



A Total Educational & Cultural Experience



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HOW TO APPLY
<http://www.studyinbc.ca/apply/>

VIDEO
<https://vimeo.com/104746587>
AND
<http://www.studyinbc.ca/gulf-islands-international-education-program-video/>

Photos:
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Imagine a place where an International Study Program means ...

A Focus on Quality....

In the Gulf Islands International Program, we strive to put quality ahead of quantity. It is our goal to give our students a unique educational experience that is both rewarding and life changing. The Gulf Islands International program offers a wide variety of incredible educational and recreational experiences that will help our students find new ways of viewing the world.

The Gulf Islands International Program is a transformative educational opportunity where the focus is on personalized learning and individual leadership in a school that is more like a small college than a traditional institution.

Our primary purpose is to help all of students, local and international students, gain the independence and skills necessary to better understand what it means to be globally aware, environmentally friendly and ready for the challenges of the future.

Our educational community is defined by a culture of inclusion and empowerment. Gulf Islands Secondary School is dedicated

to the advancement of learning and the development of social responsibility where student support is paramount.

We seek quality students who value personal development, embrace challenge, and who are prepared to contribute and enrich the learning environment. Acceptance into the Gulf Islands International Program should be considered a privilege.

Security, respect and belonging are important in the Gulf Islands

The Gulf Islands International Program knows that family, inclusiveness, and respect are key values for our students and their parents. It is important to us that the parents of our students from around the world know that their sons and daughters will be well looked after and will have the support they need. Our program strives to provide our students with a sense of security and belonging.

Parents should expect quick, open and ongoing communication and support from the team at Gulf Islands International Program. We know that it is not easy to send

a child to Canada to study. We will make every effort to make the total experience a pleasant one for the entire family.

Feeling safe, supported and respected are essential rights that are important to the Gulf Islands International Program, Gulf Islands Secondary School, and the Gulf Islands community.

According to a recent Ministry of Education student survey:

- Over 94% (98th percentile) of students attending Gulf Islands Secondary School reported feeling safe at school. This compares with the provincial average of 75%.
- Less than one percent of the students attending Gulf Islands Secondary School reported being bullied, picked on, or teased. This compares to an average of 8.3% for the rest of the province of British Columbia.
- 97% (100th percentile) of Gulf Islands Secondary School students reported that they respected other students who think, look or act differently than they do. 83% of the students in the rest of the province felt the same way.

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- The Global Peace Index for 2017 ranked Canada as one of the top ten countries in the world to live. The Gulf Islands International Program is located on Salt Spring Island, one of the safest places in Canada to live. It is almost crime free.

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The Gulf Islands International Program is located on beautiful Salt Spring Island, an environmentally protected marine park. It is a well-educated and creative community and only a short 30-minute ferry trip away from the capital city of British Columbia, Victoria, and one of Canada's top universities, the University of Victoria. The island also enjoys one of the best climates in Canada, both in the summer and the winter.

With an enrolment cap of 10% of local student population and a limit on the number of international students from each participating country, the Gulf Islands International Program is unlike many programs in Canada. Our students from around the world will enjoy both a Canadian and international education experience. The Gulf Islands International Program is truly

committed to ethnic diversity and celebrates the synergy that results when young people from around the globe work together to create a better world.

Why studying in the Gulf Islands is great choice

The Gulf Islands International Education Program offers a variety of high school programs, including outstanding academic and elective course options, university preparation, intensive English as a Second Language (ESL) programs, tutor support and vocational programs. In the Gulf Islands, dreams come true and there are no limitations to what you imagine you can do.

Given a strong emphasis on intellectual and social development, the Gulf Islands International Program is a natural choice for highly motivated students who value personalized learning and a commitment to academic and personal development.

Quality Educational Experience

When compared to some school districts in larger cities, students from the Gulf Islands School District often out-perform the city

students. In a recent Report on Schools, 62.4% of the Gulf Islands students graduated with an Honours Standing. This compares favorably with the provincial average of 47.8% for all public and independent schools in British Columbia. The average GPA of graduates from Gulf Islands Secondary School is 3.1 or B (on a four-point scale) compared to a provincial average of 2.89 or C+. The average class size at Gulf Islands Secondary School is almost 6% smaller than it is in larger city schools. This means more individual attention for our students.

Gulf Islands Secondary School is a leader in 21st Century Learning and as a comprehensive school offers courses and programs for all students regardless of their



"The past two years have been a precious experience and I feel it has helped me move forward towards my dream. Thanks to everyone for always being there for me and for the never-ending support."

"The two years have passed very quickly. It was sometimes hard to study in a different language, but I appreciated the constant support that I was given, especially from my host family, and loved it here. I feel my English has improved a lot. So have I. I think of this experience as my treasure."

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personal interests. Not only does the school offer everything from award winning Robotics to the Gifted Performing Arts, it also boasts some of the best sports teams in Southern Vancouver Island.

Quality Instruction

For many people, Salt Spring Island is one of the most desirable places in Canada to live. Residents enjoy the best of both worlds; they are close enough to larger cities and can access them with relative ease (a short ferry trip and drive to Victoria or Vancouver...two of the most beautiful cities in the world), yet just far enough away to enjoy the peace and quiet of the environmentally protected island setting.

