



# *The UNISUS Advantage*

Empowering Global Minded Citizens – One Student at a Time





## *Vision*

To be a leader in global education and prepare today's students for an ever-changing world.

## *Mission*

To inspire our students to be globally-minded citizens, critical thinkers, and make a positive impact in the world.



# *Location*

The UNISUS campus is located in Summerland, British Columbia overlooking Lake Okanagan and miles of beautiful vineyards and orchards. The four distinct seasons and beautiful natural surroundings provide an ideal setting for year-round sports and extracurricular activities.

The enclosed 17-acre campus is equipped with a state-of-the-art security system and provides a safe learning and living environment for our students.

- Proximity to Vancouver via 45-minute flight or 4-hour scenic drive
- Nearby to 2900 km<sup>2</sup> of beaches, 100+km of hiking trails, and 3 world-class ski resorts
- Close to 11 universities and colleges, including 2 UBC campuses





# UNISUS Foundational Pillars

At UNISUS, we commit to support each student to become globally-minded citizens, critical thinkers, and empowered to make a positive change in the world.

4 foundational pillars anchor the school.

## *I. The International Baccalaureate (IB) Advantage*

As an International Baccalaureate World School, UNISUS places the learner at the core of the school experience. Students develop the skills and dispositions to thrive and positively impact the world.



UNISUS IB Curriculum Programmes will:

- Encourage students to think critically and challenge assumptions
- Inspire students to consider both local and global contexts
- Develop multilingual students.

Students will:

- Ask challenging questions
- Think critically
- Learn across disciplines
- Develop research skills proven to help them in higher education.



## *II. Outdoor Education Advantage*

Igniting a passion and respect for outdoor exploration is a fundamental component of who we are at UNISUS. Our Outdoor Education curriculum instills confidence, resilience and life skills students will carry beyond their time at UNISUS.



The UNISUS outdoor education program has the immediate advantage of the renowned Okanagan climate. With direct access to some of the best hiking trails, lakes, and ski hills in the world, UNISUS students have the opportunity to acquire life-long appreciation for active living in world-best outdoor experiences.

### **Key Elements of Our Outdoor Education Programs:**

- Outdoor Education is a foundational part of our K-12 learning curriculum
- Through experiential education students learn about themselves in a dynamic and changing environment
- Students learn to think quickly and work collaboratively
- Students gain confidence, resilience, improved mental health, and respect for others



## *III. Technology & Innovation Advantage*

Access to the right technology empowers students as learners, builders, and makers. They learn to think critically and creatively using the latest learning tools such as augmented and virtual reality, coding, and robotics, enhancing their learning experience and providing real world context.

## *IV. Entrepreneurship Advantage*

Students acquire fundamental and core competencies to financial literacy and business. The program is structured around both class and team-based project learning. Students learn to develop business ideas from concept to ideation to launch.

Students also learn life-long transferable skills such as being ambitious, independent, risk-takers, visionary, passionate, and creative.



# IB Learner Profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally-minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

## Balanced

We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives— intellectual, physical, and emotional— to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

## Caring

We show empathy, compassion, and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.



## Communicators

We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

## Inquirers

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning through this.

## Principled

We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences

## Thinkers

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyze and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

## Knowledgeable

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

## Open-Minded

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

## Reflective

We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

## Risk-Takers

We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.





# Early Childhood Learning

Spark. Nurture. Explore. —  
One Student at a Time

At UNISUS, we believe that igniting a love for learning and a passion to make a positive impact starts at the beginning of a child's education.

The structured play based approach of our Early Years Program encourages natural wonder and curiosity in each child and introduces the youngest members of our UNISUS community to a lifelong journey of learning.

