



Tehran International School



The CAS Timeline

Year One (September to June)	
Interview 1	September
Interview 2	June

Year Two (September to March)	
Interview 3	April

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Introduction

CAS is at the heart of the Diploma Programme. Successful completion of CAS is a requirement for the award of the IB Diploma. It is a collaborative, well-considered series of sequential CAS experiences, engaging students in one or more of the CAS strands of creativity, activity, and service. CAS students must be involved in at least one CAS project of at least one month's duration in the course of their CAS programme. The primary purpose of the CAS project is to ensure participation in sustained collaboration. Through this level of engagement students may discover the benefits of teamwork and of achievements realized through an exchange of ideas and abilities. A CAS project challenges students to show initiative, demonstrate perseverance, and develop skills such as those of cooperation, problem-solving and decision-making.

All CAS students are expected to maintain and complete a CAS portfolio as evidence of their engagement with CAS. Student completion of CAS is based on the achievement of the seven CAS learning outcomes realized through the student's commitment to his or her CAS programme over a period of 18 months.

This document has been prepared in order to support TIS students with their CAS projects and introduce all the rules and regulations that must be followed in order for them to succeed with CAS. In case further information is required please refer to the school website or contact the CAS coordinator.

1. What is CAS?

A CAS project involves collaboration between a group of students or with members of the wider community. Students work as part of a team, with all members being contributors. A CAS project offers students the opportunity to be responsible for, or to initiate, a part of or the entire CAS project. Working collaboratively also provides opportunities for individual students to enhance and integrate their personal interests, skills and talents into the planning and implementation of CAS projects.

CAS is organized around the three strands of creativity, activity and service defined as follows: Creativity; exploring and extending ideas leading to an original or interpretive product or Performance, Activity; physical exertion contributing to a healthy lifestyle, Service; collaborative and reciprocal engagement with the community in response to an authentic need. Students engage in CAS experiences involving one or more of the three CAS strands (creativity, activity, service). A CAS experience can be a single event or may be an extended series of events. Students undertake a CAS project of at least one month's duration that challenges students to show initiative, demonstrate perseverance, and develop skills such as collaboration, problem-solving, and decision-making. The CAS project can address any single strand of CAS, or combine two or all three strands. Students use the CAS stages (investigation, preparation, action, reflection and demonstration) as a framework for CAS experiences and the CAS project.

There are three formal documented interviews students must have with their CAS coordinator. The first interview is at the beginning of the CAS programme, the second at the end of the first year, and the third interview is at the end of the CAS programme. CAS emphasizes reflection which is central to building a deep and rich experience in CAS. Reflection informs students' learning and growth by allowing students to explore ideas, skills, strengths, limitations and areas for further development and consider how they may use prior learning in new contexts.

1.1. CAS and DP Core

Successful completion of CAS is a requirement for the award of the IB Diploma. While not formally assessed, students reflect on their CAS experiences and provide evidence in their CAS portfolios of achieving the seven learning outcomes. The CAS programme formally begins at the start of the Diploma Programme and continues regularly, ideally on a weekly basis, for at least 18 months with a reasonable balance between creativity, activity, and service.

All CAS students are expected to maintain and complete a CAS portfolio as evidence of their engagement with CAS. The CAS portfolio is a collection of evidence that showcases CAS experiences and for student reflections; it is not formally assessed.

1.2. CAS Strands

CAS is organized around the three strands of creativity, activity and service.

Creativity	Exploring and extending ideas leading to an original or interpretive product or performance. May cover a wide range of arts and other activities that the student engages in to design and carry out service projects (creativity of the mind).
Activity	Physical exertion contributing to a healthy lifestyle. May include many types of physical activities such as participation in expeditions, individual and team sports and physical training. It can also include carrying out creative and service projects as well as training for service.
Service	Collaborative and reciprocal engagement with the community in response to an authentic need. Involves community or social service. It is essential that the service activity has learning benefits, which rules out mundane, repetitive activities, as well as “service” without real responsibility.

CAS experiences/projects in the various CAS strands may fall into the different categories below:

Ongoing	The student may already be engaged in an activity that falls into one or more CAS strands. Students may continue but are encouraged to further extend or develop participation if appropriate.
School-Based	Activities sponsored by the school or school organizations that may fall into one or more CAS strands.
Community-Based	Activities sponsored by the local community.
Individual	The student engages in a solitary activity in which they work towards a personal goal.

