



STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

"The Diploma Programme was easily the most academically challenging period of my life, during which a team of excellent teachers helped me grow both intellectually and as a human being. The combination of the six subject groups and theory of knowledge truly forced me to think meta-cognitively about how and what I learned, providing the foundation for my current work as an educator."

Christopher Briner
2006 IB Diploma Programme graduate
Canadian Academy
Kobe, Japan

Christopher Briner was born in Hong Kong and moved with his family to Indonesia, Japan and Switzerland. He attended the Canadian Academy in Kobe, Japan, where he was awarded a full IB diploma in 2006. In 2010, he received a bachelor of arts in history from Northwestern University in the United States. He is currently a Diploma Programme (DP) biology and Middle Years Programme science teacher at KIS International School in Thailand.

Chris first attended a public school in Thailand and gained "an early appreciation for the diversity of cultures between [his] European home and Asian schooling". He studied at three different schools that offer the DP: Jakarta International School in Indonesia, St George's School in Switzerland, and finally the Canadian Academy in Kobe, Japan, where he completed the DP.

Chris says he found "a deep resonance with Japanese culture and language" and as a senior earned an award as the best non-native Japanese speaker. Christopher also received training and a certification to perform the traditional Japanese tea ceremony.

Reflecting upon his time in Japan, he says, "The camaraderie and international diversity of the Canadian Academy provided a wonderful place to crystallize my thoughts on the international interconnectedness of the world and the need for a greater awareness of one's role in the world in education." His role as an IB teacher today reflects upon his global perspective.

"I am proud to be an IB DP teacher, knowing that I am part of rigorous intercultural program of scholastic instruction which, nevertheless, has not forgotten that there is more to a person than their head, and that one really changes the world with their heart and hands."