

**Global Education Program – Offshore Schools
Changes to Requirements
Issued June 27, 2014**

2013 requirement	Students in Offshore Schools must pass provincial exams.
2014 change	<p>This requirement is cancelled; however, it will be replaced with a maximum course/exam score differential in that students whose classroom mark is 25 percent (or greater) higher than their exam grade will have their exam mark stand as their final course mark.</p> <p>Schools will be monitored for exam/classroom mark differentials and schools that consistently have high differentials may be required, at cost to the school, to bring in Ministry-appointed ELL specialists to provide professional development and recommend appropriate programming.</p>
Effective	November 1, 2014
2013 requirement	25 percent of graduating Offshore School students are expected to have studied for one semester at a K-12 public or certified independent school.
2014 change	This requirement is cancelled.
Effective	Immediately
2013 requirement	New schools “first” provincial exam session will be invigilated by a Ministry-appointed official in the first year of a certified Offshore School’s operation.
2014 change	This requirement is cancelled. However, where there are identifiable issues associated with the administration or local marking of provincial exams, the Ministry may appoint an official to inspect and advise an Offshore School on exam invigilation and marking, with the cost to be borne by the Offshore School.
Effective	Immediately
2013 requirement	All Offshore Schools must establish a “twinning” relationship with a British Columbia K-12 public or certified independent school.
2014 requirement	This requirement is being changed; offshore schools are asked to demonstrate that they are making efforts to enter into twinning relationships with one or more British Columbia K-12 public or certified independent schools.
Effective	Immediately
Comment	The Ministry continues to be interested in Offshore School activities that encourage students to study in BC, either in K-12 or post-secondary institutions.

2013 requirement	Only British Columbia administrators and teachers with a professional certificate may teach in Offshore Schools.
2014 change	This requirement is modified to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers with an independent school subject restricted teaching certificate with at least two years' experience teaching in a British Columbia independent school. • No exceptions to the "two-year experience" requirement will be considered.
Effective	Immediately
2013 requirement	Offshore students are not eligible to receive course credits through equivalency reviews.
2014 Change	This requirement is modified to align with the International Student Graduation Credit policy (please see the policy at: http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/topic.page?id=A5A3644D456F42F2AACCC76BF38EA459B&title=International%20Student%20Graduation%20Credit)
Effective	Immediately
Comments	The Ministry will monitor the issuance of equivalency and schools may be asked to provide supporting documentation. Please direct questions regarding the International Student Graduation Credit policy to: Karen Krysa, Offshore Schools Advisor at international.education@gov.bc.ca

Future requirement changes currently under consideration.

2013 requirement	Students in Offshore Schools must pass an English language assessment prior to being enrolled in the British Columbia program. Current requirement allows schools to choose their ELL assessment and provide the Ministry with an example, which has resulted in a wide range of tools of varying rigour.
Under consideration	The Ministry is considering implementing a standardized, (possibly electronically administered) ELL assessment in Grade 8, 9 or 10 in which the student's English Language score determines the degree of ELL supports schools must provide. Standardizing this requirement will ensure that all Offshore Schools are operating under the same standard and ensures program quality is rigorous and consistent across all British Columbia Offshore Schools. This will be a topic for discussion at the September 24, 2014 Offshore Schools Program Consultants meeting.