

The AMSSA Info Sheet series has been created to inform and support our members and community partners. The Info Sheets cover a wide range of topics and highlight important facts and trends from across Canada and BC. Our goal is to assist organizations in navigating the rapidly changing landscape of the BC settlement sector.*

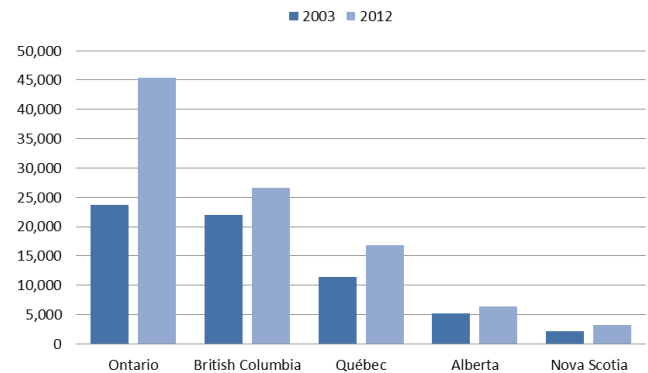
International Students: Statistics and Trends

Canada admits a growing number of international students each year. Within the Western Region, most of them settle in British Columbia. This Info Sheet looks at statistics and trends on international students for both Canada and BC and outlines proposed changes to the international student program. In addition it explores the challenges many international students face in Canada.

Major growth in International Students between 2003 and 2012

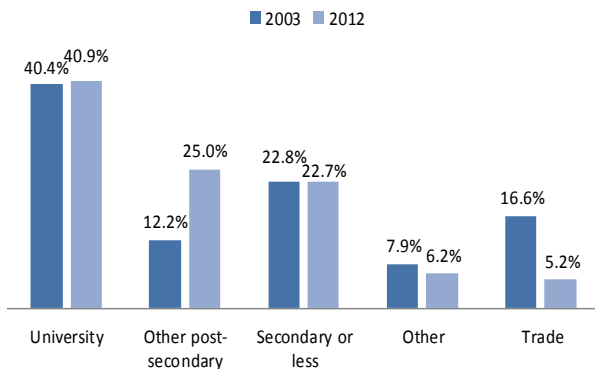
- ⇒ The number of international students *entering* Canada in the last 10 years has increased by 51% from 69,215 student arrivals in 2003 to **104,777 student arrivals in 2012**.¹
- ⇒ Between 2003 and 2012, the number of students *present* in Canada grew by 66% from 159,425 to 265,404. This suggests **students are staying in Canada for longer periods of time**.²
- ⇒ **BC has the highest number of international student entries within the CIC Western Region and the second highest number across all of Canada** with 26,647 international students coming to BC in 2012.³
- ⇒ Ontario welcomed the largest number of international students with 45,401 entries in 2012. Quebec is in third place with 16,770 entries, followed by Alberta (6,344) and Nova Scotia (3,169) (see Figure 1).⁴
- ⇒ Ontario's program has grown significantly faster than other provinces. **Between 2003 and 2012, the number of student entries grew by 92% in Ontario**, 47% in Nova Scotia, 47% in Quebec, 22% in Alberta and **21% in BC** (see Fig. 1).⁷
- ⇒ The top five **source countries** of international students for Canada in 2012 were China (22%), India (12%), South Korea (8%), France (5%) and the United States (5%).⁸ Top countries for BC in 2012 were China (28%), South Korea (13%), Japan (8%), India (7%), and Mexico (5%).⁹
- ⇒ It is estimated that international students spent over **\$8 billion in Canada in 2010**, which translates into \$4.9 billion worth of contribution to the GDP, 86,570 jobs, and \$455 million government tax revenue.¹⁰

