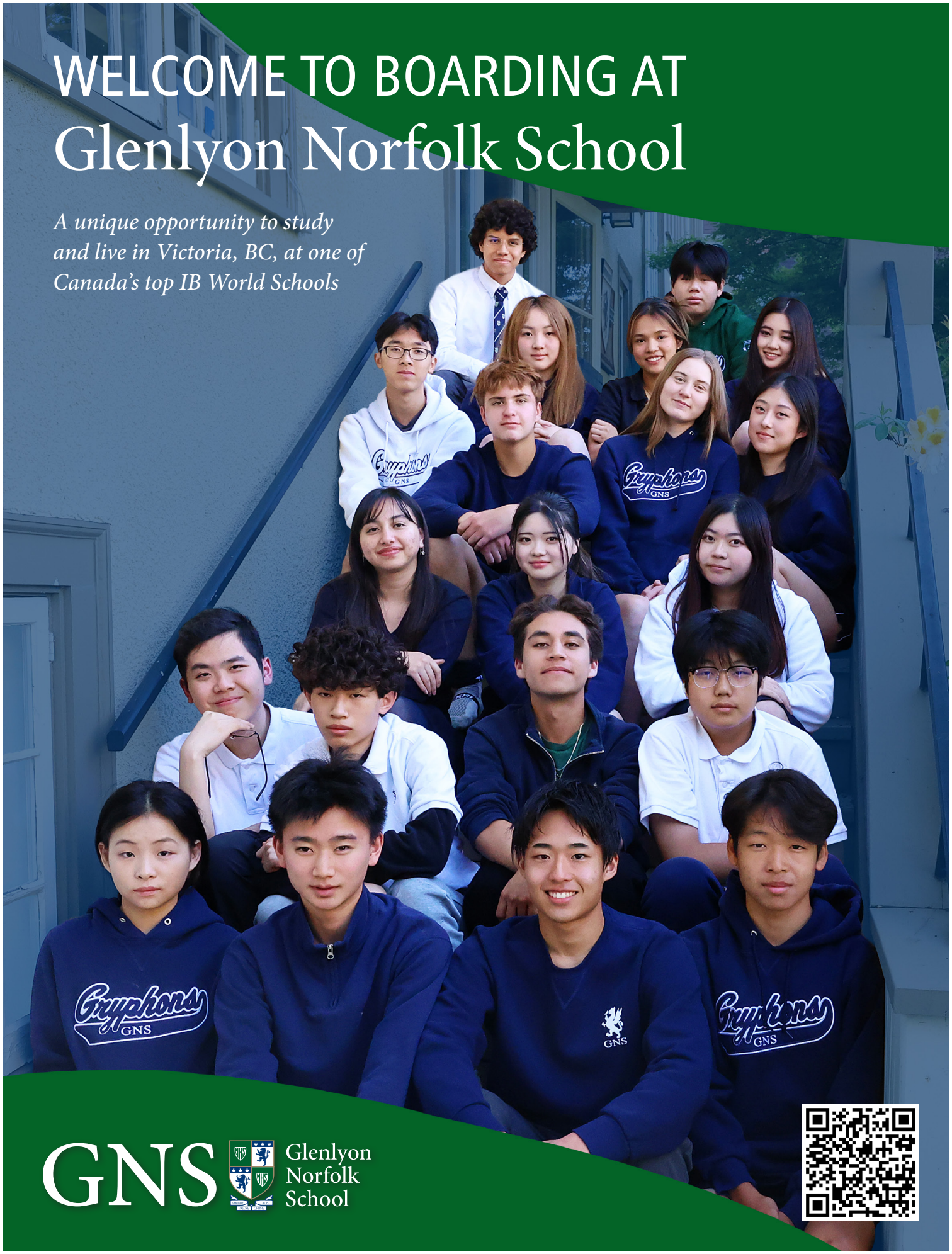
# WELCOME TO BOARDING AT Glenlyon Norfolk School

*A unique opportunity to study and live in Victoria, BC, at one of Canada's top IB World Schools*




GNS Glenlyon Norfolk School

# WELCOME TO Glenlyon Norfolk School

## Victoria, British Columbia

Glenlyon Norfolk School is located on the West Coast of Canada in Victoria, BC. GNS is a co-ed independent school founded in 1913 with students from over 20 countries.

GNS is favoured by its location; the city of Victoria, on the southern tip of Vancouver Island. The temperate climate, spectacular scenery and safeness make a perfect atmosphere ideal for study, personal growth, recreation and social exchange.

## Our Mission

To empower and support each of our students to do their best through truth and courage in learning and in life.

