

Certification Inspection Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

SHANGHAI UNITED INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

SHANGHAI

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

DECEMBER 3-4, 2020

INTRODUCTION

On December 3-4, 2020, an online certification inspection was completed on Shanghai United International School (SUIS) in Shanghai, People's Republic of China, referred to as the School in this report. The purpose of this inspection was to determine whether the requirements for the British Columbia (BC) education program have been met, according to the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement*. The inspection team (the Team), appointed by the Executive Director of Independent Schools and International Education, British Columbia Ministry of Education (MoE) in accordance with the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement* (the Agreement), consisted of Laurie Anderson (Chair) and Dave Beeke.

The School's BC program has an enrolment of 317 students, in grades 9-12. The entire school, Jiaoke Campus, houses the BC program, the Chinese program and the Cambridge program and enrolls a total of 2,000 students.

During their visit to the School, the Team reviewed all standards required in the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement* and *Operating Manual* and met with the School's Owner/Operator, Offshore School Representative (OSR), BC Principal and vice-principal, BC teachers and principal of the host Chinese school.

The Owner/Operator, Xiehe Education Group, is responsible for the BC program. The Xiehe Education Group operates a range of schools catering to both Chinese and international students.

The BC program's philosophy, objectives and special features include a focus in helping their students become global citizens with the following personal goals:



a) exhibit high ethical standards; b) perform community service; c) act in a responsible manner, d) display a sense of fairness, e) demonstrate leadership skills and attitudes; and f) be accepting of a progressive view of social change: all taught in an "East Meets West" context.

The Team would like to thank Shanghai United International School for its hospitality, cooperation and preparedness for the inspection visit.

The School has satisfactorily addressed requirements contained in the previous inspection report.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
<p>Comment: The School had no requirements in the previous report.</p>			

BUSINESS PLAN 1.0

The Owner/Operator has submitted a business plan to the BC Ministry of Education, confirming the sustainability of the program.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment: The primary aim of the School is to reach their enrolment target of 360 students. The School's established reputation and its impressive track record of graduates offered placements at overseas universities, often with scholarships, will be important assets as it re-activates its growth plan post-pandemic.</p>		
<p>Commendation: The Owner/Operator is commended for working closely with the School's administrative team providing strong support to develop the School into a highly reputable, established international school in Shanghai.</p>		



INSPECTION CATALOGUE 2.0

2.02 The Owner/Operator meets all requirements as set forth in the BC Global Education Program Offshore Schools Certification Agreement (the Agreement).		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The School meets all of the requirements outlined in the Agreement. When the Team met with the representative from the Xiehe Education Group, the group's plans for expansion in other locations was discussed.</p>		

2.03 The Owner/Operator has written approval from the appropriate government entity to operate the offshore school, as outlined in section 5.03 of the Agreement.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The School has documented approval from the Shanghai educational authorities to operate an offshore school at the current location.</p>		

2.04-2.05 The School meets local building, safety and cafeteria codes and regulations. The facilities are deemed to be suitable to support the BC program.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The School has had formal building occupancy approval dating back to 2000. There are documents showing that the School is in compliance with local fire, food safety and building regulations. The School has a current and comprehensive emergency preparation plan in place, and the School conducts monthly fire drills and "drop procedures" in the unlikely event of an earthquake.</p>		



2.06 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
Partially Met

Requirement
Not Met

Comment:

The Offshore School Representative (OSR) is a very experienced and supportive representative (connected to the School for 8 years). As the formal principal of the School, the OSR is very familiar with its operations and the Owner/Operator.

2.07 The Principal meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.07 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement
Met

Requirement
Partially Met

Requirement
Not Met

Comment:

The Principal meets the requirements set out in the Inspection catalogue. In his third year in the role, the Principal has extensive offshore school experience, as a teacher and as a VP.

Commendation:

The Team commends the principal and his leadership team for cultivating a healthy, respectful and collegial climate in the School.

2.08 The School meets the administrative support requirements as outlined in section 2.08 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement
Met

Requirement
Partially Met

Requirement
Not Met

Comment:

The School's leadership team includes a 0.75 FTE vice-principal and a 0.50 FTE Director of Academics. The School also has two full time administrative assistants, as well as additional translation support services from a Chinese teacher. The OSR also provides administrative support.



2.09 The School meets the Student Record requirements as outlined in section 2.09 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School's records are securely and efficiently stored. The Team viewed random samples of student reports, all of them containing the required documentation, including the Ministry's updated (2020/2021) Parent Consent form. Random samples of the results of School's English language entrance examination were also reviewed.

2.10-2.18 The School meets the teacher certification requirements as outlined in sections 2.10-2.18 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that all authorized persons under the Agreement possess valid and current certification under the Ministry of Education.

Commendation:

The Team commends the School for maintaining extremely well organized, secure and accessible personnel files.

2.19 The School meets the requirements for curriculum implementation outlined in section 2.19 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team interviewed all teachers at each grade level to review and discuss planning, assessment, resources and assorted School-wide matters in relation to curriculum implementation. A distinct growth mindset is evident in the administrative team and the teaching staff. Staff have been involved in a number of different professional development activities regarding the BC curriculum including departmental Pro-D sessions, BC offshore school teacher roundtables in China, and the BCPVPA Leadership Development course. The School's collaborative and supportive culture amongst staff create opportunities for professional development with each other to develop knowledge and skill in the new curriculum and pedagogies.