Figure 1– Top 5 Provinces: International Student Entries, 2003 & 2012



Graph created by AMSSA. Data Source: BC Stats⁵ & CIC.⁶

Figure 2– Levels of Study of International Students, 2003 and 2012



Graph Created by AMSSA. Data Source: CIC.¹⁴

Level of Study—Increasingly Attending Private Universities

- ⇒ 41% of international students were enrolled in university in 2012, a number which has remained constant over the last 10 years (see Figure 2).¹¹
- ⇒ The proportion of international students attending **'Other Post-Secondary' institutions** (eg. Language Schools and Private Colleges) **has doubled from 12% to 25%** between 2003 and 2012. In the same time the proportion of international students attending trade school has dropped from 17% to 5% (see Figure 2).¹²
- ⇒ 23% of international students attended secondary school or lower in 2012. (see Figure 2).¹³

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* Disclaimer: The following summaries have been compiled by AMSSA. They have not been sanctioned by the Immigration Policy and Program Branch (IPPB), Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) or agency representatives, so the information should be confirmed as appropriate.

Work Permits

- ⇒ The number of international students present in Canada with **work permits increased from 7,435 in 2003 to 70,200 in 2012**. In addition, the proportion of international students who hold a work permit is increasing dramatically- only 5% of students held a permit in 2003, compared to 26% in 2012.¹⁵
- ⇒ In 2006, the government created the **Off Campus Work Permit**, which allowed international students to apply for a permit to work off campus for up to 20 hours per week. Since 2006, the number of students holding a work permit has tripled.¹⁶ Starting January 1, 2014, CIC will integrate the Off Campus Work Permit with the Study Permit, eliminating the need to apply for both separately.¹⁷
- ⇒ Graduates may apply for a **Post Graduate Work Permit** upon completion of a post-secondary degree program which took at least 8 months to complete; graduates whose programs lasted two years or more may qualify for an open work permit for a max. of 3 years.¹⁸ This allows graduates to gain the Canadian work experience needed to transition to permanent residence.

Pathways to Permanence

- ⇒ In 2012, **7,797 international students from across Canada transitioned to permanent residency (PR)**. In that same year, over 265,000 international students were present.¹⁹
- ⇒ Most international students still transition to PR through the **Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP)** but other options such as the **Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)** and the **Canadian Experience Class (CEC - launched in 2008)** are gaining increasing popularity. In 2012, 3,067 students transitioned through the FSWP, 1,573 students through the PNP and 747 through the CEC (see Figure 3).²⁰

Figure 3– International Student Transitions to Permanent Residency by Category

Method of Transition	2003	2006	2009	2012
Family Class	1,400	1,892	1,755	1,359
Skilled Worker	3,380	6,118	4,796	3,067
Canadian Experience Class	-	-	284	747
Provincial Nominee	207	1,002	1,613	1,573

Table created by AMSSA. Data Source: CIC.²¹

Vulnerabilities and Service Needs

- ⇒ International students are often in **cross-cultural transition**, and their challenges vary widely depending on their age, country of origin and familiarity with Canadian culture.²²
- ⇒ **Barriers for high-school aged international students** can include the absence of visible minority teachers, lower expectations held by teachers and counselors, Euro-centric curricula, value conflicts, and language issues.²³
- ⇒ **Common adjustment issues of international university students** can include educational concerns, language difficulties, financial problems, social isolation and interpersonal challenges, homesickness, worries about extended family and differences in social customs.²⁴
- ⇒ Given the temporary status of most international students, they often report **concerns over the return to their home country**. These can include transferability of educational and technical expertise, loss of language proficiency, career mobility, and "fitting back" into prior family, educational, or employment roles.²⁵
- ⇒ As temporary residents, **international students do not qualify for federally funded settlement services**.²⁶

Designated Educational Institutions

- ⇒ In December 2012, CIC proposed regulatory changes to limit study permits to students attending institutions designated by provinces and territories. This will come in to effect on January 1, 2014 and it is hoped to uphold the reputation of Canadian universities and assure accountability within the international student program. Students will also need to show they are actively pursuing their studies.²⁷
- ⇒ Foreign nationals at non-designated institutions can still study on a visitor permit for up to 6 months but they would not be eligible for Work Permit programs designed for international students – e.g. Co-op/Internship Work Permit Program, Off-Campus Work Permit Program, Post-Graduation Work Permit Program.²⁸

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