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At UWC Mahindra College we endorse wholeheartedly the Gap Year option. We have seen firsthand the possibilities and many fantastic ways of spending the time between the completion of the IB Diploma Programme and the beginning of undergraduate study.

Here are some thoughts:

- The IB Diploma is an intense two years in a student's life. A year following the IBD gives the students a chance to reflect on, process and assimilate the information that they have been exposed to in their last two years of high school.
- The time to ruminate gives them a chance to figure out what major they would like to pursue in college. Oftentimes, a student uses the Gap Year to work in that particular area of interest. This either helps affirm their convictions of the suitability of the major or allows them a chance to change their mind. The year off (or rather, the year on!) shows a growth in the maturity of the student; their ability to look at what they have learned in terms of its application in the real world.
- A Gap Year fosters independent thought since the students must think about how they would like to learn, what they would like to explore and where a space for integration exists between practice and theory.
- Coming from an educational environment and always having worked within structures and pressures that are often imposed upon them, the students begin to define their own framework. One can say that this enables greater self-awareness and confidence since there is no competition except with oneself.

To the unaware, it may seem like a waste of time or a sign of confusion. However, our experience at UWC Mahindra College has shown us that a Gap Year, in fact, can be one of the most profound and vital years in a student's learning curve.

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Head of Triveni



Gauri Bhure
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