

Osaka International School of Kwansei Gakuin (OIS)

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Head of School Comment 2015 ACS WASC Annual Report

The Association of Colleges and Schools Western Association of Schools and Colleges is the major accreditation agency for international schools in the EARCOS (East Asian Regional Council of Schools) region. WASC is one of six regional accrediting agencies of the US State Department. Accreditation is a type of quality control and signifies that our school is up to international and USA standards. The accreditation process more importantly, is an opportunity for schools to improve student learning. As Marilyn George, the head of WASC international school accreditation says, WASC stands for We Are Student Centered.

We received confirmation in meeting with WASC officials during the EARCOS regional conference in November 2015, that our next accreditation visit will be in February of 2018. Next academic year, 2016-2017 we will start an 18-month “self-study” process leading up to the visit. This spring we will be hosting a WASC consultant to give us a good start. The WASC accreditation cycle is concurrent with our International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum authorization. Teams from the IB primary years (grades K-5), middle years (grades 6-10) and diploma (grades 11-12) programmes will be authorizing our school during the February 2018 visit.

The report highlights our student achievement on several measures. The results of our students indicate achievement higher than world averages on the IB diploma programme exams, Scholastic Aptitude Test, and the International Schools Assessments. We continue to look for ways to analyze learning data of our students. We also see the trend of our graduates staying in Japan and attending English language programs in universities in Tokyo, with 7 students, of 19, staying in Japan after graduation. The majority of the class matriculated in the USA.

Other highlights were continued growth in enrollment and getting closer to our goal of 280 students and initiatives to bring the two schools (Senri and Osaka International Schools) together like the expansion of the IB diploma programme to include more SIS students.

We are looking forward to the next accreditation/authorization cycle and it will give us the opportunity for a new long-term strategic plan.

William Kralovec