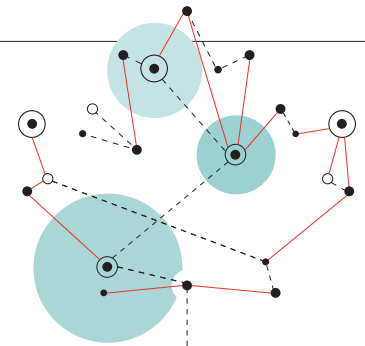


Internationalization at Canadian universities

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Quick Facts

Canada's universities develop globally aware graduates with the internationally competitive skills suited to the jobs of today and tomorrow, while fostering globally connected research and scholarship. Results from a new survey by Universities Canada highlight how universities across the country are highly engaged in and committed to internationalization – and where there is room for improvement.



Priority for

96%

of universities

Ninety-six percent of Canadian universities include internationalization as part of their strategic planning, more than 80% identify it as one of their top five planning priorities. This is up 5% from 2006, when the Universities Canada survey was last done.

89%

are accelerating action

Universities are translating this priority into action at an increasing pace: 89% say that the pace of internationalization on their campuses has accelerated during the past three years.

97%

offer international experiences to their students

Of the 97% of Canadian universities that offer international experiences:

nearly all enable students to do academic coursework abroad,

70% send students to foreign field schools,

67% offer service opportunities or volunteer work,

67% help students do research abroad, and

66% offer foreign work experience.

81%

offer international degree programs

81% of Canadian universities offer collaborative academic programs with international partners, a major increase over the last eight years, when this number stood at 48%. Today, 63% of those that offer such academic programs offer dual or double degree programs and 45% offer joint degree programs.

Only

3.1%

of students study abroad annually

Despite universities' efforts, too few Canadian students benefit from these global experiences: just 3.1% of full-time undergraduates (about 25,000) had an international experience in 2012-13, and only 2.6% had a for-credit experience abroad. This figure is virtually unchanged since 2006, when 2.2% percent of students had for-credit experience abroad. Universities cite cost and inflexible curricular or credit transfer policies as the two most significant barriers to greater student mobility.

86%

identify geographic priorities

● Canada's universities are leading the way in engaging the world's most dynamic economies. Eighty-six percent of Canadian universities identify geographic priorities for their international activities. China, Brazil, India, the United States, France, Mexico and Germany are top priority partner countries.

#1

study-abroad destination is the U.K.

● Although the geographic focus of universities' internationalization efforts leans heavily toward developing powers, students' preferred destinations for overseas experience remain the traditional ones of English-speaking and major western European nations such as the United Kingdom, Australia, France and Germany.

89,000

international students in Canada

● In 2014, there were approximately 89,000 full-time international students enrolled in undergraduate programs on Canadian campuses (approximately 11% of full-time undergraduates), and 44,000 full-time international students in graduate programs (almost 28% of all graduate students).

72%

bring an international dimension to the classroom

● 72% of Canadian universities engage in initiatives to internationalize the curriculum; of those, 82% coordinate activities that develop students' international perspectives; 53% integrate international students' perspectives into classroom learning; and 44% provide professional development for faculty to help them integrate international/inter-cultural dimensions into their teaching.

83%

say funding a barrier to international research collaboration

● Universities report the most important barrier to international research collaboration to be a lack of funding opportunities, and challenges related to different funding application cycles in these countries.

Despite this, Canadian universities collaborated and co-published with thousands of institutions in more than 180 countries around the world.