



The Araratian Bacculaureate: A guide for universities

What is the Araratian Bacculaureate (AB)?

- ⦿ Academically rigorous 3-year upper-secondary-school **A-Level equivalent-qualification** delivered in Armenian
- ⦿ Developed by Ayb Educational Foundation in cooperation with RA Ministry of Education and Sciences as part of Armenia's National Program for Educational Excellence (NPEE) and international partners **Cambridge Assessment International Education** (Cambridge) (assessment and curriculum development).
- ⦿ Teacher training and pedagogy developed with the **University College London Institute of Education**

How AB is assessed?

- ⦿ AB exams assessed by Araratian Bacculaureate Examination Committee (ABEC) and Cambridge
- ⦿ STEM (Math, Physics, Chemistry and Biology) A-Level-equivalent grades **jointly certified by ABEC and Cambridge**

Who takes the AB?

- ⦿ The AB is designed for a selected high-performing national cohort and offered during the last 3 years of the 12-year Armenian comprehensive public education system (school year: 32 weeks, 6 days/week).

Why AB?

- ⦿ Enriched program,
- ⦿ Internationally competitive curriculum,
- ⦿ Innovative pedagogy,
- ⦿ Delivering 21st century skills
- ⦿ **Direct admission** to local and international universities without additional examinations





UCL Institute of Education -Teacher Training Partner



Cambridge Assessment-Examinations Partner

From UK NARIC benchmarking report 2016

Qualification: **Araratian Baccalaureate**

Awarding Institution:

Araratian Baccalaureate Examination Center (ABEC)

Comparability:

- Is considered **comparable to the overall GCE A Level Standard Subjects** passed at Extended Level, jointly certified by ABEC/Cambridge, can be considered comparable to GCE A Level on a subject-for-subject basis. Jointly-certified subjects at **Standard Level** can be considered comparable to the **GCE AS Level** on a subject-for-subject basis.
- Is considered comparable to the overall US Advanced Placement Standard

AB curriculum

- Balanced-learning qualification covering **8 subject areas** with a requirement of
 - 3 advanced courses (360 guided learning hours each) comparable to A Level,
 - 4 standard courses (180 guided learning hours each) comparable to the AS Level
- **English proficiency** at CEFR level B2 or C1 upon graduation
- Required courses: **Extended Armenian Studies** and **Extended English Language** up to two additional Extended Subjects of their choice (**Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, World History, Visual Arts**)
- **Project-based learning** – Student-designed projects are well-structured interdisciplinary activity with social impact, carried out in teams with the guidance of a mentor
- Required Community service and volunteering

How will the AB be reported?

Graduates receive AB Diplomas, award at three levels: **Honors, Merit, and Standard**, along with the State Attestat of Secondary Education. Grade reports jointly certified by ABEC/Cambridge for STEM subjects

International recognition

- Benchmarked by UK National Recognition Information Centre (**UK NARIC**) to be comparable to GCE A Level and US Advanced Placement Standard qualifications
- AB certificate is considered equivalent to German school-leaving certificate
- AB graduates pursue university education in Armenia and highly competitive programs in the US, UK, Europe, Russia and the Far East



The School and Community

- **Ayb High School** founded in 2011 by the Ayb Educational Foundation and licensed by Republic of Armenia's Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport
- Promotes **globally competitive education** in Armenia, awarding the Araratian Baccalaureate
- Offers **holistic education** to a cohort of students selected through interviews and examinations
- Provides **need-based scholarships** affording access to all qualified students

Student Profile

- **200 students** from around Armenia and other countries
- Intellectually agile, forward thinking, spiritually rich, physically healthy, creative, responsible, global and cultural awareness
- Communication, leadership, critical thinking, problem solving, team player skills

Curriculum

- Offers a **balanced curriculum** in the sciences, humanities and arts + Project-based learning (PBL)
- All Ayb students are enrolled in the **Araratian Baccalaureate (AB) program**
- The AB is a 3-year (10th-12th grades) academically rigorous high school program
- **Armenian is the primary language** of instruction for all subjects
- Students achieve **high-level proficiency in English and Russian**
- The school provides **individualized instruction and counselling** on education and career choices
- The school's **robotics laboratory and Fablab** give students opportunities to explore and create.
- The **school year** runs from September to June, and students typically take 8 to 16 subjects at one time depending on interest, ability and goals (32 weeks, 6 days/week)
- Courses offered at **Extended** (360 hrs/A Level equivalent) and **Standard Levels** (180 hrs/AS Level equivalent)

