

Public school goes global

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STUDENTS at Roma Mitchell Secondary College will be able to study the International Baccalaureate, becoming just the second public school in SA to offer the qualification up to Year 12.

The baccalaureate's diploma, an alternative to the SA Certificate of Education, will be offered at the Gepps Cross college from next year.

"The IB is for students who have a love of learning and provides opportunities for students to follow their interests

and passions in the subjects they love, but also requires students to study a range of other disciplines to broaden their skills and understandings," principal Toni Carellas said.

Roma Mitchell will join Glenunga International High School and nine independent schools in offering the globally-assessed diploma.

"This is a wonderful result for educators, students and families in the Roma Mitchell Secondary College community," Education Minister John Gardner, pictured, said.

The program will be funded through a State Government

commitment to increase the number of South Australians learning a language other than English.

IB students must pass subjects from six different areas, including another language.

Roma Mitchell will offer German, Spanish, Italian and Japanese.

"Learning a second language encourages global thinking, has significant cognitive and academic benefits and is becoming increasingly important for young people to be successful in a globalised mar-



ket," Mr Gardner said. "Aberfoyle Park, Norwood Morialta and Unley are also pursuing accreditation for the IB diploma, and we are on track to achieve that

for the beginning of the 2022 school year."

"We are confident that expanding the number of schools that provide this offering will lead to better language outcomes across our state."

As well as six subjects, the IB diploma requires an extended essay of 4000 words, a "theory of knowledge" course,

and a personal development program of at least 150 hours of creative pursuits, sport and community service work.

In 2019, more than 250 SA students completed the IB diploma and 126 SACE students studied at least one IB subject.

In 2018, there were 283 diploma graduates and 115 SACE students sitting an IB subject.

"We're super excited to have Roma Mitchell come on board," IB Schools Australasia chair Ashley Coats said.

"It demonstrates the IB isn't some Sydney North Shore elitist program, it's a program for everyone. The program is ex-

panding in Australia, which is a positive sign of our capacity as a country to compete at a global level."

Nationally, 67 schools offer the IB diploma. In SA, 13 schools have IB in their middle school years and 16 at primary level. Ms Carellas said Roma Mitchell had offered the middle-school program for the past five years, leading to parents asking for the extension to years 11 and 12.

Studying the IB diploma costs \$1500 over the two years but students at Roma Mitchell will be covered by fully-funded scholarships.

