

# BRITISH COLUMBIA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM: K-12 EDUCATION



## About British Columbia

In Canada, education is a provincial rather than federal responsibility, and there is no national Canadian 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 highly on international studies of liveability and student performance. Each year, nearly 140 000 international students from around the world choose BC for their education.

## Primary and Secondary (K-12) Education

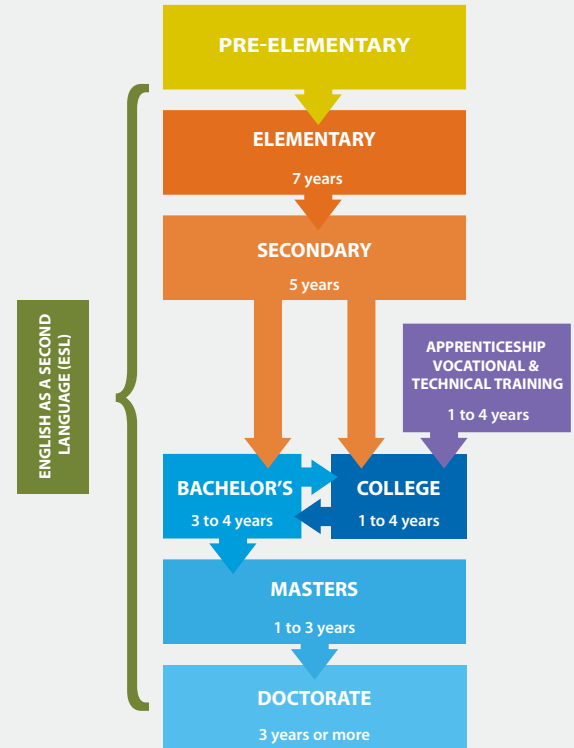
BC is the number one destination in Canada for international students in elementary and secondary (K-12) education. The province has an exceptional public education system and K-12 students consistently rank among the best in the world according to achievement tests such as the \*OECD PISA test results. Both the public school districts and independent schools across the province 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 sixty **public school districts** in BC that offer 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 and provide day programs as well as boarding options. Both public and independent schools are inspected and approved by the BC Ministry of Education.

\* 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](http://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 are inspected and approved by the Ministry of Education. For more information, please visit the BC Ministry of Education website at [www.gov.bc.ca/bced](http://www.gov.bc.ca/bced).

## BC Council for International Education (BCCIE)

BCCIE is a learner-driven, non-government agency funded by the province of BC. BCCIE represents the province's public and accredited private K-12, post-secondary, career college and language institutions to international learners around the world. BCCIE is committed to advancing the international education interests of the province of BC.

### Useful Links

#### BC Council for International Education (BCCIE)

[www.bccie.bc.ca](http://www.bccie.bc.ca)

#### BC Education Quality Assurance

[www.bceqa.ca](http://www.bceqa.ca)

#### Canada's Pacific Gateway

[www.canadaspacificgateway.com](http://www.canadaspacificgateway.com)

#### Government of BC

[www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca)

#### Tourism BC

[www.hellobc.com](http://www.hellobc.com)

### Primary and Secondary (K-12) Education Links

#### BC Ministry of Education

[www.gov.bc.ca/bced](http://www.gov.bc.ca/bced)

#### Canadian Association of Independent Schools (CAIS)

[www.caiss.ca](http://www.caiss.ca)

#### Federation of Independent Schools Association (FISA)

[www.fisabc.ca](http://www.fisabc.ca)

#### International Public School Education Association (IPSEA)

[www.studyinbc.org](http://www.studyinbc.org)

#### Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

[www.pisa.oecd.org](http://www.pisa.oecd.org)

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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.