

International Prospective Student Survey Global results

This was provided to the University of Windsor April 20, 2020

Maple Assist and Maple Leaf EduConnect partnered with Academica Group to administer the International Prospective Student Survey (IPSS). We have partnered to offer this as free service to help Canadian Higher Education institutions better understand the impact of COVID-19 on international student perspectives and intentions concerning studying in Canada. This survey is the first of its kind in Canada, focusing specifically on international students who are considering attending Canadian postsecondary institutions. Over a period of 12 days (April 3 to April 15, 2020), we had over 2,400 respondents, across 17 countries.

Participating institutions were provided with their individual data and this report highlights some of the main takeaways from the aggregate IPSS survey results. Further details and follow-up results to the survey will be shared shortly. This study will be conducted on an on-going basis over the next couple of months to measure international students' perceptions over time.

RESPONDENTS

Of the 2,415 prospective international students who completed the survey, 61% are from India, 10% are already in Canada, and the remaining 30% are from Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Ghana, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, China, United Arab Emirates, Philippines, and Nigeria. 91% are applicants who have applied to a Canadian college or university within the past six months, 84% of whom have already received admission to a Canadian university or college

33% are 17-19 years old and 60% are between the ages of 20-29 years

54% have already paid fees and 26% obtained a study permit

75% of applicants are supposed to start in Sept 2020

80% of those who have been offered admission are still in their home countries 90% are not considering any other study destination besides Canada. Those who are looking beyond Canada are interested to study in the UK (34%), US (30%) and Australia (24%)

REACTION TO COVID-19

67% will not reconsider their decision to study abroad, 15% are considering dropping their study abroad plans due to COVID-19, and the rest are unsure.

72% are concerned that the school year/semester will not start as originally planned, 9% are not concerned about the program start date.

27% may be looking for refund if the school year/semester does not start as originally planned

Over 70% will need to work while attending school in order to support themselves financially, and 63% are concerned about finding jobs in Canada

64% are worried about being able to get a study permit, while 58% are concerned about getting a work permit

74% are concerned about their health and wellbeing and 29% feel safer in their home countries

65% are concerned that their visa might be delayed for their chosen start date, and about 80% are worried about future air travel restrictions

60% have family members to support them when they arrive in Canada, while the remaining 40% are totally dependent on their respective institutions

47% of respondents indicated that their financial conditions have changed as at least one of their parents is now making less money

Only 17% of international students feel their parents are no longer supporting their decision to study abroad

ON OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY INSTITUTIONS

If in-person classes are not possible when they are supposed to start studying in Canada, 45% would prefer to stay registered and delay moving to Canada until the start of classes, whereas 43% would like to begin studying online and move to Canada when in-person classes start

21% agreed to take classes online if in-person studying was not possible but of those who agreed they had concerns about time zone difference, lack of classmate's interaction, about having never studied online and lack of reliable internet. Those who didn't want to take classes online cited reasons like lack of reliable internet, wanting to study abroad, prefer taking classes in person, and lack of interaction with classmates

Types of incentive that could convince them to take their courses online include guarantee of getting a work permit, good placements, and a restructuring/cut-back of the fee

Around 50% are satisfied with communication and support they have received from institutions

91% prefer receiving information by email from Canadian schools regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

There is information about the results of this survey at:

<https://forum.academica.ca/forum/an-education-at-a-global-distance-international-prospects-discuss-covid-19>