

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

GRAND CANADIAN ACADEMY (JIAXING)

TONGXIANG, ZHEJIANG PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 23-24, 2017

INTRODUCTION

On November 23-24, 2017, a certification inspection was completed on Grand Canadian Academy (Jiaxing) in Tongxiang, Zhejiang Province, People's Republic of China, termed GCA or the School in this report. The purpose of this inspection was to determine whether the requirements for the British Columbia (B.C.) education program have been met, according to the *B.C. Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement*. The inspection team (the Team), appointed by the Executive Director of International Education (the Executive Director), British Columbia Ministry of Education (MoE) in accordance with the *B.C. Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement (the Agreement)*, consisted of Mr. Paul Tigchelaar and Ms. Gloria Metzger (Chair).

The School's B.C. program has an enrolment of 105 students, in grades 10 (31), grade 11, (52) and grade 12 (22). The B.C. program is housed on the fifth and sixth floor within the host Chinese school Maodun High School. The entire School, which houses the B.C. Program, enrolls 2945 students.

During their visit to the School, the Team reviewed all standards required in the *B.C. Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement* and *Operating Manual* and met with the School's owner/operator, offshore school representative (OSR), B.C. principal, Chinese principal, B.C. teachers, and the international director.

The owner/operator, Grand Canadian Academy (Asia) Ltd, is responsible for the B.C. program. The owner/operator also operates a consulting company in B.C. to support students to gain admission into universities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

The mission of GCA is to offer a first rate British Columbia education to Chinese high school students in order to help them prepare successfully to gain acceptance to and complete a post-secondary education.



The core values that have been widely integrated at the School are:

Respect - Showing respect for themselves, the school community, and school property,
Honesty - To be honest and accurate in their work and not to be involved in deception of homework, assessments or any interactions,

Diligence - It is expected that students focus their best efforts on learning and preparing for the future. Students must take responsibility for their education and development.

GCA has also stated two main goals for the 2017/18 school year. They are:

- Minimize the failure rate of subject courses to 5% or less.
- Increase the number of students receiving honors titles to 30% of our student population.

The Team would like to thank Grand Canadian Academy (Jiaying) for its hospitality, cooperation and preparedness for the inspection visit.

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

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met Not Applicable

Comment:

There were no requirements noted in the last inspection report.

GCA has considered and implemented the suggestions from the last inspection report.

- A professional development plan has been implemented and reflects a focus on the new B.C. redesigned curriculum
- There is a renewed focus on the speaking of English. House teams have been developed with reward and penalty systems built in to encourage the speaking of English at all times. A school wide vocabulary program has also been introduced
- Role descriptions for each of the two vice-principal positions have been developed
- A process has been set in place to ensure a better coordination of course planning documentation.

Commendation:

The School is to be commended for the extensive actions taken on the suggestions from the last inspection report.



BUSINESS PLAN

The Owner/Operator has submitted a Business Plan to the B.C. Ministry of Education, confirming the sustainability of the program.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team reviewed the business plan submitted to the Ministry of Education and is able to confirm the sustainability of the program. Many challenges and opportunities have been identified with respect to increasing the enrolment in the B.C. program over the upcoming years. The goal is to enrol at least 60 students in each grade.

It is hoped that the plans for the construction of a new international building will occur in the near future.

OWNERSHIP AND AGREEMENTS / BUILDING AND SAFETY COMPLIANCE 2.0

2.1 The owner/operator meets all requirements as set forth in the B.C. Global Education Program Offshore Schools Certification Agreement (the Agreement).

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The owner/operator meets all requirements as outlined in the Agreement. The owner/operator was on site for the inspection and the Team noted the strong support of the host school for the B.C. program.

Furthermore, the Team met with the Chinese principal during the inspection progress. He confirmed his support for the B.C. program and his strong desire to ensure it continues to be successful program.

2.2 The School meets local building, safety and cafeteria codes and regulations. The facilities are deemed to be suitable to support the B.C. program.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team reviewed a number of documents relating to safety requirements, municipal codes, food services canteen management, food hygiene and protocols for emergency disasters.



The School facilities are deemed to be suitable to support the B.C. program. The classrooms have been recently renovated and up-dated with whiteboards and large screen projectors capable of linkage to computers.