In the Early Childhood Learning Centre we:

- Encourage each child to express their creativity in a play-based learning environment through the arts, music, and physical activity
- Support the development of language skills, motor skills, social skills, and academic skills through an Inquiry-based approach to learning
- Prepare students for the transition to Kindergarten through letter recognition and the formative stages of language and mathematics, which is introduced when students demonstrate understanding or a readiness to learn more
- Discover the world outside through our outdoor-based preschool program (30% -50% of the day is spent outside). Nature is infused into all aspects of the ECL program as the IB pedagogy emphasizes inquiry-based learning through play and hands-on discovery
- Nurture students' social-emotional development by learning to take turns, become independent, follow routines, interact with peers, engage in meaningful relationships with others, and develop a positive self-image



# Primary Years Programme (PYP)

## Ignite. Inquire. Engage. — One Student at a Time

We believe early exposure to rich academic and cultural experiences ignite our students to become critical thinkers, global-minded citizens, and positive change-makers in the world.

The UNISUS PYP Junior School programme features an international curriculum framework that anchors our commitment to the development of each child as a “whole” person, introducing life skills that extend to expose students to discover new passions and areas of interest.

The PYP programme integrates subjects that cross traditional subject boundaries. This approach teaches content but extends to include significant concepts to deepen understanding, think critically, and encourage students to find meaning in their learning.



### In the PYP Junior Years Programme we:

- Encourage Inquiry-based approaches to honor and extend student curiosity
- Develop emotional and support strategies
- Support physical wellness and development
- Build critical thinking skills
- Take action to make a difference locally, nationally, and globally
- Gain international perspectives, appreciation and understanding through multicultural studies
- Reflect on real-world experiences
- Integrate technology to deepen learning
- Study global languages
- Inspire learning beyond the classroom through C.A.S.E. (creative, activity, service leadership, and enrichment) after school activities
- Commit to low teacher to student ratios; less than 22 students per class.





#### In the Middle school we:

- Challenge our students intellectually to best prepare them for the IB Diploma Programme.
- Develop creative, critical, and reflective thinking skills encouraging students to make connections with their studies and the real world.
- Nurture the development of effective communication, collaboration, and problem solving, qualities that are essential for life in the 21st century.
- Accelerate English with additional language acquisition support
- Offer global language support and acquisition programs
- Offer rigorous learning in all subjects, inviting students to tackle relevant issues and apply their ideas in local, national and global contexts.
- Develop skills and attitudes for responsible action
- Examine the interconnectedness of subject disciplines
- Provide community building opportunities, including a House System
- Challenge our students with “leading-edge” technology to deepen their learning experience
- Commit to low teacher to student ratios; less than 22 students per class

## *Middle Years (MYP)*

### Empower. Deepen. Pursue. — One Student at a Time

The UNISUS Middle Years Program empowers our students to think reflectively, grow a sense of confidence and independence, and make valuable connections between their studies and the real world. This program inspires students to be globally-minded learners and leaders to pursue a life of purpose.

The UNISUS middle year's program encourages intellectual, physical, and creative growth and development. Through our intellectually challenging programs, students deepen their conceptual understanding, knowledge, skills, and attitudes designed to encourage complex problem solving, ethical decision making, and the development of international perspectives.





# Diploma Programme (DP)

## Inspire. Empower. Achieve. — One Student at a Time

The UNISUS IB Diploma Programme (DP) offers students world class university preparation programs and pathways to esteemed Universities worldwide. Our academically rigorous Diploma Programme (DP) offers an unsurpassed breadth and depth of knowledge that develops students intellectually, emotionally, and ethically – increasing our student’s candidacy to their university of choice.



The broad scope of the Diploma Programme encourages our students to apply their knowledge and skills to real-world settings and prepares them to manage demanding expectations, workloads, and timelines. Students become confident and capable globally-minded citizens and thinkers, empowered to meet life’s challenges with intelligence, compassion, and courage.

Unisus Senior School students are pivotal contributors to the values that drive UNISUS and are active ambassadors of the IB Learner Profile and the exemplary UNISUS student. The enriched learning environment at UNISUS supports each student’s personal development and academic aspirations to elevate their success in the IB Diploma Programme.



