



# QUICK FACTS

The 1.7 million students heading to Canadian university campuses this fall will benefit from innovations in teaching and learning as well as entrepreneurship, research and cross-border opportunities – all designed to equip them to adapt to, and succeed in, our rapidly changing global knowledge economy. Universities nurture the curiosity, resourcefulness and resilience that build a mindset for lifelong learning.



## Preparing for a disrupted labour market

### 50% skills shift

Half of Canadian jobs will require a major skills shift in the next 10 years as technological advancements change the way we work.<sup>1</sup>

### Meeting high expectations

Major employers agree that Canadian university graduates are adaptable and equipped with the strong foundational, technical, numeracy and literacy skills needed to respond to this skills shift.<sup>2</sup>

### Armed against automation

While many jobs are at risk of automation in the coming decades, several studies agree that university graduates will be best able to adapt to an automated future.<sup>3</sup>



# SHIFT

## The new lifelong learning reality

### Adapting to a rapidly changing economy

To “future proof” themselves against disruption, Canadians will need to build skills throughout their working lives.<sup>4</sup> Nearly 9 of 10 employed Canadians agree that lifelong learning is crucial for career success, and essential to meeting society’s and individuals’ needs.<sup>5</sup>

### 400,000 in continuing education

Currently 400,000 Canadians are enrolled in university continuing education programs across the country.<sup>6</sup>



# SKILLS

## Today’s learning is hands-on

### The practical advantage

56% of today’s undergraduates benefit from experiential learning as part of their university education – putting knowledge into action and making the connections that build career paths.<sup>7</sup>

### The 100% goal

The Business Higher Education Roundtable has called for access to work-integrated learning for 100% of Canadian postsecondary students. Canada’s universities are working with partners in industry, community and government to ensure *all* students have access to meaningful experiential opportunities.

<sup>1</sup>RBC, *Humans Wanted – How Canadian youth can thrive in the age of disruption*, April 2018

<sup>2</sup>Business Council of Canada, *Navigating change: 2018 Business Council Skills Survey*, spring 2018

<sup>3</sup>The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, *Skills for an automated future*, March 2018

<sup>4</sup>Advisory Council on Economic Growth, *Building a highly skilled and resilient Canadian workforce through the FutureSkills lab*, February 2017

<sup>5</sup>Ipsos poll on behalf of Royal Roads University, October 2016

<sup>6</sup>Universities Canada estimates, 2017

<sup>7</sup>Canadian University Survey Consortium, *Graduating University Student Survey*, 2018



## Going global

### A social equalizer

Global study leads to better academic success, as well as higher employment rates and salaries. This is especially true for students from less-advantaged backgrounds such as Indigenous students, first generation university students and people with disabilities.<sup>8</sup>

### Only 11% go abroad

Despite the clear benefits of global study to building future skills, only 11% of Canadian students take advantage of international experiences over the course of their degree.<sup>9</sup>

### Opportunities in emerging markets

Students who do go abroad are still overwhelmingly traveling to traditional English- or French-speaking destinations. Canada needs more students pursuing international study in emerging markets that are priorities for economic and diplomatic ties, such as Asia, Latin America and Africa<sup>10</sup>.



## Helping Indigenous youth achieve their potential

### Focused programming

Since 2013, the number of university academic programs that include an Indigenous focus or are designed for Indigenous students has grown by 55%.<sup>11</sup>

### Dedicated support

Social, emotional, mental, cultural and physical supports are vital to all students' success. Three quarters of universities offer on-campus activities specifically designed for Indigenous students, and 78% actively promote intercultural engagement through cultural activities, events, talking circles and cultural competency or reconciliation training.<sup>12</sup>

### Reviving language

Working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, more than half of Canada's universities now offer Indigenous language courses, and a growing number of non-language courses are offered in an Indigenous language.<sup>13</sup>



# GROWTH

## Preparing business leaders

### Nurturing the entrepreneurial spark

Entrepreneurship drives Canada's economy and most Canadian entrepreneurs (58%) are university students or graduates.<sup>14</sup>

### 60 university entrepreneurial hubs

Canadian universities are home to more than 60 business incubators, accelerators and start-up programs that help fuel Canada's entrepreneurial economic growth.<sup>15</sup>

### Targeted programs

40% of student/graduate entrepreneurs have taken a university entrepreneurship program or course.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Study Group on Global Education, *Global Education for Canadians: Equipping Young Canadians to Succeed at Home & Abroad*, November 2017

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> Universities Canada survey, 2017

<sup>12</sup> Ibid

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> Universities Canada and Startup Canada, Joint survey, 2017

<sup>15</sup> Ibid

<sup>16</sup> Ibid