Suggestion:

The School is encouraged to educate students with respect to earthquake procedures and protocols and implement earthquake drills.

ADMINISTRATION 3.0

3.1 Offshore School Representative (OSR) - The owner/operator must appoint an individual to act as offshore school representative. This individual must be confirmed by the province and must meet all of the requirements set out in section 14 of the Agreement.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The owner/operator has appointed an experienced OSR who meets the requirements set out in Section 14 of the Agreement. The OSR has extensive experience, which began in 2012 with the B.C. Global Education Program. He has an on-going contract that is reviewed annually.

3.2 The principal meets the requirements as outlined in section 3.2 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The principal meets the requirements as outlined in the inspection catalogue.

This is the principal's fifth year in an administrative position at the School. He served as vice-principal for two years then assumed the role of principal three years ago. He also brings 14 years of teaching experience to the position. The principal is continuing to enhance his leadership skills by assuming a leadership role within the offshore principal/vice-principal group.

The School also employs two vice-principals who each have allocated time to perform their administrative roles, which have been clearly delineated.

Commendation:

The School is to be commended for providing leadership opportunities to such a high degree within the School.



3.3 The School meets the administrative support requirements as outlined in section 3.3 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the requirements for administrative support to effectively run the B.C. program. A principal and two vice principals have sufficient time scheduled for administrative duties.

Two administrative assistants are responsible for student records and management of all data for the B.C. program. Furthermore, both employees are responsible for Ministry data and for translation services and ongoing communication between parents and the School. The international director is responsible for the majority of the marketing and the ongoing collaboration between the Chinese and B.C. schools.

The host school ensures technology support for the B.C. program.

3.4 The School meets the Student Record requirements as outlined in section 3.4 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School maintains complete individual student records. All student files were observed to be stored securely in a locked file cabinet located in a locked or staffed office and contained all required inclusions. Office staff maintain the files.

3.5 The School meets the teacher certification requirements as outlined in section 3.5 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that all authorized persons under the Agreement possess valid and current certification under the B.C. Teacher Regulation Branch.

The Team noted that one teacher has an approved exemption valid until December 5, 2017 while an application to the TRB is in progress.

The Team reviewed copies of local teacher certificates for individuals teaching exempted



courses. They also reviewed criminal record checks for those Chinese persons working with students in other capacities.

Teacher files examined were found to be complete with all required documentation.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM 4.0

4.1 The School meets the requirements for curriculum implementation outlined in section 4.1 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team reviewed curriculum planning documents which showed indications of a range of development reflecting the new redesigned B.C. curriculum.

A GCA administrator attended an information session on the new curriculum in B.C. and shared that information with staff in October.

Further professional development experiences that address the new curriculum are being planned. A few teachers have forged ahead and may serve the School staff as a resource for planning and the implementation of the redesigned B.C. curriculum. Teachers also have professional development opportunities to attend a subject specific workshop, visit another class or collaborate with a colleague.

The teaching team is encouraged to continue to explore the following included links, as well as others, in transitioning planning overviews to the new B.C. curriculum documents. Grades 10-12 online curriculum planning resources include:

- [Path to Graduation Info](#)
- [Curriculum 10-12 Drafts](#)
- [Educator Updates](#)
- [B.C.'s New Curriculum \(Tools and Resources\)](#)
- [Graduation Assessments](#)



4.2 The School meets the requirements for English language assessment and acquisition as outlined in section 4.2 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

Prior to admissions, the principal oversees the assessment of each student's English language proficiency.

The GCA English program serves students by encouraging rich language acquisition opportunities in an immersive English environment throughout the year.

School wide literacy strategies include a vocabulary program, an emphasis on reading, double-blocking English courses and an English Speaking Program, which periodically awards English usage with points and coins.

Assessments at GCA include a mock provincial exam and classroom assessments for English, Communications and ESL classes.

Additional ELL resources are available at <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/teach/teaching-tools/english-language-learning>

Commendation:

The School is commended for a rich and intentional development of strategies such as the English Speaking Program to encourage English acquisition both within and outside of the classroom.

4.3 The School meets the course credit requirements (equivalency, challenge, exemptions and BAA courses) as outlined in section 4.3 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that GCA meets the course credit requirements as outlined in the inspection catalogue.

