

international schools directory

The value of international schools in Japan

James Yellowlees Ph.D.
SPECIAL TO THE JAPAN TIMES

As many Japanese schools struggle with efforts related to globalization, international schools in Japan are leading the way in terms of supplying base values and progressive curriculum and learning environments.

"We are focusing on providing even more attention and value-added opportunities for our current and future students," said Terence Christian, headmaster of Nishimachi International School in Tokyo. "We have expanded our diversity outreach and financial assistance programs and it has had a profound effect both within the school and in the community at large. We involve our students and parents through our Nishimachi Outreach Scholarship Day and they participate in a walk,

evening musical performances and other events that directly support the fundraising and support activities."

These scholarships were established so that Nishimachi could reach out to the community and provide financial assistance to promising students who would like to study at an international school, but may not have the financial means to do so.

Nishimachi International School has continued its Tohoku relief and rebuilding efforts, especially the relationship with Shizukawa Junior High School in Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture. "The opportunity to participate in helping Shizukawa to build a new community center and to have exchanges with the students has deeply enriched our values, the sense of helping others and the importance of volun-

tary activities," said Christian.

"Columbia International School Student Diversity Scholarship awards reductions of tuition fees by up to 50% to students who need financial assistance," said Christopher Holland of the Columbia Admissions Team. This program includes the "Columbia Scholarship" for new applicants and the "Honour Scholarship" for current students at Columbia and they are awarded for one academic year, with renewal options up to graduation if good grades are maintained.

"We are striving to provide a strong base with clear values and innovative education," noted Sister Margaret Scott, head of school at Seisen International School. "Our school motto is 'preparing global leaders, critical thinkers and compassionate women for tomorrow' and we are working hard to accomplish it with a balance between core values, innovative education and sports and cultural activities."

Indeed, since Sister Margaret arrived in 2012, Seisen has com-

pleted a new playing field and outdoor sports infrastructure and officially opened a new indoor weight training area adjacent to the basketball court in early 2014.

The Seisen students, parents, faculty and administrators have been involved in fundraising and voluntary activities that helped finance these efforts and this has helped to raise awareness of the importance of working together to improve the infrastructure and that it should not be taken for granted.

"Our strategic plan is to renew, enrich and energize our learning environments and to prepare our students to go on to the best possible universities and careers, so it is very good for everyone to be engaged and involved," Sister Margaret said.

International School of the Sacred Heart (ISSH) in Tokyo is continuing support of its impressive list of development projects both in Japan and in other countries, such as Kenya, Thailand and Nepal.

"Our students have become very aware of the impact that our



Outreach: Aoba International School offers a summer program for students in the local community. AOA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

modest contributions can have in communities and countries that are in need," said Mary Hisaoka of ISSH. "This really helps them to develop their values as global citizens going forward."

Aoba International School in Hikarigaoka, Nerima Ward, in Tokyo now offers a full K-12 curriculum and full support for incoming students, such as ESL and a Value Education Program, to help them acclimatize.

"We also implemented a very

successful summer program in 2013, largely through the excellent efforts of Greg Culos the program coordinator, and it provided an opportunity for students in the local community to participate in English classes, soccer and other activities on our campus," said head of school Royce Jacobs. "We think this and other community outreach efforts will really help both Aoba International School and the greater community going forward."



Flexible college, university and MBA options in Japan

Japan residents are seeing an increasing range of quality college, university and MBA options at which to pursue their education, and the following are good examples of some of these.

The Lakeland College Japan Campus offers an extensive range of undergraduate programs in Tokyo. "We have flexible admissions and provide an excellent start in undergraduate studies in English for students who wish to complete associate or four-year university degrees in Japan, the U.S. and other countries," said Interim Dean and Director of External Affairs Alan Brender.

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) in Beppu, Oita Prefecture, in Kyushu region, offers a strong undergraduate program in English. Non-Japanese students develop fluency in Japanese while they earn bachelor degrees while Japanese students must attain sufficient proficiency to study at the undergraduate level in English.

"We also have a leading-edge MBA program that is conducted in English," said Ritsumeikan APU College of International Management Dean Kenji Yokoyama. Many graduates are hired by leading Japanese and foreign capital firms to work both in Japan and throughout the Asia Pacific region.

The one-year full time HULT MBA program is perhaps the most global of all MBA programs as it has campuses in Boston, Silicon Valley, London, Dubai, New York, Sao Paulo and Shanghai. Students are able to complete MBA degrees by studying at one campus or taking semesters at up to three different ones.

"Our Shanghai campus is well-situated for Japan-based students as it is very close to Japan, and has program participants from over 70 countries," said HULT EMBA/MBA Asia Associate Director of Enrollment Eriko Aparcerro.

