

# GULF ISLANDS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM



The Gulf Islands International Program is founded on the principles of global awareness, cultural understanding, and personalized learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.



Unlike most programs, the Gulf Islands International Program is truly committed to ethnic diversity and the synergy that results when young people from around the globe work together to create a better world.



Our commitment to cultural diversity has resulted in the creation of distinct academic programs that meet the specific educational and social needs of our Asian, European and Latin American students.



# Location

The Gulf Islands International Education Program is located on scenic Salt Spring Island, the largest of Canada's famous Gulf Islands. This island community enjoys an ideal location. It is only 30 minutes from the provincial capital city of Victoria, yet enjoys the natural beauty of the West Coast of Canada.





# Safe, supportive community



# Salt Spring Island

- ❑ Home to a professional, well-educated and highly creative community
- ❑ Best climate in Canada, especially during the winter months
- ❑ “Green” community with a commitment to protecting the environment
- ❑ An island “paradise” to many



# Salt Spring Island climate

Climate data for Salt Spring Island

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Yr
<b>Record high °C (°F)</b>	14 (57)	16 (61)	19.5 (67.1)	26 (79)	32 (90)	31.5 (88.7)	31.5 (88.7)	36.5 (97.7)	32 (90)	25.5 (77.9)	16.5 (61.7)	15 (59)	36.5 (97.7)
<b>Average high °C (°F)</b>	5.5 (41.9)	7.3 (45.1)	10.3 (50.5)	13.5 (56.3)	16.9 (62.4)	19.5 (67.1)	22.1 (71.8)	22.3 (72.1)	18.6 (65.5)	13 (55)	7.9 (46.2)	5.3 (41.5)	13.5 (56.3)
<b>Average low °C (°F)</b>	-0.4 (31.3)	0 (32)	1.3 (34.3)	3.1 (37.6)	5.9 (42.6)	8.5 (47.3)	10.3 (50.5)	10.3 (50.5)	7.6 (45.7)	4.4 (39.9)	1.5 (34.7)	-0.2 (31.6)	4.4 (39.9)
<b>Record low °C (°F)</b>	-14 (7)	-13 (9)	-10.5 (13.1)	-3 (27)	-1.5 (29.3)	2.5 (36.5)	3.5 (38.3)	3 (37)	-0.5 (31.1)	-5 (23)	-16 (3)	-17.5 (0.5)	-17.5 (0.5)
<b>Precipitation mm (inches)</b>	150.9 (5.94)	125.1 (4.92)	99.9 (3.93)	67.3 (2.65)	48.9 (1.92)	37.5 (1.47)	22.9 (0.90)	27.6 (1.08)	35 (1.38)	88.5 (3.48)	176.5 (6.94)	148 (5.83)	1,028 (40.4)



# Salt Spring Island

- ❑ Commutable distance to Victoria, the City of Flowers
- ❑ Direct ferries to Vancouver and Victoria
- ❑ Ferry terminal is only ten minutes from the Victoria International Airport
- ❑ Four float plane services to Vancouver and Seattle



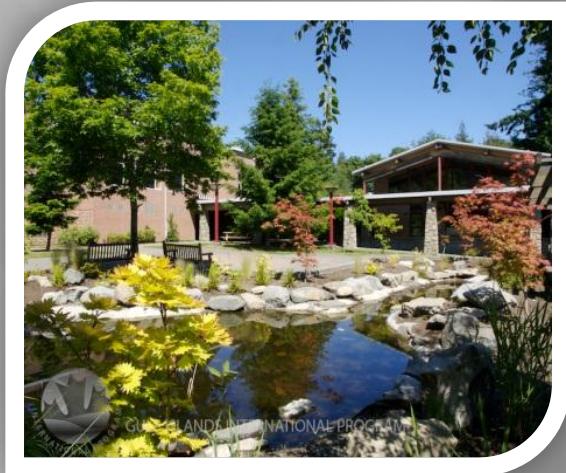
# Why do Asian students choose the Gulf Islands International Program?

1. Outstanding academic and elective programs
2. Emphasis on academic achievement
3. High graduation rate
4. Post-secondary transition success
5. Excellent post-secondary counselling
6. TOEFL preparation and ESL programs
7. English speaking learning environment
8. Strong homestay program



# High School Program

Gulf Islands Secondary School has a school population of 600 students in Grades 9 to 12, including 60 international students. With a cap on enrolment and a limit on the number of students that are accepted from various parts of the world , the international students are likely to enjoy an educational experience that is truly unique.