The teachers and school maintain appropriate records that demonstrate compliance in all areas.

GCA supports student learning by offering the following BAA course:

- ESL 10

GCA supports student learning by offering the following exempted courses:

- PE 10 and 11



- Mandarin 12
- Chinese Culture and Geography 10
- Chinese History 11

4.4 The School meets the course overview/course planning requirements as outlined in Schedule B Part I, 2. (d) of the Agreement; namely, that all B.C. program courses offered in the School meet or exceed the ministry learning outcomes/learning standards identified in the educational program guides for each course.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that all B.C. program courses offered at GCA have curriculum planning documents as outlined in the Agreement. These documents were examined and demonstrate appropriate transitioning by some teachers, towards the redesigned B.C. curriculum.

Development of course planning to reflect the new curriculum is being discussed and a professional development day has been offered that focussed on the new curriculum areas of core competencies and assessment.

4.5 The School meets the instructional time allotments requirements as outlined in section 4.5 of the Inspection Catalogue 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 Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that the School exceeds the minimum instructional time allotments requirements as outlined in the Inspection Catalogue. Student instructional time for GCA totals 1341 hours per year.

4.6 The School meets the assessment methods requirements as outlined in section 4.6 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School uses standardized assessment strategies as well as teacher generated formative and summative assessments. Assessment is viewed by GCA administration and staff as assessment



of learning, assessment for learning and assessment as learning.

The administration uses historical provincial examination data to set target levels for student achievement and reviews results at the beginning of each school year. Students are offered the opportunity to take practice provincial exams.

GCA establishes policy and practice to ensure that school grades reflect individual student achievement in the B.C. curriculum. Staff have a formal and strategic approach to practice common assessments of student work.

The principal and the staff ensure appropriate invigilation security during provincial exams. Two B.C. program teachers and one local Chinese teacher invigilate the exam.

4.7 The School meets the learning resources requirements as outlined in section 4.7 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that GCA meets the learning resources requirements of the inspection catalogue.

The library has a significant collection of book resources including a well-resourced collection of texts available to students. Access to the library in the Chinese school is also available. The School has been very intentional in incorporating math and science text and workbook resources, fiction and non-fiction, classics, newspapers, magazines and reference resources into the library. Students have access to multiple computer labs throughout the Chinese and B.C. school and each classroom is equipped with computers.

4.8 The School meets the student progress report requirements as outlined in section 4.8 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that GCA meets the student progress report requirements as outlined in section 4.8 of the Inspection Catalogue.

Engrade Complete is used as a comprehensive platform, which allows 24/7 student and parent access to content, assessments and student results.

Formal reports are sent home in November, January, April and June with two interim reports in



September and March. Parent/teacher interviews are offered in November and April and Chinese teachers facilitate effective communication with parents.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT 5.0

5.1 The School meets the parent/student handbook requirements as outlined in section 5.1 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The parent/student handbook was found to be comprehensive and potentially useful for both students and parents. It has been translated into Chinese for parent use. The handbook meets all of the requirements as outlined in section 5.1 of the inspection catalogue.

5.2 The School meets the teacher handbook requirements as outlined in section 5.2 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The staff handbook has been recently updated and contains all currently required information.

The staff handbook is very comprehensive and includes policies on professional conduct, reporting, and parent meetings as well as general information on the School. There are also a number of information sections relating to teaching such as the B.C. Performance Standards and Quick Scales.

There is a clear policy of dispute resolution and appeal processes in both the student/parent and staff handbooks.

COURSE ACCREDITED VIA DISTRIBUTED LEARNING 6.0

6.1 The School meets the Distributed Learning requirements as outlined in section 18 of the Agreement and Section 6 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met Requirement Not Met Not Applicable

Comment:

No students in the School are registered in DL courses and there are currently no plans to offer this as an option.



CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the owner/operator, principal and staff of Grand Canadian Academy (Jiaxing) for:

- The intentional actions taken on the suggestions from the last inspection report.
- Providing leadership opportunities to such a high degree within the School.
- The implementation of the English Speaking Program and other strategies as a means of encouraging students to speak English at all times.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Executive Director of International Education that the British Columbia education program offered at Grand Canadian Academy (Jiaxing) continue to be recognized as a British Columbia--certified school.