**$1.5M+ in Scholarships**

was earned by the 84 grads of the Class of 2025

**100% of our grads are accepted**

into 1 of their top 3 post secondary choices

**Over 100 co-curricular options**

are available for students to choose from

**~10% of our student population**

is composed of globally-minded international students

**8,500+ service hours**

were completed by our students last year

**Students from JK to Grade 12**

have access to activities at the only oceanfront Junior School campus in Canada

# Academic Program

All students in Grade 9 to 12 are required to choose a combination of courses that qualifies them for university entry. GNS is a linear school and our courses run from September to June following a ten-day block schedule. The school year is divided into three academic terms.

In Grades 9 and 10, students cover the BC provincial curriculum within the framework of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme. The culmination of this program is the Personal Project, an independent study in an area of particular interest.

There are two paths of study at GNS for students in Grades 11 and 12: the full IB Diploma or the IB Diploma course candidate route. Both routes are academically enriched and recognized by post-secondary institutions. All students graduate with the BC Dogwood Diploma.

**Average class size:**

18

**Faculty to student ratio:**

1:8

**School population:**

~750

GNS is comprised of

**3 schools, 2 locations and 1 shared philosphy**

from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12

# IB Diploma

GNS has been an authorized IB Diploma Programme School since 1996. In that time, our students have consistently scored above the world average on their IB exams.

| 5 YR AVERAGE IB DIPLOMA SCORE | |
|---|---|
| GNS | 35.2/45 |
| WORLD | 31.4/45 |

## IB Learner Profile:

Inquirers
Knowledgeable
Thinkers
Communicators
Principled
Open-minded
Caring
Risk-takers
Balanced
Reflective
Persevering

**With 30 options**

GNS offers more IB Diploma courses than any other school in Western Canada

**An average of 96%**

of our IB Diploma Candidates earn their full IB Diploma with a score of 24 or higher

**For over 25 years**

GNS has been offering the IB Diploma Programme to local and international students

# Co-curricular Activities:

**Athletics**: GNS teams compete against public and other independent schools from across the province. Our senior sports include basketball, rowing, rugby, soccer, swimming, badminton, golf, tennis, track and field, ultimate, and volleyball for both girls and boys, as well as field hockey for girls.

**Debate and Public Speaking:** GNS has a long tradition and outstanding record of accomplishment in Debate and Public Speaking, regularly placing in the top tier of provincial, national and even international competition.

**Fine Arts:** Visual Arts, Band, Choir, and Theatre are available to students through IB and provincial courses, and co-curricular activities.

**Leadership**: Students are always encouraged to develop their leadership skills, be it as elected school prefects, as organizers of student events like Model UN, or as representatives of GNS at Round Square service projects.

# University Preparation:

Our academic advisors begin working with students in Grade 9 to help students determine appropriate choices for university and college based on interests, courses, school records, location and costs.

Recognizing that post-secondary planning is a collective process involving the school, the individual student and their family, our advisors strive to keep all parties informed about opportunities and application deadlines as they arise. Throughout the year, they schedule visits by university representatives from around the world to meet with Senior School students to answer questions or provide information about specific programs.

Partial list of universities recent grads are attending:

- **Canadian:** University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, Carleton, Concordia, Dalhousie, Toronto Metropolitan, University of Waterloo, University of Western Ontario, Queen's, University of Toronto
- **USA:** Harvard University, University of California (Berkeley), Stanford, University of Washington
- **International:** Oxford University, Queen Mary University, University College of London, University of Cambridge

# International Programs:

For over 25 years, Glenlyon Norfolk School has been proud to welcome international students from around the world. Our international students are an integral part of the GNS experience and valuable members of our community.

We welcome students from countries around the world including Germany, Mexico, Spain, Japan, Switzerland, France, Italy, Korea, Nigeria, Thailand, Taiwan, Korea, India and China. International students enjoy small class sizes, academic curricula enriched by the International Baccalaureate, English Acquisition support, numerous co-curricular opportunities, and a welcoming community.

International students have the option of taking part in our unique Family Boarding Program where they live with members of the GNS community or apply for a space in our new Gryphon House boarding program.

# Gryphon Boarding:

## The Experience

- Located in a historic guesthouse just minutes from both campuses, Gryphon House is the home-away-from-home for approximately 24 students from around the world.
- All rooms are double occupancy, each with a private ensuite bathroom. Students have their own bed, desk and dresser, and roommates are carefully matched by our boarding team staff.
- There are two common areas—one on each floor—that students can use to visit, work on homework together, and build community.
- Houseparents live in Gryphon House to care for and support the students.
- Food services are provided by the GNS catering team, with three meals per day (+snacks) served at Gryphon House (breakfast/dinner) and the school Dining Hall (lunch).
- WiFi is accessible throughout the property.