Commendation:

The School is commended for a collaborative and supportive culture with a clear growth-mindset where staff support each other's professional development.

The School is also commended for participation in BC offshore teacher roundtable meetings as a valuable professional development opportunity.

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

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

English language development is a key focus for grade 9 students who intend to register in the BC program. Physical and Health Education 9, Social Studies 9, and English Language Arts 9 are designed to assist them with developing their English language skills. SUIIS aims for small class sizes in grade 10 English Language Arts. The more English-dependent grade 10 courses are intentionally scheduled for the second semester to give opportunity for increased English language proficiency. Language proficiency is assessed every reporting period and teachers use a variety of formative and summative assessments on an ongoing basis. Language support teachers have been assigned to every homeroom.

The Team noted the high level of English language proficiency among students.

Commendation:

The School is commended for developing a student-centered schedule that emphasizes English language acquisition.

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 inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the course credit requirements outlined in the inspection catalogue. The School offers Leadership 12 as an approved BAA course (YCPA12).



2.21(f-g) The School meets the course overview/course planning requirements as outlined in Schedule B Part I, 2. (e) of the Agreement; namely, that all BC 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 Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the course credit requirements for equivalency, exempted and BAA courses. The School offers Mandarin 9-12 and Chinese History 11 as courses exempted from requiring delivery by BC-certified teachers.

The Team reviewed curriculum planning documents, which give evidence of the School's transition to the revised BC curriculum. Many course overviews demonstrate how course content is used to focus on big ideas through essential questions, connect curricular competencies to learning activities, and plan for both formative and summative assessment opportunities.

2.22 The School meets the instructional time allotment 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 Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team verified that the School offers 1228 hours of instructional time each year for students, exceeding the required number of instructional hours per year.



2.23 The School meets the assessment methods requirements as outlined in section 2.23 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

Cross-grade meetings are used to ensure early identification and support for struggling students. Early in each term, teachers and administration compile grades, identify struggling students, and create plans to support students.

Common rubrics in common classes, regular communication amongst staff, and support of department heads all aid meaningful and consistent assessment and evaluation of students. Ongoing development of Fair Assessment Guidelines encourage teachers to determine the most recent, consistent, and accurate mark possible using a combination of formative and summative work across a variety of types of assessment.

Teachers are encouraged to develop and share rubrics well in advance of an assessment, along with clear expectations. When multiple teachers are teaching the same subject, they collaborate on assessment dates, assessments, and daily planning. For common assessments such as mid-term exams or final exams, teachers work together and under the supervision of their respective department head to develop an assessment. Technology such as Moodle and Microsoft Teams has helped to make rubrics and expectations easier to access for students, helping to create better circumstances for consistency.

Commendation:

The School is commended for the steps taken to assist early identification of students at risk and to facilitate prompt intervention through cross-grade meetings.

The School is also commended for their intentional, meaningful, and ongoing development of Fair Assessment Guidelines.

2.24 The School meets the learning resources requirements as outlined in section 2.24 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School Learning Resource Centre has almost 4,000 separate English language texts, some in multiple copies. The centre maintains subscriptions to many international magazines, and has four 3D printers and a colour printer for student learning projects.

The Learning Resource centres also serves as the meeting place for the School's many clubs.



The team noted in interviews with students that the clubs were considered engaging learning opportunities that complemented their classroom studies.

Commendation:

The School is commended for establishing teacher and student clubs that cover a broad range of student interests.

2.25 The School meets the student progress report requirements as outlined in section 2.25 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The School meets the student progress report requirements outlined in the inspection catalogue. There are 4 formal reports annually and two formal student-led parent teacher conferences per year, with Chinese homeroom teachers providing translation services as needed.

The Team confirms that the School provides descriptive written comments that reference the grade appropriate curriculum standards.

2.26 The School meets the parent/student handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.26 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The parent/student handbook meets the Ministry's standards. It has been updated for the 2020/2021 school year, and includes key information about school policies, dispute resolution processes, etc.

2.27 The School meets the teacher handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.27 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The teacher handbook is detailed and comprehensive. The statement regarding the employment contract being exclusively between the Owner/Operator and the teachers has



been communicated to teachers, added to the digital version of the handbook, and will be incorporated into the print copy for the 2021/2022 school year.

2.28 The School meets the distributed learning requirements as outlined in section 18 of the Agreement and section 2.28 of the inspection catalogue 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
---	--	--	---

Comment:

The School has three students taking distributed learning (DL) courses (Calculus 11 and 12) provided through SD#73 Global Education. The School makes this option available to students wanting to take an additional course, upgrade or access summer learning opportunities.

CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal, staff and Offshore School Representative of Shanghai United International School for:

- maintaining extremely well organized, secure and accessible personnel files.
- cultivating a collaborative and supportive culture with a clear growth-mindset where staff support each other's professional development.
- participating in BC offshore teacher roundtable meetings as a valuable professional development opportunity.
- developing a student-centred schedule that emphasizes English language acquisition.
- establishing teacher and student clubs that cover a broad range of student interests.
- working closely with the School's administrative team, providing strong support to develop the School into a highly reputable, established international school in Shanghai.
- cultivating a healthy, respectful and collegial climate in the School.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Executive Director of Independent Schools and International Education that the British Columbia education program offered at Shanghai United International School continues to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.