Blended learning is the leading edge approach that works best in distance learning situations and London School of Business and Finance (LSBF) offers a blended learning MBA program in cooperation with Concordia University. "Blended learning means that our students are fully supported with live instruction, counseling and full assistance in Japan while they complete the distance learning components of our MBA program," said LSBF global marketing director Max Etingen. "Our blended learning completion rate is over 90%." (J.Y.)

Leading the way in Kansai

Canadian Academy in Kobe is in its 100th anniversary year.

"I am so pleased to be part of the long tradition that Canadian Academy has established in Japan," said current head of school D.J. Condon. "We have an increasingly diverse student population and are working hard to maximize the benefits of this. Canadian Academy established a 'Headmaster's Symposium,' which gives students, parents, faculty and administrators opportunities to discuss key trends in education, introduce new ideas and suggestions and have more community contact."

St. Michael's International School also has a strong tradition in Kobe. It was established in 1946 and provides quality education for students aged 3-11 in the Kitano area of Kobe. "We are very proud of the community legacy that St. Michael's International School has developed and of our cooperation with both the City of Kobe and with Japanese schools in areas of communication and interaction," said head of school Gill Tyrer.

Osaka International School of Kwansai Gakuin (OIS) is in north Osaka and provides students with a unique learning ex-

perience as it is colocated with Senri International School of Kwansai Gakuin (SIS), a school that mainly supports Japanese returnees. "Due to our unique location and relationship with SIS, we are able to develop innovative programs related to communication."

According to Deutsche Schule Kobe-European School Principal Ursula Shioji the school provides an interesting alternative to the other international schools in Kobe and is focused on developing communication skills and critical thinking in young learners. (J.Y.)



Tradition: Canadian Academy students prepare for the school's centenary. CANADIAN ACADEMY



Global-minded: A "Mideast spice market" at Chateau School. CHATEAU SCHOOL

Innovative international preschools and kindergartens

A number of leading international preschools and kindergartens currently provide stable and innovative programs in addition to flexible schedules and options to meet the needs of working parents.

Mizuho Preschool & Nursery at Home was established in 2001 and offers programs for children between the ages of two and five years old and also provides after school options in a friendly and spacious suburban environment in Shakujidai, Nerima Ward in Tokyo.

"We focus on developing self-expression, curiosity, creativity and good communication skills with Montessori as a base," program coordinator Misaaki Wakatsuki explained. "The children love to play and develop their

creative and motor skills in the sand boxes and lawn in our outdoor play area," she said. "Our location affords children the opportunity to learn and grow in a relaxed, homey and green environment."

Chateau School is conveniently located in Harajuku, Tokyo and has many progressive and innovative features. Chateau School's programs are divided into Pre-Kinder (0-3 years old), Kindergarten (3-6 years old) and After School (3-12 years old) areas. The After School program is available into the evening and offers students English, Japanese, Spanish, French and Mandarin lessons and cultural experiences. It is aimed at working parents and addresses a growing need as Japan has a real problem in

terms of access to affordable day care options.

"Our students are given special school passports and will 'travel' to over 50 countries during the program," said founder Rina Chateau. "Our programs are based on Montessori and World Diplomacy methods and our students develop enhanced communication skills and global awareness very quickly."

Columbia International School has enjoyed success after the introduction of new kindergarten and preschool programs in April 2013. "We have brought quality Ontario-based education in the early childhood education area to Japan," said Columbia principal Barry McCiggott. "It leads seamlessly into our K-12 program." (J.Y.)

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Seisen International School
Tokyo, Japan



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Tokyo **Minato**

ai International School

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Tel: 03-3769-3372
Fax: 03-3456-0488
E-mail: info@aaiinternationalschool.com
Website: www.aaiinternationalschool.com



At ai International School, children learn to respect differences and develop borderless friendships through our school-wide international atmosphere. A child's first learning experiences at ai allow the student to come to love everything about learning, and to become lifelong learners.

Tokyo **Shibuya**

CHATEAU SCHOOL

1-10-23 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0001

Tel: 03-6434-9029
E-mail: chateauschool@gmail.com
Website: www.chateau-school.com



CHATEAU SCHOOL is a "new concept" international school for children from 0 to 6 years old focused on the academic programs of Montessori and World Diplomacy. The children check in with their school passports and explore over 50 countries a year. The school is open from 9 am to 6 pm everyday.

Tokyo **Bunkyo**

Joy to the World American International School

5-11-17 2F, Koishikawa, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112-0002

Tel: 03-5684-0247
Fax: 03-3868-3375
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Tokyo **Minato**

Kspace kindergarten and pre-school

5-13-39 Shirokanedai, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-0071

Tel: 03-3446-3478/03-5421-4186
E-mail: enquiries@kspacetokyo.org
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At Kspace we have a refreshingly open approach to education; superb curriculum and materials, unusual theme studies and an environment like no other. Amazingly dedicated teachers deliver beautifully planned lessons — delivered in an upbeat style that the children adore!