# Junior Program

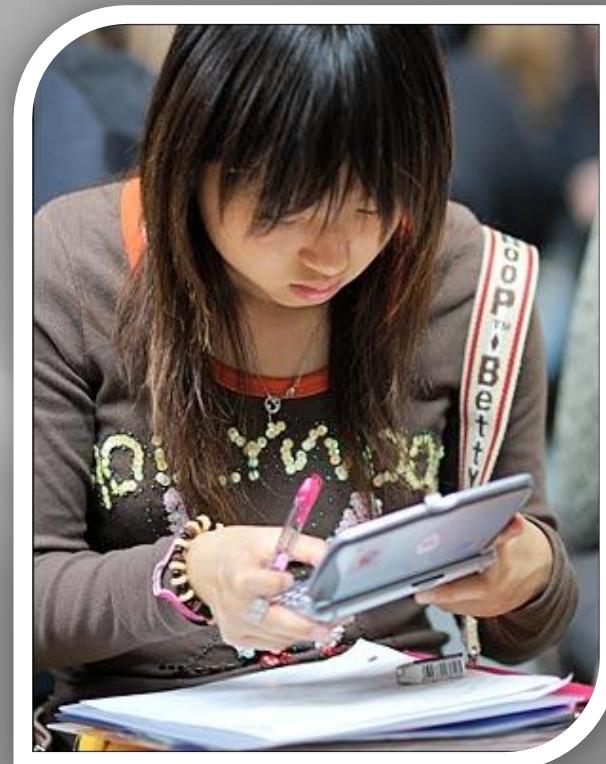
The Junior Program is hosted by Salt Spring Island Middle School. This exceptional school is located in the heart of Ganges village, overlooking Ganges Harbour on Salt Spring Island. Salt Spring Middle School has a school population of about 300 students in Grades 6 to 8. International enrolment is limited to 12 students per year.



# Asian Students

Our Asian students enrol in our program for two primary reasons:

- High school graduation and university entrance
- English as a Second Language



# Academic and Elective Programs



All of the academic prerequisites leading to university entrance, including advanced mathematics and the sciences, are offered by the Gulf Islands International Program.



# Academic Achievement



Our students perform as well, if not better, than the students who are registered in the bigger city programs. Studying in an English immersion community helps our international students excel in English.



# Academic Achievement

Comparison of the blended results (the combination of school and provincial exam results) in key provincially examinable courses. The following table reflects the percentage spread of grades C+ or higher in three of these examinable courses.

School District	Science 10 Results	Socials 11 Results	English 12 Results
Gulf Islands	71	81	73
Vancouver	66	70	67
West Vancouver	74	72	77
Delta	64	67	67
Greater Victoria	65	69	73
Surrey	60	66	67
Richmond	64	64	71

Source: [http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/district\\_data\\_summary.php](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/district_data_summary.php)



# Four levels of quality ESL



# Elective Programming for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Creativity is recognized as an important skill for the future and the Gulf Islands International Program is proud to offer outstanding programs in the media arts, the visual arts, the performing arts, the technical arts, and the vocational arts.



# Elective Programming for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



# High Graduation Rates

According to the annual Report on Schools, the adjusted six year graduation rate\* for the most recent reporting period is 94%, which compares very favourably with the big city programs.

\*The international students from other parts of the world who enrol in the program for shorter periods of time are not factored into the calculation. These students are registered in a Cultural Awareness Program, not a Graduation Program.



# Post-Secondary Transition

## AFTER GRADUATION

As a comprehensive school some Canadian graduates have other post-secondary plans, like vocational programs or travel. Most Asian international students, however, go to top universities. 100% of our Chinese students have enrolled in university or college after graduating.

## FIRST TO SECOND YEAR

“Students from our school district who pursue post-secondary studies in accredited Canadian universities and colleges had a transition rate from first-year to second-year (in programs of 2 years or longer) of 96% in 2008-09.”

Superintendent’s Report



# Our students go to top universities

- University of B.C
- University of Toronto
- York University
- McGill University
- University of Alberta
- Simon Fraser
- University of Victoria
- Carleton University
- Sophia University
- Berklee School of Music
- Purdue University
- McMaster University
- Queens University
- Chinese University of Hong Kong
- And more....



# Transition to university and college



## Two beautiful locations.

Three great study options.

Victoria and the Gulf Islands are two of Canada's most beautiful West Coast destinations. They are also home to many excellent education options, including the Gulf Islands International Program, Camosun College and the University of Victoria.



With a commitment to diversity and an enrollment cap, the international students in the Gulf Islands International Program are guaranteed a quality Canadian educational experience in one of the most unique and beautiful communities in Canada.

Award-winning Gulf Island Secondary School was recently recognized as a School of Distinction in the category of Determination in Academic Achievement.

With a strong focus on university preparation, the school is also recognized for its technology and trades programs, visual and performing arts programs, student leadership programs, and specialty programs, especially the French Immersion and Environmental Studies programs.

For students who intend to transfer to college or university, the Gulf Islands International Program is an excellent choice. For more information visit [www.studyincanada.info](http://www.studyincanada.info) or [studyinbc.ca](http://studyinbc.ca).



