

# Certification Inspection Report

## BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

OSAKA GAKUGEI CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

OSAKA

JAPAN

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2022

### INTRODUCTION

On November 14 and 15, 2022, an in-person certification inspection was completed on Osaka Gakugei Canadian International School in Osaka, Japan, referred to as the School in this report. The purpose of this inspection was to determine if the requirements for the British Columbia (BC) education program have been met, according to the *BC Offshore School Program Certification Agreement* (the Agreement). The Inspector, appointed by the Executive Director of the Independent Schools and International Education Branch, British Columbia Ministry of Education and Child Care (the Ministry) in accordance with the Agreement, was Dr. David Loewen.

The School's BC program has an enrolment of 22 students, in grades 10-12. The BC program operates on the second, third, fourth and seventh floors of the host Japanese School, namely, Osaka Gakugei Junior and Senior High School (grades 7-12). The entire school, which houses the BC program enrolls approximately 2,020 students.

During the visit to the School, the Inspector reviewed all standards required in the Agreement and *Operating Manual* and met with the School's Owner/Operator, School Foundation Board Chair, Offshore School Representative (OSR), BC Principal, BC teachers, administrative support staff, and four BC program students.

The Owner/Operator, Osaka Gakugei Educational Foundation, is responsible for the BC program. The representative of the foundation, Mr. Morimatsu, is also the Principal of the host school. The BC program is in its fourth year of operation and the Owner/Operator has expressed continued support for the program and its planned-for growth.

The BC program's philosophy, objectives and special features include the mission statement, "to empower future mindful leaders who flourish in and enrich a global society". The School's core values are integrity and honesty, respect/kindness, compassion and understanding, reliability, curiosity/inquiry, accountability, open mindedness, personal growth and self



improvement, independence, and courage. The mission and values are reviewed on an annual basis and the staff focus on “being true to” their mission and values.

The School offers a dual Japanese/BC graduation program with an emphasis on academics, arts and athletics. The School seeks to build on a strong Japanese cultural and academic foundation to enable students to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes within the BC program. Critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration are seen as the cornerstones to prepare students for the present and for the future. It is also hoped that the BC program will strengthen the bond between Japan and Canada.

The Inspector would like to thank Osaka Gakugei Canadian International School for its hospitality, cooperation, and preparation for the inspection visit.

**The School has satisfactorily addressed requirements contained in the previous inspection report.**

☐ Requirement Met      ☐ Requirement Partially Met      ☐ Requirement Not Met      ☒ Not Applicable

**Comment:**

While there were no requirements from the previous 2021 inspection report, there were three suggestions. The School has taken these suggestions seriously and has applied themselves to pursuing their fulfillment.

**BUSINESS PLAN 1.0**

**The Owner/Operator has submitted a business plan to the BC Ministry of Education, confirming the sustainability of the program.**

☒ Requirement Met      ☐ Requirement Partially Met      ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The School has completed a revision (November, 2022) to their five year growth plan. It is comprehensive and has considered the challenges experienced during COVID-19. Previous iterations of the business plan forecasted significant growth which has not been realized due to the negative impacts of COVID-19. The School facilities are well-situated to accommodate future growth and the Owner/Operator fully supports the expansion of the BC program. Areas of focus in the business plan include professional development, technology, student performance, facility expansion, finances, staffing projections, and website development. There is also a detailed recruitment plan as well as plans to move into a separate building on campus that will more readily accommodate the planned for growth in enrolment. The move to a different facility will also increase the profile of the BC program compared to its current shared space arrangement with the host school.



Now that the School has celebrated its first graduation class it is hoped that the success of these students (82% graduating with honors and the 100% university acceptance rate) will bode well for future student recruitment.

The new Principal has competently stepped into his role and has quickly focused significant attention on recruitment and marketing strategies to grow the School. Examples of the School's recruitment strategies include: a well-designed website, personal visits and tours for prospective students, multiple open house events planned throughout the school year, demonstration lessons to the host schools' grade nine students, and relationship building with the local ex-pat community.

The School has a fully certified and experienced teaching staff team who are invested in the BC program and who received relevant professional development training.

The School also offers a Language Arts Prep Program to grade nine students of the host school in order to ensure they are prepared for the rigors of the BC program.

The School's leadership team (the Offshore School Representative (OSR), Principal and Project Director) are thoughtful and goal-oriented and clearly focused on fulfilling the goals of the business plan.

