

PARTNERING WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA



Why Partner with BC Institutions?

BC's colleges, universities, school districts and independent schools are leaders in developing innovative international partnerships. In 2011, nearly 90% of British Columbia's public post-secondary institutions were engaged in international study abroad programming and over 70% are planning new international mobility initiatives this year.

BC's major research universities rank extremely high on international surveys of the world's leading universities. Our regional teaching universities and strong community college system are equal leaders in offering innovative, high quality academic programs. Increasingly, BC's post-secondary sector is engaged in developing enhanced international mobility programming, such as programs for vocational students, international dual- and double-degrees, faculty exchanges, and international co-op placements.

Our K-12 (elementary and secondary) system also actively pursues international relationships. At both the public and independent levels, our districts and schools offer customized international short-term study and academic opportunities, language learning, teaching training, and specialized summer camps.

Types of Partnerships

Exchange Programs – Exchanges involve the two-way mobility of students, between a BC host institution and an international partner, usually for either one or two terms of credit study.

Field Schools – Field schools may be anywhere from two-week to full term programs abroad. Typically directed by a college or university instructor, these schools consist of credit study in selected courses delivered through coursework, assignments, and field studies, either fully at an overseas campus or in combination with the host and partner institution.

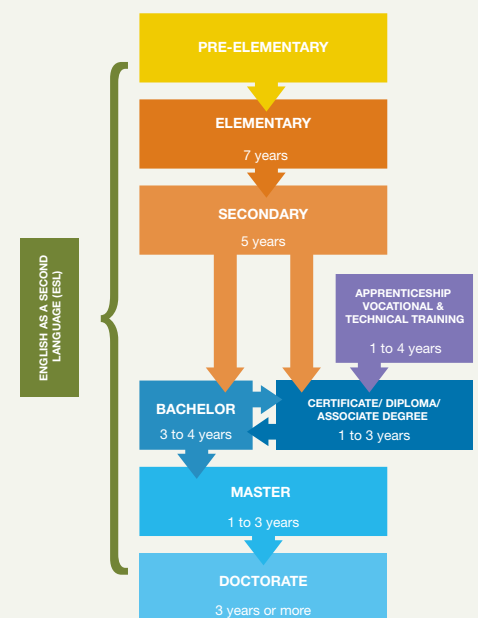
Summer Programs – Summer camps or programs are popular among K-12, language and post-secondary students looking for short-term study from May to August. Some summer programs may offer academic credit.

Joint Programs – Joint programs may take the form of 2+2s, dual degrees and double degrees and other forms of bilateral cooperation that involve mutually-recognized curriculum offerings and credit recognition, typically at the post-secondary level.

Executive or Short-Term Training – Many BC post-secondary institutions and language schools offer short-term, specialized training for international working professionals. These programs may focus on business, vocational or academic training and may include additional language training. K-12 districts and schools also offer customized training programs.

Overview of British Columbia Education

In Canada, education is a provincial rather than federal responsibility, and there is no national Ministry of Education. In BC, strong levels of government commitment combine with rigorous inspection and a transparent accreditation process to ensure high levels of quality throughout the entire education system. BC is Canada's westernmost province, and its vibrant economy, young and diverse population, close trade links with the world's major economies, and the warmest climate in Canada make it the destination of choice for international students studying in Canada. BC also ranks extremely high on international studies of liveability and student performance. Each year, over 94 000 international students from around the world choose BC for their education.



Education Quality Assurance - BC's Brand for Quality Education

Established by the province of British Columbia (BC) and administered by BCCIE, Education Quality Assurance (EQA) is BC's assured provincial brand of quality for all sectors of private and public post-secondary education.



What is BC's EQA?

EQA is a provincial quality assurance designation that identifies all BC public and private post-secondary institutions that have met or exceeded provincial government recognized quality assurance standards and offer consumer protection.

BC Leads the Way

- Canada's first and only provincial brand of quality for post-secondary education
- International leader in quality assurance as the brand is accessible to all provincial post-secondary institutions, dependent on meeting eligibility requirements.
- BC is the only province with a consolidated list of public and private institutions branded with a provincial government seal (as an assurance to deliver and issue top quality post-secondary education)
- The EQA Registry is published on the EQA and BCCIE websites and is updated daily to reflect any changes in an institution's EQA status

For further information about BC's EQA Designation and to find an EQA-designated post-secondary school, please visit our website at www.bceqa.ca.

BC Council for International Education (BCCIE)

The BC Council for International Education (BCCIE) is committed to advancing the international education interests of the province of British Columbia.

BCCIE is a leader in the successful development, promotion and maturation of international education in British Columbia. Through consultation and liaison with the provincial government, the direction of the Board, and broad engagement with the diversity of sectors representing international education, we support our mission through four key strategic goals: leadership, market support, communication and service to the sector, and internationalization.

How BCCIE Can Help

Staff at BCCIE are pleased to assist you with identifying and contacting potential international partners in BC. We work closely with our stakeholders at all levels of the sector to support their internationalization goals. BCCIE can also provide background on BC's education system and suggest opportunities for engagement. BCCIE's senior staff have worked in the international education sector at K-12, language, and post-secondary institutions in BC.

Contact Us For More Information

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Simon Fraser University – University of Ghana Partnership

Simon Fraser University (SFU) and the University of Ghana (UG) have been working together since 1995 when the institutions first collaborated, along with three other universities in Ghana, on the CIDA-funded Ghana Distance Education Development Project (1995–2001). Building upon the success of the first project, a second CIDA-funded project Reducing HIV Stigma by Education – Ghana (2004–2010) brought SFU and UG back into partnership (along with two other institutions). SFU in partnership with UG has been offering a bi-annual Contemporary Arts Field School in West African Drumming and Dance since 1999. Through the field school and bilateral exchange agreements, the tuition paid by SFU field school students is placed in a trust for UG and is utilized by Ghanaian students and faculty to come to SFU. SFU and UG continue to explore ways to broaden and enhance the partnership, including recent discussions about collaborations in the areas of development studies and African studies.

West Vancouver School District – Haidian Teachers' Training College Experimental School

The International Program Department of West Vancouver School District began a relationship with the Experimental School Attached to Haidian Teachers' Training College six years ago. Under the partnership, students from Haidian study in West Vancouver for five months, and return to China for the remaining five months. The English program has continued with the Chinese students through the use of online synchronous programming for English language learning. Chinese teachers return to the district to learn best practice and pedagogy for use in their own classrooms back in China. In return, several West Vancouver teachers have been guests of Haidian, teaching and learning formative assessment practices with their Chinese counterparts.