Camosun College is one of British Columbia's leading colleges, with two modern campuses serving 8,600 full-time students. More than 150 programs are available, including English as a second language (ESL), certificates, diplomas, university transfer programs, four-year applied degrees, post-graduate certificates and well-established co-operative education programs. Our programs fit within one of the following schools or centres:

- Access (ESL and high school upgrading)
- Arts and Science
- Business
- Health and Human Services
- Sport and Exercise Education (Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence)
- Trades and Technology

Camosun College provides outstanding student services and is an excellent bridge to university students. Over 40 per cent of Camosun's international students transfer to BC universities, with most students choosing to complete a degree at the University of Victoria.

For more information, visit [www.camosun.ca/international](http://www.camosun.ca/international) or email [intl@camosun.bc.ca](mailto:intl@camosun.bc.ca).



As Canada's top comprehensive university, the University of Victoria (UVic) is widely recognized for inspired teaching by renowned faculty, a deep commitment to students and a diverse and welcoming environment. More than 19,000 students from across Canada and around the world enjoy UVic's vibrant and friendly campus community.

UVic is a comprehensive university with faculties and divisions of:  
▪ Business  
▪ Continuing Studies  
▪ Education  
▪ Engineering  
▪ Fine Arts  
▪ Graduate Studies  
▪ Human and Social Development  
▪ Humanities  
▪ Law  
▪ Medical Sciences  
▪ Science  
▪ Social Sciences

For more information, visit [www.uvic.ca](http://www.uvic.ca) or email [uvip@uvic.ca](mailto:uvip@uvic.ca).



# Robin Yin – University of Toronto

“Going to Gulf Islands Secondary School was the best choice of my life. The friendships that I made there will always be a part of my life. Salt Spring Island is my second home and I will always appreciate the care and support that my host family gave me.”

“I just graduated from the University of Toronto and am now working as a research assistant at the university. I hope to pursue Masters and PhD degrees soon. I thank my teachers and friends for giving me the confidence and skills to do this. The teachers at Gulf Islands Secondary are the best.”



# Carmen Wong – University of British Columbia

“When I first moved to Canada, I spent a year of high school in Vancouver. However, there were too many Chinese in my high school and I never got the chance to practice English. Moving to Salt Spring totally changed my life!”

“I really liked the small community there. Everyone knew each other and it just felt like home naturally. More importantly, there were just a few Asians at Gulf Islands Secondary School and I got to practice English daily. In Vancouver, the school was huge and teachers had too many students to focus on. But at GISS the teachers could focus on their students and they showed a great concern on them. Whether you had an academic problem or a personal one, the teachers’ doors were always open.”



# Hidemitsu Motosugi – Sophia University

“Gulf Islands Secondary School filled my experience with excitement and wonder of what this small community has to offer in my life away from bigger hometown in Japan. I became more independent, studied well, and established very close bonds with friends and community that will always be an important part of my life. I successfully enrolled university after graduating.”

“With the great support from international program, reliable friends, and welcoming community and school, virtually anything was within my reach to achieve. My experience wouldn't have been so successful if it wasn't for the program. I am so grateful that I was able to study at GISS.”



# Jimmy Yuen: Simon Fraser University

“A school in a small community was exactly what I enjoyed the most about Canada high school life. As a foreign language learner, getting involved in the school community was very important to me. GISS provided me a small learning environment and it was definitely a big advantage to make many local Canadian friends. Students were very friendly and easy to approach. With their kind assistance, my transition into GISS was smoother and quicker than I first expected.”

“During the two years, I developed closed relationships with people from all walks of life at GISS. These experiences helped me to get through the first year in university. There was a big difference between high school and university. In fact, there were so many different students at university and I was glad I had developed the communication skills that I needed in order to succeed. Since GISS was a small and multicultural environment, I had a chance to meet a lot of world-wide students. Gradually, I have learned about their cultures and countries. All these little things added up and encouraged me to meet different friends in university.”



# Student Support

The Gulf Islands International Program offers our international students:

- Post-secondary and career counselling
- Peer counselling and tutor support
- TOEFL preparation
- Four level English as a Second Language support
- Tutorial program
- School based homestay coordinator
- Supplementary programs



# School based student support

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dr. Scott Bergstrom



## RESPONSIBILITIES

- Student recruitment and marketing
- Student application process
- Grades and scheduling
- Liaison between the school, the parents and the agents
- Program management and administration



# School based student support

## RESPONSIBILITIES

- Homestay program
- Student advocacy
- Medical insurance
- Student travel
- Supplementary program coordination
- Custodian of the students registered in the program

## STUDENT SERVICES

Sheri Wakefield



# Student Advisor Program

The Gulf Islands International Program is proud to offer a Student Advisor Program . Previous students from different parts of Asia have agreed help new students, their parents, or the agents by answering questions about their experience in the program and the time they spent living on Salt Spring Island. All of these advisors are role models and know exactly what it takes to make the most of an international educational experience.



# Student Advisor Program

SE LYUNG - KOREA



NORIKO - JAPAN



# Student Advisor Program

DONNA - TAIWAN AND  
CHINA



DOROTHY - HONG  
KONG



# For more information

See <http://www.studyinbc.ca>