**Commendations:**

The School is commended for a comprehensive growth plan that has been actioned by the leadership team.

The School is commended for wisely and successfully navigating the challenges of COVID-19 and is poised for growth and success in its aftermath.

The School is encouraged to continue to develop its own identity within the host school and with the support of the host school as a means to attracting more students as well as give current students a stronger sense of pride in their enrolment in the BC program.

## INSPECTION CATALOGUE 2.0

### 2.02 The Owner/Operator meets all requirements as set forth in the Agreement.

☒ Requirement Met

☐ Requirement Partially Met

☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Inspector confirms that the Owner/Operator meets all requirements as set out in the Agreement.



The Owner/Operators' support for the BC program combined with the strong leadership team and their focus on implementing the business plan bode well for the long-term success of the School.

**Commendation:**

The School is commended for such a strong working relationship with the Owner/Operator (host school) and for the Owner/Operator's support for the BC program's long term success.

**2.03 The Owner/Operator has written approval from the appropriate government entity to operate the School, as outlined in section 5.03 of the Agreement.**

☒ Requirement Met      ☐ Requirement Partially Met      ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The School was able to provide documentation from the appropriate governmental authorities that indicated approval to operate the BC program. These include:

- A 2018 approval from Osaka Prefecture to establish the BC offshore school.
- A 2022 Certificate of Proof indicated approval for ongoing operations of the BC offshore program, including a business license.
- A 2018 Certificate from Osaka Prefecture confirming the admissions capacity for private schools.

**2.04-2.05 The School meets building inspection/safety, food preparation/cafeteria and fire safety codes and regulations. The facilities are deemed to be suitable to support the BC program.**

☒ Requirement Met      ☐ Requirement Partially Met      ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The BC program is located in a large seven storey host school building complete with office space on the second floor and classroom space on the third, fourth and seventh floors. The BC program has access to the host school's facilities including a large gym, a well supplied science lab, a computer lab, a large courtyard artificial turf field, roof top sports courts, a library, and a cafeteria.

The Inspector reviewed translated copies of the following inspection documents:

- a 2021 Building Inspection;
- a 2021 Comprehensive Fire Inspection;
- a 2019 Cafeteria Operating License;
- a 2022 Emergency Plan; and



- 2022 inspections for the elevator, AC unit, automatic door, and water fountain.

All documents indicate the School is in full compliance with local regulations and authorities and that the facilities are suitable to house the BC program.

The Inspector reviewed the School's detailed emergency preparedness plan which confirms the School has plans in place in the event they face a temporary or permanent closure due to natural disaster/unforeseen events. The plans have been vetted by the Offshore School Representative (OSR) for accuracy and functionality and include ensuring learning continuity with the support of the sister schools in Tokyo (Bunka Suginami) and Langford, BC (Belmont Secondary School) as well as offering Online Learning through the approved provider, Global Education - School District 73 Business Company.

The Inspector also reviewed school emergency drill procedures including lock downs and school evacuations. These plans included detailed exit strategies, risk mitigation, and are communicated to parents and students via handbooks, email, and practice drills that occur in collaboration with the host school. Finally, the School has implemented thorough and effective protocols to navigate the health challenges brought on by COVID-19.

**2.06 Offshore School Representative (OSR) - The Owner/Operator must appoint an individual to act as an OSR. This individual must be confirmed by the Province and must meet all the requirements set out in section 14 of the Agreement.**

☒ Requirement Met      ☐ Requirement Partially Met      ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Owner/Operator has contracted a highly qualified and engaged Offshore School Representative (OSR) to support the BC program. The OSR fully meets the requirements set out in section 1 of the Agreement and has been confirmed by the Ministry as suitable for this position. The OSR works closely with the Principal to ensure the success of the BC program. The support of such a strong OSR has been critical to the highly functioning BC program.

The OSR is aware of her obligation to report critical information relating to changes in the operation of the School or ownership structure that could significantly impact the School's operations.

The Inspector reviewed the job description of the OSR and confirms that it meets the duties outlined in the Agreement including her position as legal representative of the Owner/Operator in dealing with the Ministry as the liaison between the two parties.



**Commendation:**

The School is commended for contracting such a competent and engaged OSR whose professional support and guidance for the BC program helps ensure its long term success.

