

K-12 EDUCATION



About British Columbia

In Canada, education is a provincial rather than federal responsibility, and there is no national Ministry of Education. In British Columbia (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.

Primary and Secondary (K-12) Education

BC is the number one destination in Canada for international students in elementary and secondary (K-12) education. In 2010, BC welcomed over 12 000 international students into our K-12 system. The province has an exceptional public education system and K-12 students consistently rank among the best in the world according to achievement tests such as the *OECD PISA test results. The public system is complemented by a network of independent schools offering both day and boarding programs. Both the public school districts and independent schools have a long history of welcoming and supporting international students for short-term study, specialized summer camps, and longer-term studies culminating in the BC graduation certificate (Dogwood diploma). Both public and independent schools may also offer enriched curricula options, such as the International Baccalaureate (IB) or Advanced Placement (AP).

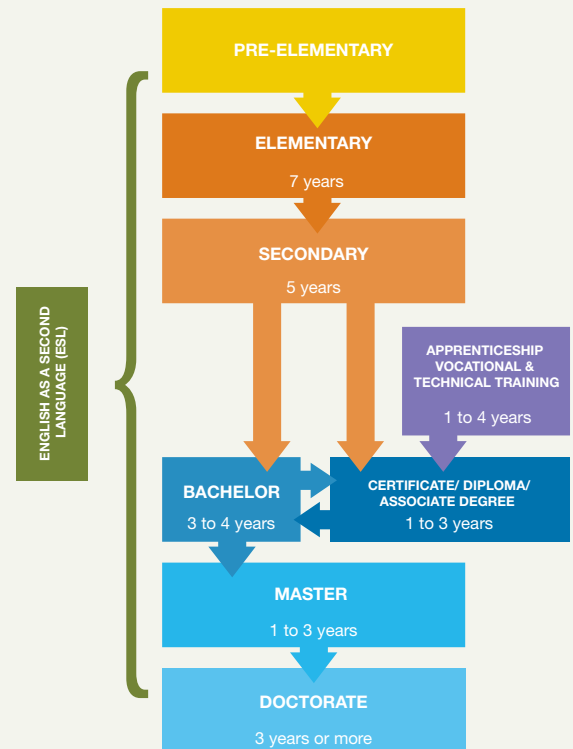
There are 60 public school districts in BC, offering students the chance to study in large urban centres, small cities and towns, and beautiful rural areas. Independent schools are also located throughout the province. Both public and independent schools fall under the jurisdiction of the BC Ministry of Education.

Public school districts and independent schools are also able to arrange customized programming for small and large groups. Examples of customized programs include 1-2 week programs during spring break, teacher training programs, and summer camps.

* PISA is the Programme for International Student Assessment. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) began administering PISA in the mid-1990s, responding to member countries' demands for regular and reliable data on the knowledge and skills of their students and the performance of their education systems. Find out more by visiting www.pisa.oecd.org.

BC Education System

The province of BC offers international students every chance to experience and benefit from a world-class education. High standards, exceptional student achievement, and the commitment to investing in quality education make BC a natural choice. Explore the variety of options you have for studying in BC.



K-12 Quality Assurance

In British Columbia (BC), both public and independent K-12 schools fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education. For more information, please visit the BC Ministry of Education website at www.gov.bc.ca/bced.

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.

Useful Links

BC Council for International Education (BCCIE)
www.bccie.bc.ca

BC Education Quality Assurance
www.bceqa.ca

Government of BC
www.gov.bc.ca

Tourism BC
www.hellobc.com

WelcomeBC
www.welcomebc.ca

Primary and Secondary (K-12) Education Links

BC Ministry of Education
www.gov.bc.ca/bced

Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS)
www.caiss.ca

Federation of Independent Schools Association (FISA)
www.fisabc.ca

International Public School Education Association (IPSEA)
www.studyinbc.org

Independent Schools Association of British Columbia (ISABC)
www.isabc.ca

Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)
www.pisa.oecd.org

Name: Calvin Kim
Age: 18
Country: Daejeon, Korea
Studying at: St. Michaels University School
City: Victoria



What were your first impressions of BC?

When I decided to study abroad, there were many things to consider. It was hard to choose the place to stay and study. First, I had to choose the country and Canada was it. The next thing to consider was to find a specific place. I chose BC. BC has the most beautiful views. The people are kind and the province has been well-developed. But the most important reason is that BC has the greatest education system.

What do you do when you're not studying?

I hang out with friends. Where I am now is a dormitory, so I live with my friends. Also, I play sports such as soccer and table tennis. I started them for friendship at first, but now playing sports is one of my favourite hobbies.

What will you miss most about BC?

In my view, BC is the best place to study. It's peaceful but not rural. The climate is terrific and there is the greatest cultural mosaic. Because of multiculturalism, people try to understand each other and they are kind and open. I've never felt isolated or homesick. BC has the most amazing and wonderful views and environment. The education system is also well-developed.

