



Hi,

My name is Irma Vestlund, I graduated IB in 2012 and after my graduation I moved to Scotland to study Economics. I just want to tell you how very glad I am over my decision to take the IB program. Trust me when I say I know exactly what you are all going through and how heavy the workload can be from time to time. Especially when all deadlines seem to have been planned for the same week and mocks or exams are coming up. But, it is *so* worth it! The skills you learn now will actually be of great use when you move on to university, especially the essay writing skills. And it was the IB that opened my eyes to the world and made me want to study abroad.

Moving to Scotland is among the best things I have ever done. University life in Scotland is amazing. There is a lot of essay writing, but as a former IB student that is not a big problem. There are very few scheduled study hours. I think I had about 12 lecture hours and 3-4 hours of tutor time a week last term. This gives a student the freedom to plan your studies yourself and focus on the things you need to focus on. You also get to choose all your courses yourself. So even though my major subject is Economics I also took courses in management, politics and finance last year. And one must not forget that there is so much more to it than just studying. To see and experience something else than Sweden and all things Swedish is very rewarding.

It was a little more complicated to apply to a Scottish university than to apply to a Swedish one, but it was not at all difficult. And to fill out the application and plan everything was so much fun as well as exciting! One thing I found very comforting when I was thinking of moving was that almost all universities guarantee accommodation for all first year students, so one does not have to worry about not having anywhere to live during the first year of study.

So, I guess what I'm trying to say here is that even though IB might seem like a nightmare at times, it will be *so* worth it in the end! If there is anything else you would like to know, feel free to send me an e-mail: irma.vestlund.12@aberdeen.ac.uk.