1.3. CAS Learning Outcomes

Student completion of CAS is based on the achievement of the seven CAS learning outcomes realized through the student's commitment to his or her CAS programme over a period of 18 months. These learning outcomes articulate what a CAS student is able to do at some point during his or her CAS programme. Through meaningful and purposeful CAS experiences, students develop the necessary skills, attributes and understandings to achieve the seven CAS learning outcomes.

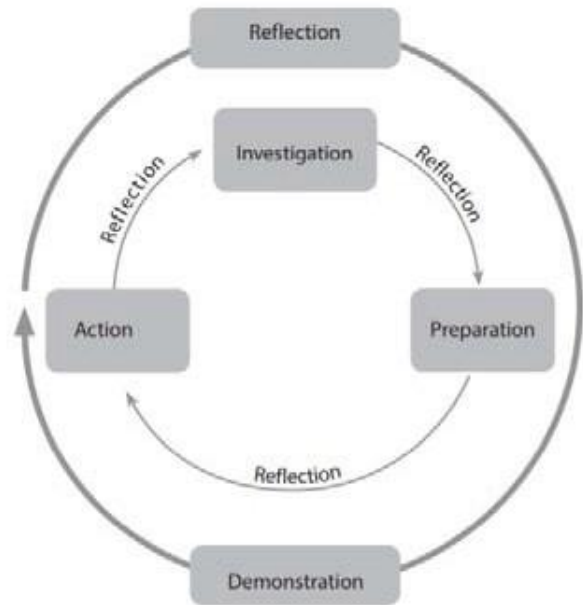
Some learning outcomes may be achieved many times, while others may be achieved less frequently. Not all CAS experiences lead to a CAS learning outcome. Students provide the school with evidence in their CAS portfolio of having achieved each learning outcome at least once through their CAS programme. Commonly, the evidence of achieving the seven CAS learning outcomes is found in students' reflections.

LO 1	Identify own strengths and develop areas for growth
Descriptor	Students are able to see themselves as individuals with various abilities and skills, of which some are more developed than others.
LO 2	Demonstrate that challenges have been undertaken, developing new skills in the process
Descriptor	A new challenge may be an unfamiliar experience or an extension of an existing one. The newly acquired or developed skills may be shown through experiences that the student has not previously undertaken or through increased expertise in an established area.
LO 3	Demonstrate how to initiate and plan a CAS experience
Descriptor	Students can articulate the stages from conceiving an idea to executing a plan for a CAS experience or series of CAS experiences. This may be accomplished in collaboration with other participants. Students may show their knowledge and awareness by building on a previous experience, or by launching a new idea or process.
LO 4	Show commitment to and perseverance in CAS experiences
Descriptor	Students demonstrate regular involvement and active engagement in CAS.
LO 5	Demonstrate the skills and recognize the benefits of working collaboratively
Descriptor	Students are able to identify, demonstrate and critically discuss the benefits and challenges of collaboration gained through CAS experiences. CAS learning outcomes
LO 6	Demonstrate engagement with issues of global significance
Descriptor	Students are able to identify and demonstrate their understanding of global issues, make responsible decisions, and take appropriate action in response to the issue either locally, nationally or internationally
LO 7	Recognize and consider the ethics of choices and actions
Descriptor	Students show awareness of the consequences of choices and actions in planning and carrying out CAS experiences.

1.4. CAS Stages

The CAS stages offer a helpful and supportive framework and continuum of process for CAS students as they consider what they would like to do in CAS, make plans, and carry out their ideas. The CAS stages are applicable to the three strands of creativity, activity, service, and the CAS project. These CAS stages represent a process and sequence that can assist students in many aspects of their life. They follow a process whereby they investigate an interest that often raises questions and curiosity, prepare by learning more, take some form of action, reflect on what they have done along the way, and demonstrate their understandings and the process. By applying these stages to CAS, students have a reliable yet flexible structure they can then apply to future situations with confidence.

There are two parts as noted in the diagram. The center represents the process with four key parts: investigation, preparation, action, and reflection (occurring intermittently in response to significant experiences). The outer circle has two parts and guides students in summarizing their experience: reflection and demonstration



The five CAS stages are as follows.

1. Investigation: Students identify their interests, skills and talents to be used in considering opportunities for CAS experiences, as well as areas for personal growth and development. Students investigate what they want to do and determine the purpose for their CAS experience. In the case of service, students identify a need they want to address.