Activities and Service

Ayb students are encouraged to take part in a range of extracurricular and service activities throughout their high school years, including sports, music, art, drama, student government, community service and volunteering. The Project-based learning (PBL) component affords students the opportunity to engage in authentic problem-solving through an interdisciplinary activity that has a social impact, builds communication and leadership skills, and requires teamwork and self-reflection

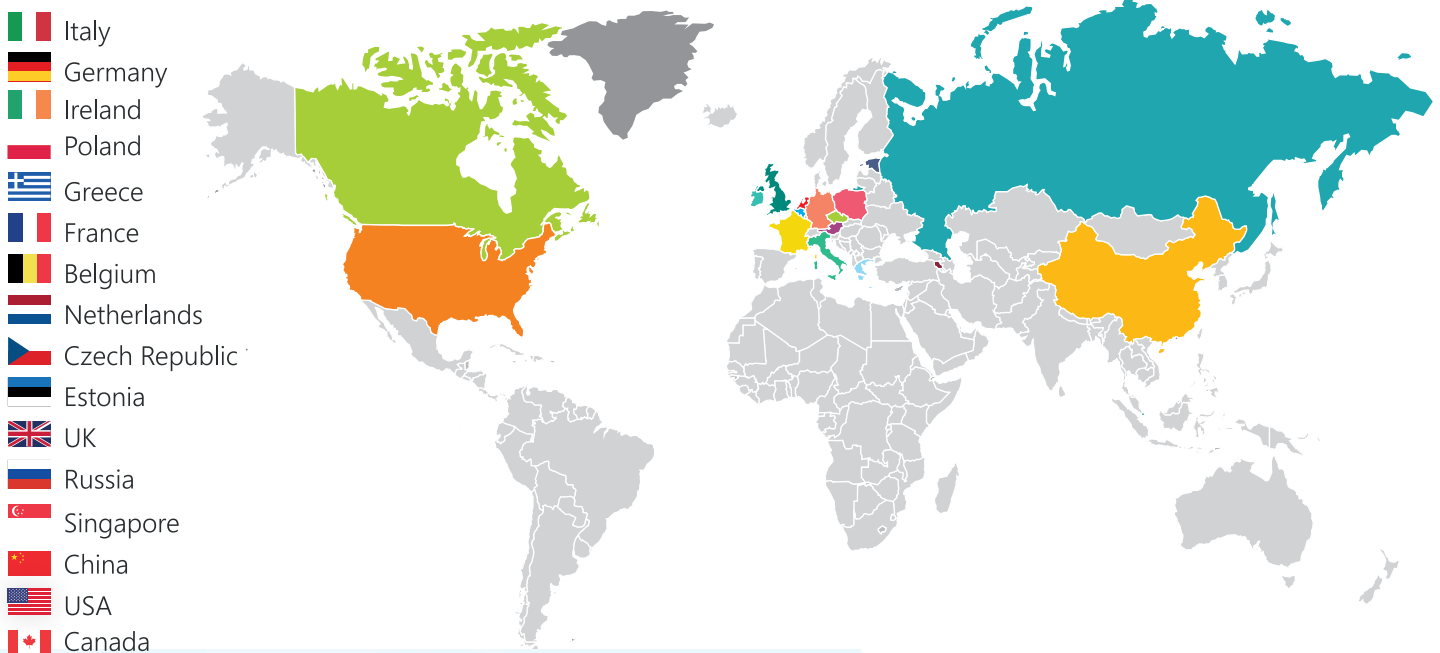
Graduation Requirements

- Students granted diplomas at three levels: **Honors, Merit** and **Standard**
- Ayb awards a Diploma of Compulsory Secondary school education (Attestat) and AB Diploma, accepted for admission to Armenian universities and universities abroad, including the UK, Netherlands, Germany and the US
- **STEM Subjects are examined and graded jointly by ABEC and Cambridge Assessment International Education**
- All students must take courses in the following 8 subject groups: (1) Armenian Studies (Language, literature, history), (2) English, (3) Foreign Languages (Russian required plus other elective languages), (4) Mathematics, (5) Sciences (Biology, Physics, Chemistry), (6) Social Sciences (World History, Business, Geography), (7) Arts (Dance, Band, Choir, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Art History), (8) Physical Education (Fitness, Wellness, team sports), PLUS Project-based learning (PBL) (Thinking skills in 10th grade, PBL in 11th – 12th grades)

University Acceptance

All Ayb High School graduates to date have pursued higher education, many at leading universities in Armenia, US, UK, Russia, and Europe, Far East in a wide variety of fields, including physics, mathematics, medicine, communications, computer science, arts and law. The top 5 universities Ayb graduates study at:

 University of Cambridge, UCL, UCLA, SCAD, Technical University of Munich



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