**2.07 The Principal meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.07 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.**

☒ Requirement Met      ☐ Requirement Partially Met      ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Principal is a competent and highly experienced BC administrator who more than meets the requirements as outlined in the Annual Report. While in his first year at the School he has extensive experience in both the onshore and offshore world and is well supported by both the Owner/Operator and the Offshore School Representative (OSR). In his short time in this role the Principal has quickly focused his attention on effectively working towards the fulfillment of the goals of the business plan, especially giving attention to student recruitment.

The Inspector has reviewed the Principal's job description and finds it meets the requirements of the Agreement.

The BC program principal contract is detailed and thorough and complies with all requirements under the Agreement.

**Commendation:**

The School is commended for the Principal's quick engagement in working towards the fulfillment of the goals of the business plan, especially his attention to student recruitment.



**2.08 The School meets the administrative support requirements as outlined in section 2.08 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.**

☒ Requirement Met      ☐ Requirement Partially Met      ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The School has a team of support staff that serve to ensure the success of the BC program. In addition to the support provided by the Offshore School Representative (OSR), the School has a BC Program Assistant who looks after student records and administration, acts as a liaison between the host school and the BC program, arranges travel for students, assists with university applications, student graduation completion requirements, and various communications regarding the BC program. The School also has a Communications Officer who oversees the website, publishes newsletters, communicates with alumni, and liaises with the Japanese staff. Financial records and budgeting support are provided by the host school. The final support staff team member is the BC program Project Director who provides overall oversight to the program and was key to its initiation.

**Commendation:**

The School is commended for providing strong administrative support (Assistant, Communications Officer and Program Director).

**2.09 The School meets the Student Record requirements as outlined in section 2.09 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.**

☒ Requirement Met      ☐ Requirement Partially Met      ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Inspector verified that student files are securely stored in filing cabinets. Due to the low enrolment numbers the Inspector was able to view all student files. The BC Program Assistant maintains these files and each file contains: student report cards, interim reports, English language assessments, Permanent Student Record (PSR) cards, school attendance records, and Japanese policies and letters.

All student files were organized and contained all the necessary elements as required.

Student and parent consent forms have been updated for the 2022/23 school year.



**2.10-2.18 The School meets the teacher certification requirements as outlined in sections 2.10-2.18 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.**

☒ Requirement Met      ☐ Requirement Partially Met      ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

All teacher files were examined, and **the Inspector confirms that all Authorized Persons under the Agreement possess valid and current certification under the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care.** Each file contains all the necessary elements including copies of the Ministry teaching certificates, employment contracts, teacher evaluations, updated Ministry personal information consent forms, contact information, and Japanese work permits.

Three BC program teachers have valid Certificates of Qualification and one teacher has a Subject Restricted Teaching Certificate and is teaching within the boundaries of her subject restriction. All locally certified teachers have evidence of valid certification and local criminal records checks on file and supporting documents attesting to their qualifications to teach.

Staff contracts were reviewed and found to be comprehensive, including all the required elements. It is important to note that there was not significant turn over from last year. This is a positive comment on the School, especially considering the challenges these teachers faced through COVID-19.

**Commendation:**

The School is commended for attracting and retaining qualified, motivated and experienced teachers who are clearly focused on working towards the success of students in the BC program.

**2.19 The School meets the requirements for curriculum implementation outlined in section 2.19 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.**

☒ Requirement Met      ☐ Requirement Partially Met      ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Inspector reviewed planning documents and met with all the teachers of the BC program and was satisfied with the implementation of BC's curriculum. The Inspector noted specific examples of the integration of Core Competencies, Big Ideas, Curricular Competencies, and First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL) across the grade 10-12 curriculum. The FPPL are being thoughtfully engaged in a cultural context that has just recently identified an Indigenous group that historically values many of those principles in general society. Teachers employ creative strategies to capture students' interest and require ongoing



student self reflection to enhance student understanding and ownership of their own learning.

While on site the Inspector was able to view a gallery of learning that includes projects from across the grade levels and curricular areas. These projects evidenced thoughtful application of learning to create products that were creative, interesting and of high quality.

The School benefits from several teachers who have a strong combination of experience and recent professional year training that include study and implementation of BC's curriculum.

The School offers a language arts prep program designed for junior high students in order to prepare them for entry in the BC program. This program focuses on developing skills necessary for English vocabulary growth and therefore a stronger start when they enter the BC program.

The School has also benefited from the sister school relationship with Bunka Suginami Canadian International School, Tokyo, especially in the area of professional development and collaboration.

**Commendation:**

The School is commended for its intentional focus on strengthening English language acquisition both prior to enrolment in the BC program as well as across the curriculum and grade levels once students are enrolled in the BC program.