2. Preparation: Students clarify roles and responsibilities, develop a plan of actions to be taken, identify specified resources and timelines, and acquire any skills as needed to engage in the CAS experience.

3. Action: Students implement their idea or plan. This often requires decision-making and problem solving. Students may work individually, with partners, or in groups.

4. Reflection: Students describe what happened, express feelings, generate ideas, and raise questions. Reflection can occur at any time during CAS to further understanding, to assist with revising plans, to learn from the experience, and to make explicit connections between their growth, accomplishments, and the learning outcomes for personal awareness. Reflection may lead to new action.

5. Demonstration: Students make explicit what and how they learned and what they have accomplished, for example, by sharing their CAS experience through their CAS portfolio or with others in an informal or formal manner. Through demonstration and communication, students solidify their understanding and evoke response from others.

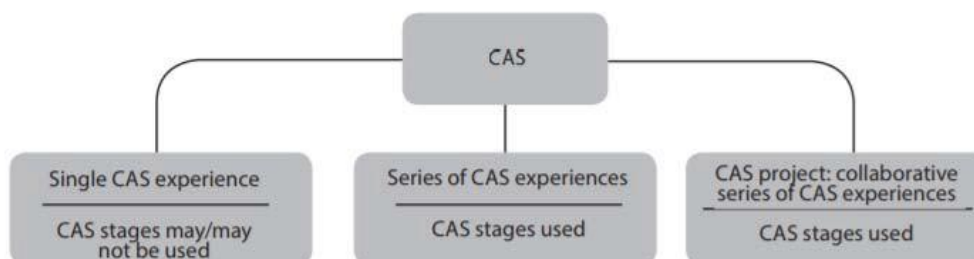
For singular CAS experiences, students may begin with investigation, preparation, or action. For ongoing CAS experiences, beginning with investigation is advised. In these ongoing experiences, the action stage may lead students back to investigation or preparation as they further develop, expand and implement new or related ideas

1.5. CAS Experience

A CAS experience is a specific event in which the student engages with one or more of the three CAS strands:

- Creativity
- Activity
- Service

A CAS experience can be a single event or may be an extended series of events. A CAS project is a collaborative series of sequential CAS experiences lasting at least one month.



Typically, a student's CAS programme combines planned/unplanned singular and ongoing experiences. All are valuable and may lead to personal development. However, a meaningful CAS programme must be more than unplanned/singular experiences. A series of planned CAS experiences are recommended for a more engaging CAS programme.

CAS experiences may incorporate one or more of the CAS strands. For example:

- Going for a mountain hike could be a singular experience within the “Activity” strand.
- A student plans a number of visits to a nursing home resulting in a series of CAS experiences within the “Service” strand.
- A group of students plan and stage a basketball tournament for the local community, resulting in a series of CAS experiences involving the strands of “Activity” and “Service”.

2. CAS Requirements

2.1 General Requirements

All CAS projects should use the CAS stages as a framework for implementation to ensure that all requirements are met. A CAS project can address any single strand of CAS, or combine two or all three strands. The following examples are provided to help generate further ideas without limiting the scope and direction of a CAS project.

- Creativity: A student group plans, designs and creates a mural.
- Activity: Students organize and participate in a sports team including training sessions and matches against other teams.
- Service: Students set up and conduct tutoring for people in need.
- Creativity and activity: Students choreograph a routine for their marching band.
- Service and activity: Students plan and participate in the planting and maintenance of a garden with members of the local community.
- Service and creativity: Students identify that children at a local school need backpacks and subsequently design and make the backpacks out of recycled materials.
- Creativity, activity, and service: Students rehearse and perform a dance production for a community retirement home.

All CAS projects are designed with a defined purpose and goals. Individual students identify one or more learning outcomes to further guide their role and responsibilities in the CAS project. Students will likely identify more outcomes, or modify expected outcomes during the CAS project and/or at its completion.

A minimum of one month is recommended for a CAS project, from planning to completion. CAS projects of longer duration can provide even greater scope and opportunities for all participants and should be encouraged. Students should aim to undertake their CAS project locally and, if possible, engage in more than one CAS project over the duration of their CAS programme.

As expected throughout CAS, students reflect on their CAS project experience. Due to the collaborative nature of the CAS project, having occasions to reflect with others can prove most informative and assist students in gaining insights into the process of their endeavor as well as personal growth.