Tokyo **Nerima**

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Fax: 03-5372-1525
E-mail: info@mizuho-kids.com
Website: www.mizuho-edu.co.jp/index_en.html




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Tokyo **Chofu**

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Tel: 0422-34-5300 (Ext. 721)
Fax: 0422-34-5303
E-mail: info@asij.ac.jp
Website: community.asij.ac.jp



The American School in Japan features a U.S.-based curriculum, state-of-the-art facilities and excellent links to leading post-secondary institutions.

Tokyo **Nerima/Meguro**

Aoba-Japan International School

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Fax: 03-5997-0091
E-mail: enquiries@aobajapan.jp
Website: www.aobajapan.jp




Co-educational Pre-K-12 school. Campuses in Hikarigaoka and Meguro provide a quality system of formal international standard education, including a strong ESL program, daily instruction in Japanese (Kokugo & JSL), and a comprehensive Learning Support Program. Accredited by CIS and NEASC (US).

Tokyo **Kichijoji**

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Tokyo **Shinagawa**

Canadian International School

5-8-20 Kitashinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-0001

Tel: 03-5793-1392
Fax: 03-5793-3559
E-mail: study@cisjapan.net
Website: cisjapan.net/




Canadian International School (CIS) is a fully accredited Canadian school offering facilities for fine arts, science, physical education and technology education. Graduates of CIS are eligible for entrance to Canadian and other universities.

Saitama **Tokorozawa**

Columbia International School (Kindergarten to Grade 12)

153 Matsugo, Tokorozawa-shi, Saitama 359-0027

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As a school community we strive to be lifelong inquirers inspired by and challenged through authentic and meaningful learning experiences. Being committed to providing an exceptional education, we foster international mindedness, critical thinking and the willingness to act with integrity and compassion.

Kyoto **Kizugawa**

Doshisha International School, Kyoto (DISK)

7-31-1 Kizugawadai, Kizugawa-shi, Kyoto 619-0225

Tel: 0774-71-0810
Fax: 0774-71-0815
E-mail: disk-ao@dia.ed.jp
Website: www.dia.doshisha.ac.jp



Doshisha International School, Kyoto

DISK is a grade 1-12 IB World School authorized for the Diploma Program and a candidate school for the Primary Years Program. DISK is also a Candidate for Accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). *Learning for Life, Learning for the World, Learning for Love*

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Tokyo **Shibuya**

International School of the Sacred Heart

4-3-1 Hiroo, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0012

Tel: 03-3400-3951
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Founded in 1908, ISSH is a private English speaking Catholic school for girls in grades 1-12, and co-educational in the kindergarten program. School tours can be arranged by appointment throughout the year.

Tokyo **Koto**

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KIST is a pre-K to G12 school with around 600 students representing 50 nationalities. KIST is authorized as an IB World School to offer the PYP, MYP and DP.

Tokyo **Meguro**

KAIS International School

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Fax: 03-3456-0197
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Website: www.nishimachi.ac.jp



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Tel: 072-727-5050
Fax: 072-727-5055
E-mail: admissions@senri.ed.jp
Website: www.senri.ed.jp



Accredited by WASC, OIS is a full IB school, offering PYP, MYP, and the Diploma Program. OIS shares the school facility with Senri International School, a school for Japanese returnees.

Tokyo **Setagaya**

Seisen International School

1-12-15 Yoga, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 158-0097

Tel: 03-3704-2661
Fax: 03-3701-1033
E-mail: sisadmissions@seisen.com
Website: www.seisen.com




Seisen International School is a Catholic, all-girls school for grades 1-12 with a coed Montessori kindergarten. Toddler Program from September 2013. The highly academic programs which include PYP and IBDP are well-balanced with many extra-curricular activities at all levels.

Tokyo **Setagaya**

St. Mary's International School (Boys' School)

1-6-19 Seta, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 158-8668

Tel: 03-3709-3411
Fax: 03-3707-1950
E-mail: admissions@smis.ac.jp
Website: www.smis.ac.jp



St. Mary's International School is Pre-1st — Gr.12 boys' school. It was established by the Brothers of Christian Instruction and features high quality college-preparatory education (U.S. & I.B. curricula) in good and spacious facilities.

Hyogo **Kobe**

St. Michael's International School

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Lakeland College Japan Campus

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Tel: 03-3225-0425
Fax: 03-3225-0428
E-mail: askl@japan.lakeland.edu
Website: lcj.lakeland.edu




Lakeland College Japan, an American branch campus, offers undergraduate, intensive language and adult education programs. LCJ is the only private American university approved by the Japanese Education Ministry to offer an undergraduate program.

Oita **Beppu**

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU)

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1) School teaches arts and design
2) School teaches American Slang for Japanese