### In the Diploma Programme we:

- Prepare for University through academically rigorous programs and pathways
- Experience a rigorous, relevant and relationship rich education
- Encourage local and global leadership through service opportunities
- Support students with academic, pastoral and university guidance services
- Empower students with perspective to positively impact the world from a local, national and global level
- Learn superior time management and organizational skills
- Develop original thoughts and ideas, challenge assumptions and engage in creative problem-solving in predictable and unpredictable situations
- Work both independently and collaboratively, with efficiency and care for the needs of others
- Instill the academic rigor and work ethic required to experience success in future university studies
- Ensure a high level of teacher support with a tutorial like teacher to student ratio





#### Benefits of the UNISUS Boarding Life:

- Academic support and guidance seven days a week
- A gained sense of independence and responsibility
- Flextime to engage in organized sport and activities
- Opportunities to explore the Okanagan and participate in a range of cultural, experiential, and personal enrichment activities
- Lifelong international friendships
- A nutritional, culinary setting that promotes health and wellness and the opportunity to learn how to cook farm-to-table food and expand on a large variety of culinary concepts



## *The Boarding Advantage*

UNISUS boarding students come from diverse cultures and age groups. All share the unique experience of international friendships, and to live and learn in a culturally rich “home away from home” that extends beyond the classroom.

Our boarding program empowers students to gain independence and self-reliance for their academic success and the relationships and community to which they contribute. Boarding students are at the centre of the UNISUS family and community and are privileged to a global perspective only achievable through the boarding experience.





# C.A.S.E. – Creativity, Activity, Service through Leadership, Enrichment

*Encouraging learning beyond the classroom*

The C.A.S.E. program takes students on an enriched and challenging journey of self-discovery. Students have the opportunity to discover and deepen their talents and interests outside the classroom through a broad range of activities designed to complement and extend the IB curriculum. Activities enrich students' lives by strengthening their creative and analytical thinking, aesthetic sense, physical development, social interaction, and leadership skills. C.A.S.E. is open to all students from Kindergarten to Grade 12.



## Creativity

*Create, make, design, write, choreograph, organize, implement*

The Arts are an integral element to nurture creativity and the advancement of cognitive function. We provide rich visual and performing arts experiences to develop artistic skills and creative expression for students in all grades.

Examples of courses include:

- Photography & Photoshop
- Visual Art Exploration
- Graphic Design





## Activity

*Move, play, elevate, persevere, grow*

We affirm the development of each student's intellectual and physical aspirations through a comprehensive/growing athletic program. Our student-athletes become skilled goal-oriented team players through physical discovery, skill development and time management.

Examples of courses include:

- Soccer Skill Development
- Fitness Exploration
- Basketball Exploration
- Yoga
- Dance Exploration



## Leadership through Service

*Support, help others, teach, communicate, build awareness, and raise funds*

We challenge students to develop new skills, learn more about themselves, and make a difference in the communities in which they live and learn.

Examples of initiatives include:

- Critter Aide
- SOWINS (South Okanagan Women in Need Society)

## Enrichment

*Elevate, evolve, question, experience, amplify*

Our enriched approach to education offers various activities in and out of the classroom that provide focus and encouragement through experiential learning and active engagement.

Examples of courses include:

- Conversational French
- Tedx
- Chess Intellect
- Math Enrichment
- Chemistry Experiments



# University Counselling

The UNISUS approach to the university application process is holistic and uses the university search as a tool for further self-exploration.

We support and empower students to discover what they need to be successful and navigate the university application process. They learn how to find solutions to what might seem like barriers and access scholarships and financial aid. Students know how to tell their story because we work together to help them find and use their voices.



## University Counselling provides:

- Summer program application support
- Thorough explanation of application processes for domestic and international students
- Development of college/university application list based on student's goals
- Guidance for college/university visit planning and assistance with the application process including:
  - » Preparation for college/university admission interviews
  - » College/university application organization and timeline creation
  - » Discussion of Scholarship and Financial Aid opportunities
  - » Personal statements and supplemental essays
  - » Scholarship essays
  - » Standardized Testing Planning
  - » Presentation of student's school engagement and participation in extracurricular activities, athletics, internships, research, and employment
  - » Preparation of supplemental materials
  - » Submission of Common Application, UCAS, and application formats



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