Service projects

When a CAS project addresses the CAS strand of service (known as service project), students must take into account the opinions and expectations of others involved and focus on meaningful and authentic needs to ensure actions are respectful and reciprocal. Awareness of the possible impact and consequences of the students' actions should be part of the planning process. Where possible, service projects should involve working alongside community members with ongoing communication. When the service project involves the use of an external facilitator such as a non-government organization or a commercial provider, care should be taken to ensure that the facilitator acts in accordance with the IB mission statement and CAS requirements.

A service project that includes interaction with and appreciation of diverse social or cultural backgrounds can increase international-mindedness and engagement with issues of global significance.

International Projects

International service projects are acceptable if clear goals and outcomes are established, understood, and based on the expectation of compelling benefits expected for all stakeholders. If a service project is conducted outside the local context, it is recommended that there is some form of continuation. For example, students could research the community served and educate themselves further about the issues involved, develop an advocacy programme for the served community, or develop greater awareness of a related need in their local community leading to some form of local action. This may inspire the next group of CAS students.

2.2 CAS Guidelines

Guidelines to CAS Experiences There are four guidelines that should be applied to any proposed CAS experience. A CAS experience must:

- fit within one or more of the CAS strands
- be based on a personal interest, skill, talent or opportunity for growth
- provide opportunities to develop the attributes of the IB learner profile
- not be used or included in the student's Diploma course requirements

2.3 Choosing a CAS Experience or Project

To assist students in deciding on a CAS experience, the following questions may be useful for students to consider.

- Will the experience be enjoyable?
- Does the experience allow for development of personal interests, skills and/or talents?
- What new possibilities or challenges could the experience provide?
- What might be the possible consequences of your CAS experience for you, others and the environment?
- Which CAS learning outcomes may be addressed?

While it is not necessary for each CAS experience to address a CAS learning outcome, upon completion of the CAS programme, CAS students are required to present evidence demonstrating achievement of all CAS learning outcomes.

3. Reflection

Reflection is central to building a deep and rich experience in CAS.

3.1 Elements of Reflection

Reflection is a dynamic means for self-knowing, learning and decision-making. Four elements assist in the CAS reflective process. The first two elements form the foundation of reflection.

- Describing what happened: Students retell their memorable moments, identifying what was important or influential, what went well or was difficult, obstacles and successes.
- Expressing feelings: Students articulate emotional responses to their experiences.

The following two elements add greater depth and expand perspectives.

- Generating ideas: Rethinking or re-examining choices and actions increases awareness about self and situations.
- Asking questions: Questions about people, processes or issues prompt further thinking and ongoing inquiry.

3.2 Time for Reflection

Purposeful reflection is about quality rather than quantity. The appropriate occasion, amount and method is the student's decision. Students are not expected to reflect on every CAS experience; they should identify moments worthy of reflection.

The preferred emphasis is for the student to determine key moments during CAS experiences that inspire reflection. The following approaches may be helpful.

Students choose significant moments as the basis for reflection, for example when:

- A moment of discovery is happening
- A skill is mastered
- A challenge is confronted
- Emotions are provoked
- Achievement deserves celebration.
- Students reflect during or at the end of a CAS experience or series of CAS experiences, to identify important moments, discuss a possible learning outcome, recognize personal growth and achievements, and plan for their next CAS experience.
- Students engage in group reflection with their peers to discover shared insights.
- Students reflect at the beginning, during, and at the end of a series of CAS experiences. This enables students to deliberate on such elements as planning, opportunities, expectations, challenges, progress, and personal growth.

Reflection offers students opportunities to understand the concept, process and value of CAS experiences. With experiences that add meaning and self-knowledge, students can adapt, adopt and integrate reflection into a lifelong practice.

3.3 Forms of Reflection

Reflection can appear in countless forms. CAS students should be able to identify forms of expression that have personal meaning and best enable them to explore their experiences. For example:

- A student might take photographs while hiking and use these to reflect in writing.
- Two students could compose a song describing how they helped children.
- A student might dramatize a poem to capture a feeling of creative endeavour.
- A student could produce a short video summarizing a CAS experience.
- A group of students create a poster highlighting aspects of a shared experience.

3.4 Reflection and the CAS Learning Outcomes

Reflection is the primary evidence used by CAS coordinators to determine whether students have successfully attained the seven CAS learning outcomes. However, it is important to note that not all reflections should or must discuss learning outcomes

3.5 The CAS Timeline

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References

- Creativity, Activity, Service Guide for Students Graduating in 2017 and after, IBO, 2015
- Creativity, Activity, Service Teacher Support Material