

Columbia International College is a private boarding preparatory school in the Ainslie Wood neighbourhood of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. As of 2014, the school has students from over 70 countries.[1]

Columbia is a member of the Independent School Associations of Ontario (ISAO). The College is also registered with the Ministry of Education (Ontario)

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History[edit]

Founded in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1978, Columbia International College began as a six-room university preparatory and ESL school on Mohawk Road West. It was known at the time as Columbia Secondary School of Canada. The school quickly outgrew this location, prompting a move to 430 East 25th Street in 1981 and another move to 1029 Main Street West in 1985; by this time, Columbia had a student population of 300. Ten years later, in 1991, Columbia Secondary School officially changed its name to Columbia International College. The 1990s saw growth in Columbia's facilities, academic programs and student population. The school's climb in enrollment numbers resulted in a relocation to the Ainsliewood Campus in 2000. The school's current home is an 11,200 square metre facility located at 1003 Main Street West.

Academics[edit]

Columbia has six semesters: January, March, June, July, August and October. The school also offers year-round admission.[2]

Columbia International College has about 1800 students that are from 73+ countries.[3]

Testing services offered[edit]

Columbia is an Official Test Centre for:

iBT TOEFL (Princeton University ETS authorized centre)[4]

IELTS (International English Language Testing System)[5]

The Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)[6]

Canadian Academic English Language Assessment (CAEL)[7]

Secondary School Admissions Test (SSAT)[8]

Residences[edit]

Columbia International College currently has six single-gender residence buildings: four for males and two for females. The male residences include Oak Hall, Pine Hall, Arkledun, and Northcliffe. The female residences are Linden Hall and Pine Hall.[9]

Extracurricular activities[edit]

Columbia's Student Development Office assists students with their after-school schedules

and events on campus and within residence. They offer clubs and activities based on Leadership, Arts, Community Service and Athletics.

Bark Lake Leadership Center[edit]

Bark Lake is Columbia's private Leadership and Outdoor Education Center. It is a 700-acre facility located in Haliburton County, Ontario.

Throughout the year, frequent trips are made to Bark Lake for students to complete leadership training.[10]

Principals[edit]

Year Name

2021 - current Diana Reid

2018 - 2021 Bill Ironside

2016 - 2018 Steve Saunders

2007 - 2016 Ron Rambarran

1993 - 2007 Anna Shkolnik

1984 - 1993 Harold Mills

1981 - 1984 Mable Young

1979 - 1981 Christine Davis

Notes