the needs and interests of ALL students.*

”

Jeff Farrington  
High School Principal



“

*It's incredible to watch students explore their strengths and interests through Pursuits. The skills they develop in leadership, independence, and initiative prepare them for lifelong success.*

Jeff Steuernagel,  
High School Counselor



“

*Bringing community mentorship, network building, practical experience and critical reflection to an individualized program of study, Pursuits gives ISKL students the opportunity to extend their learning and skill set beyond the classroom experience.*

”

Dan Miles  
Pursuits Coordinator

# STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

**Evelynn Schorr, Pursuits Student (Class of 2022)**

**Area of Distinction: Psychology**

## Why did you choose the Pursuits Program?

"I picked the Pursuits Program because I knew I wanted to go to college in the United States, and the IB isn't completely necessary. I'm so glad that I chose Pursuits because I've had the option to focus on something that I care about and want to learn and understand. All my ISKL teachers have been very willing and excited to help me learn which I think has been great both for me and for them to have that mentor-mentee relationship. My mentor for the Pursuits Project, Ms. Becky Naughton helped me focus on the areas I wanted to learn, how to better organize and figure out in problem-solving obstacles."



*"I am so glad that I chose Pursuits because I've had the option to focus on something that I care about and really want to learn and understand."*

## What did you do for your Pursuits Project?

"I've decided to do a Psychology study. I've been reaching out virtually to elementary school and interviewing teachers, counselors, and to make observations on understanding how online learning has affected the development of elementary school students. I also had the great opportunity to talk to teachers overseas in Rome and Manila and hear their experiences. I managed to compare and contrast data from each student age group and finally present my findings."

## Any advice for future students?

"Pursuits is much more dynamic, and you have to be more organized to be able to know what you're doing every day. It's a really independent program. You really have to be on top of yourself if you want to get somewhere and learn."

Scan the QR code for more information.



# STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

**Sarah Anne Biscaro, Pursuits Student (Class of 2022)**

**Area of Distinction: Visual Arts**

**Why did you choose the Pursuits Program?**

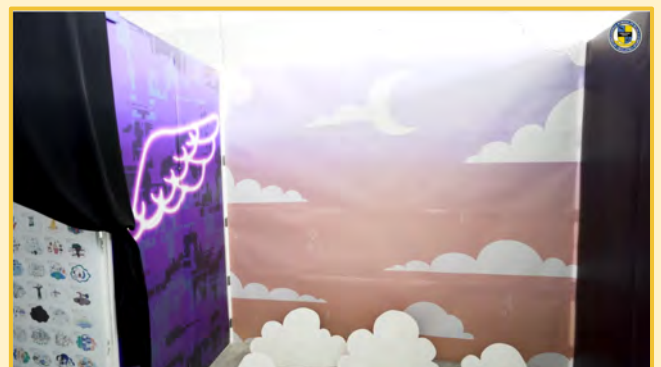
"I knew I wanted to have a path in visual arts, so I took Pursuits so that I could take more visual arts classes and do more projects that I found fun personally without being held back."



**What did you do for your Pursuits Project?**

"You can choose an area of distinction for your Pursuits Project - I'm passionate about visual arts and world-building, and that's why I wanted to do an exhibition. Since I wanted to work with Elementary (school kids), I made it as an interactive exhibition."

You can choose an area of distinction for your Pursuits Project, so I'm passionate about the visual arts and world-building, and that's why I wanted to do an exhibition. I'm really into the world-building of Dungeons & Dragons, which is really nerdy but, I look at those worlds and think, 'How can I come up with characters, worlds, dynamics; what's the story of this world specifically, what kind of aesthetic is it, is it futuristic is it fantasy?' I hadn't done something like this before, and I wanted to do something that the community could also enjoy, especially the little kids. Since I wanted to work with Elementary (school kids), I made it as an interactive exhibition."

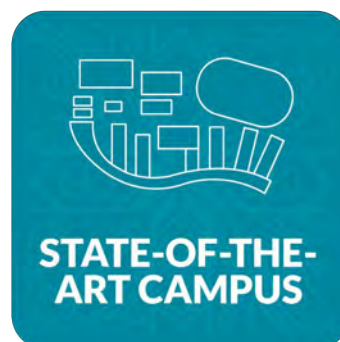


**Any advice for future students?**

"I think my advice to future pursuits students would be to go for it. You're going to learn a lot, so push yourself as far as you can with this program because you're never going to get another opportunity like it."

Scan the QR code for more information.





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