**2.20 The School meets the requirements for English language assessment and acquisition as outlined in section 2.20 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.**

☒ Requirement Met      ☐ Requirement Partially Met      ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Inspector confirms that the School meets the requirements for English language assessment and acquisition. The School conducts a thorough English language assessment as part of the admissions process. The Principal makes the final decision on student admissions ensuring they meet or exceed the School's English language requirements.

The School conducts regular formative assessments of students' English Language proficiency and provides students with detailed written and oral feedback on their progress. Students are also able to drop in any time a teacher is available to gain further support in their studies. The School holds to the position that all teachers are English language learners (ELL) teachers and are therefore encouraged to support all students in their English language growth. This direct, one-to-one tutoring support from teachers is a key component of the success of the School's ELL program.



The grade seven to nine ELL program goes a long way to set students up for success when they enter the BC program.

The Inspector had the opportunity to interview several students and was impressed with their English speaking skills. The students expressed appreciation for their teachers and the time they take to support their learning in this area.

**2.21(a-e) The School meets the course credit requirements (equivalency, challenge, exemptions and BAA courses) as outlined in section 2.21 (a-e) of the Annual Report for offshore schools.**

☒ Requirement Met      ☐ Requirement Partially Met      ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Inspector confirms the School demonstrates compliance with the International Student Graduation Policy for equivalency and challenge. The School currently offers the following courses that are exempted from having BC certified teachers: Physical and Health Education 10, Culinary Arts 10, Instrumental Music: Concert Band, and Active Living 11. The course overviews for these courses are fully developed.

The School currently offers the Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) course, Japan and Canada in the Modern World (grade 11). The course overview for this course is fully developed and the School has an approval letter on file from the Ministry dated June 15, 2020.

**2.21(f-g) The School meets the course overview/course planning requirements as outlined in Schedule B Part I, 2. € of the Agreement; namely, that all BC program courses offered in the School meet or exceed Ministry learning outcomes/learning standards identified in the educational program guides for each course.**

☒ Requirement Met      ☐ Requirement Partially Met      ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Inspector observed that course overviews and unit plans reflect curricular frameworks aligned with BC's curriculum. They clearly identify Big Ideas, First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL), Curricular Competencies, and Core Competencies. Planning for assessment was also readily observable and creatively implemented.

The Inspector observed classroom learning that reflected the BC curriculum as a natural part of the culture of teaching and learning at the School. Again, the School benefits from having



most teaching staff graduate from BC universities during the implementation of the 'new' curriculum in the province. They are fluent and comfortable in its implementation.

The School maintains a schedule of ongoing professional development to continue to support teachers in their implementation of BC's curriculum.

**Commendation:**

The School is commended for its thoughtful and creative implementation of BC's curriculum so that it engages students' interests in their learning.

**2.22 The School meets the instructional time allotment requirements as outlined in section 2.22 of the Annual Report for offshore schools, including the requirements set out in sections 1.1 to 6, with the exception of s. 4(5)(b), 4 (6), 5 (8)(a) and (d) and s. 5.3 of Ministerial Order 41/91, the Educational Standards Order, enacted under the Independent School Act.**

☒ Requirement Met      ☐ Requirement Partially Met      ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The School provides 1118 hours of instruction per school year for grade 10, 1085 hours of instruction for grade 11, and 976 hours of instruction for grade 12, all of which exceeds the Ministry requirement of 850 hours. The School divides the school year into three equal trimesters and the School day begins and ends at the same times as the host school. Students at the School complete both the Japanese and BC diploma program and therefore attend classes six days per week. On Saturdays there are no BC classes, therefore BC program students attend exclusively Japanese classes on those days.

**2.23 The School meets the assessment methods requirements as outlined in section 2.23 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.**

☒ Requirement Met      ☐ Requirement Partially Met      ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The School's assessment practices align with those of BC's curriculum in their implementation of both formative and summative assessment. Teachers' assessment practices reflected a rich diversity of methods including but not limited to: observation, one-on-one meetings, collections of student work (portfolios), peer and self-assessments, projects, tests, and quizzes. The Inspector observed teachers using a variety of rubrics to provide clarity in their assessment of student learning.



The School periodically uses the double marking system to help ensure accuracy of grading and consistency between school and exam results. The School also uses data to inform teaching practices.

The School applies a rigorous security and invigilation procedure for BC provincial assessments in accordance with the Ministry of Education and Child Care procedures. This process is overseen by the BC Principal.