## Activities

- Countless opportunities for weekend activities exist in the local community as well as other parts of Vancouver Island and BC.
- Weekend schedules are posted well in advance so that students can plan which activities they will choose. Options could include sports, trips to the mall for necessities, excursions around Vancouver Island and to Vancouver, hiking, beach visits, museums, karaoke, cooking classes, etc.
- There will be opportunities for Gryphon House students to integrate and engage with the broader community, including other international students, local students, and the local neighbourhood. With Community listed as a core value of GNS, providing opportunities for students to build strong connections with peers and friends is an essential part of their experience in Gryphon House.

| Sample Week Schedule |
|---|
| Thursday – Week 1 |
| 6:30 a.m. Wake-up, breakfast service<br>7:55 a.m. Shuttle bus to GNS Campus |
| Homeform (8:10) |
| Block 1 (8:20): |
| Block 2 (9:25): |
| Recess (10:25): |
| Block 3 (10:35): |
| Lunch (12:15): Lunch provided on campus |
| Block 4 (1:00): |
| Block 5 (2:05): |
| After school:<br>3:15 p.m. Classes finish, after school activities<br>3:30 p.m. Shuttle bus to Gryphon House<br>5:00 p.m. Check-in<br>6:00 p.m. Dinner service<br>7:00 p.m. Homework prep time<br>9:00 p.m. Free time<br>10:30 p.m. Lights out |

| SAMPLE WEEKEND SCHEDULE | |
|---|---|
| 10 a.m. to noon | Brunch |
| Daytime | A dorm trip – opportunities to explore the local area, participate in sports teams, and connect with other classmates. Or free time to visit with classmates or local day students. |
| 1 to 3 p.m. | Lunch/salad bar available |
| 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. | Dinner |
| Evening | Open gym time, evening activities (movie nights, etc.), extra prep time for older students. |

## Fees

Boarding fees at Glenlyon Norfolk School include tuition, accommodation and care in residence, meals and access to nursing and counselling support. Additional fees will apply for English Acquisition, uniform, weekend activities, etc.

| 2025/2026 | |
|---|---|
| **BC Resident** | **$67,870** |
| **Canadian Out-of-province** | **$71,225** |
| **International** | **$86,705** |

# Family Boarding:

The goal of the Family Boarding Program is to provide a welcoming, safe, supportive, English-speaking, family environment for students from other countries by arranging for them to live with GNS families; either current parents or staff.

## The Experience

- The program aims to provide a welcoming, safe, supportive, English-speaking family environment for students from other countries by arranging for them to live with GNS families; either current parents, alumni, or staff.
- A great Family Boarding environment is a home away from home for the student. Living far away from your family and friends can be difficult and lonely. Family Boarding host families are expected to care and nurture their student, much like they would their own children, thus contributing to the his/her success improving their English language skills, understanding of other cultures, and the overall experience studying at GNS and living in Canada.

## Fees

Family Boarding fees at Glenlyon Norfolk School include tuition and accommodation. Additional fees will apply for English Acquisition and uniforms.

| 2025/2026 | |
|---|---|
| BC Resident | $49,965 |
| Canadian Out-of-province | $55,590 |
| International | $63,270 |

*"Being different could be a hindrance, but being different is exactly the kind of thing that is celebrated at GNS."*

– Francis (Student from Egypt)

*"My favourite thing about GNS is that I got to know people from different countries and to learn about them."*

– Maria (Student from Mexico)

*"If you honestly consider hosting a student from abroad, I fully encourage you to do so. It's definitely worthwhile, and it's a great program, the school is an amazing support network, and it really will honestly be a positive experience for your family."*

– Brent Wray (Host Family)

# Application Process

GNS welcomes students from a diverse range of backgrounds to its student community each year, including both domestic and international students. We aim to ensure each student selected to attend GNS is academically prepared, socially engaged, and excited to participate in all that our school has to offer. Our academic program is strong and our co-curricular offerings are extensive, and we look for students who show commitment to these areas.

There are a number of steps to complete an application for GNS:

1. **Inquire:** Complete the application inquiry form available at **www.mygns.ca/boarding**. This starts the application process.
2. **Campus Visit + Assessment:** Once the application form and all required documents have been submitted, candidates will be invited to attend a Campus Visit. Campus Visits are unique to each candidate and may include:
   - Campus tours
   - Interview(s)
   - Academic assessment(s)
   - Student-led experience

   For candidates who are unable to attend in-person, an online assessment and interview will be arranged with a member of our Admissions team
3. **English-language Assessment:** If the candidate speaks English as a second or other language, they may be required to complete an English-language assessment. The candidate should provide a recent official Duolingo assessment result as part of their application. IELTS and TOEFL assessments are also accepted.
4. **Decision:** The Admissions Committee, which is comprised of members of the Academic and Admissions teams, will review the whole application and send a decision to the family typically within two weeks after the assessment date.
5. **Accepting Your Offer:** If you have received an offer of admission to GNS, you will need to complete the assigned Tuition and Enrolment Agreement form by the deadline indicated in your offer letter, along with payment of the registration fee and deposit.

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