This relaxed, yet modern and upscale lifestyle, attracts many top educators to the

island. The teachers and administrators in School District 64 are among some of the best in the province. The schools are proud to have certified and well-educated teachers who are student-centered and dedicated to helping their students achieve their personal best. The teachers in the Gulf Islands are certified by the Ministry of Education and many of them hold Master Degrees in Education or a combination of education and relevant industry experience. The teachers in the Gulf Islands are often called upon to provide professional development for teachers around the province.

Quality Post-Secondary Transitions

Since the beginning of the Gulf Islands International Program in 1999, our

international graduates have successfully made the transition from Gulf Islands Secondary School to Canadian and American universities and colleges in Canada, the U.S. and around the world. Some of the schools that have welcomed our graduates include the University of Toronto, York University, the University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University, Queen's University, McMaster University, McGill University, Carlton University, as well as Berklee School of Music, Purdue University, Boston University, and the University of Iowa in the United States.

The Gulf Islands International Program has articulated agreements with the University of Victoria, Vancouver Island University and Camosun College, as well as less formal agreements with other top universities.

Homestay and Medical Insurance

An international program is only as good as its homestays. International students need to feel happy in their homestay to thrive in their studies. Our homestay program is founded on the need for security and belonging. It is our goal to help our students fulfill the higher-level needs, such as achieving their personal best and to pursue their dreams.

The International Leadership Team is school based. This means that the members of the team are always available to work directly with the international students. We also believe that our international students are better served by having local Homestay Relationship Managers.

The Gulf Islands School District supports the British Columbia's K-12 International Student Homestay Guidelines, which provide consistent, province-wide best-practice standards for British Columbia's K-12 homestay sector.

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For more information, please see:

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/internationaleducation/home_stay_guidelines.pdf

As a smaller community, the Homestay Relationship Managers and the team have the added advantage of knowing most people who live on the island and this awareness has helped the program do a better job of matching the students with the most appropriate and supportive homestays. We know how important it is to the parents to have the confidence that their children are placed in good homestays. It is possibly one of the most important considerations parents think about when making decisions about sending their children abroad to study.

All international students are required to have mandatory medical insurance while studying in Canada. The Gulf Islands International Education Program provides a combination of interim medical insurance and the British Columbia Medical Services Plan for our students.

Gulf Islands Secondary School

GISS has filled my experience with excitement and wonder of what this small community has to offer. I have become more independent and established very close bonds with friends and community that will always be an important part of my life.

The award-winning Gulf Islands Secondary School, which opened in 1994, boasts a reputation for academic achievement; winning sports teams, especially in soccer;



"Everyone here has been so supportive and friendly. I will remember this experience for the rest of my life. It was wonderful!"

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outstanding performing and visual art programs, including the Advanced Placement Studio Art and the Gulf Islands School of the Performing Arts programs; and exceptional computer technology programs, including computer animation, media arts, computer programming, robotics and computer assisted drafting. Other specialty programs include French Immersion, Spanish, Chef Training, Peer Counselling, Peer Tutoring, Environmental Studies, Eco-Adventure and Leadership programs.

The Gulf Islands School District is recognized as leader in the development of the two newest approaches to learning, 21st Century Skill Development and Personalized Learning, and is a model for British Columbia educators, Ministry of Education personnel, and university students who often visit the school for observation purposes.

The Gulf Islands International Program, which prides itself on quality as opposed to quantity, offers four different programs at the secondary level to students from Europe, Asia and Latin American:

- **Graduation.**
- **Cultural/Educational.**
- **English as a Second Language.**
- **School of the Performing Arts.**

For more information please see: www.studyinbc.ca.

English as a Second Language

The Gulf Islands International Program offers a unique approach to learning English. The Gulf Islands Secondary School believes that English is best learned by being immersed in the language. All English as a Second Language (ESL) students are assigned to regular courses, including academic and elective courses, in addition to their ESL classes.

All new English learners are assessed online for English proficiency during the orientation weekend. Depending on their needs, they are assigned to one of four levels of English as a Second Language. The greater the need, the more ESL support they will receive. Once they reach Level 4 they will be placed in the regular English program supported by an ESL block.

Enriched English courses are available to help students prepare for post-secondary

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studies. Senior international students can also take TOEFL and IELTS preparation courses. Because of the strong focus on English in the school and community, the ESL students in the Gulf Islands International Program tend to learn English much faster than students in the larger city programs. The cap on the number of students from each country also results in English being the common language used by international students.

Nine reasons why the Gulf Islands International Program is an excellent choice

- Safe, supportive homestays, school and community.
- Outstanding English Enrichment and university preparation program.
- Small number of non-English speaking

students and members of the community, which ensures a focus on developing English skills.

- School based program with supportive teachers, administrators and counsellors.
- Program where the emphasis is on quality, not quantity.
- Professional post-secondary, personal and career counselling.
- Unique schedule presents opportunities to take more than ten courses per year compared to eight courses elsewhere.
- Authorization of grades as necessary.
- Exciting recreational activity programs, including the Eco-Adventure program and a wide variety of sports, student leadership and artistic activities.



"The Gulf Islands International Program was a great experience for me. The people here are so open minded and friendly. They certainly changed my view on this world in a very positive way. So much to do and see. I never once regretted my decision to spend my year away from home on Salt Spring Island and I don't think there is a better place."

"Every day at Gulf Islands Secondary School was a good memory for me. I learned so much about myself, other cultures and the environment. This experience gave me the confidence and the English and academic skills that I needed to go to university."