**Commendation:**

The School is commended for its implementation of diverse assessment practices across the curriculum.

**2.24 The School meets the learning resources requirements as outlined in section 2.24 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.**

☒ Requirement Met      ☐ Requirement Partially Met      ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Inspector confirms the School meets the expectations for learning resources as outlined in the Annual Report. Each student and staff member are given a Microsoft Surface Go. The School uses technology creatively to support learning and has access to host school IT support to ensure continuity of technology use. Platforms such as Teams, OneNote, and Google classroom are all utilized by staff and students to enhance learning. Students and teachers also have access to digital recording equipment for video projects.

The host school has two dedicated (100 Mbps and 1Gbps) broadband connections and several static IP addresses for internet access. There are dedicated WiFi servers with routers and repeaters installed in all buildings to ensure consistent internet access for staff and students.

There is a collection of high interest fiction and nonfiction books in the BC library and students have access to a digital library collection.

The Offshore School Representative (OSR) and the Principal continue to support the growth of appropriate and interesting learning resources.

**Commendation:**

The School is commended for its strong investment in technology to support student learning.



**2.25 The School meets the student progress report requirements as outlined in section 2.25 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.**

☒ Requirement Met      ☐ Requirement Partially Met      ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The School has three formal reporting periods (July, December, and March) with interim reports being issued in between those reporting periods. Parents participate in two parent-teacher conferences and one student-led conference per year.

**2.26 The School meets the parent/student handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.26 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.**

☒ Requirement Met      ☐ Requirement Partially Met      ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Inspector reviewed the School's parent/student handbook and confirmed that it contains appropriate and relevant information for students and their parents. Topics covered in the handbook include but are not limited to: the vision, mission and philosophy, admissions, school code of conduct, assessment policy and practices, dispute resolution policy, emergency procedures, graduation information, and COVID-19 protocols. The handbook has also been translated into Japanese.

The School also maintains a well-organized website to complement the parent/student handbook.

**2.27 The School meets the teacher handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.27 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.**

☒ Requirement Met      ☐ Requirement Partially Met      ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Inspector reviewed the teacher/administrative handbook and confirmed it contains all items outlined in the Annual Report. It is thorough and helpful for teachers with specific policies on staff responsibilities, professional development, emergency procedures, dispute resolution, teacher evaluation, various human resources policies, student supervision, and parent communication. The handbook is reviewed regularly to ensure it is relevant as policies and procedures change over time.



**2.28 The School meets the Online Learning requirements (formerly Distributed Learning) as outlined in section 18 of the Agreement and section 2.28 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
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**Comment:**

The School currently offers Calculus 12 through Global Education - School District 73 Business Company. There are currently two students enrolled in the course and they receive in person support from a math teacher in the BC program. The School plans to continue to offer courses via SD 73 as enrolment grows and student interest demands.

**2.29 The School meets the requirements for offering Remote Instruction under the BC Offshore School Remote Instruction Policy and as outlined in section 2.29 of the Annual Report for offshore schools.**

<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
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**Comment:**

The School is not currently offering Remote Instruction.

## CONCLUSION

### Commendations

**The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal, staff and Offshore School Representative of Osaka Gakugei Canadian International School for:**

- a comprehensive growth plan that has been actioned by the leadership team.
- wisely and successfully navigating the challenges of COVID-19 and is poised for growth and success in its aftermath.
- such a strong working relationship with the Owner/Operator (host school) and for the Owner/Operator's support for the BC program's long term success.
- contracting with such a competent and engaged Offshore School Representative (OSR) whose professional support and guidance for the BC program helps ensure its long term success.
- the Principal's quick engagement in working towards the fulfillment of the goals of the business plan, especially his attention to student recruitment.
- for providing strong administrative support (BC Program Assistant, Communications Officer, and BC Program Director).



- attracting and retaining qualified, motivated and experienced teachers who are clearly focused on working towards the success of students in the BC program.
- its intentional focus on strengthening English language acquisition both prior to enrolment in the BC program as well as across the curriculum and grade levels once students are enrolled in the BC program.
- its thoughtful and creative implementation of BC's curriculum so that it engages students' interests in their learning.
- its implementation of diverse assessment practices across the curriculum.
- its strong investment in technology to support student learning.

### **SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

**The Offshore Inspector recommends to the Executive Director of the Independent Schools and International Education Branch that the British Columbia education program offered at Osaka Gakugei Canadian International School *continues* to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.**

