
CONTRACT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

Examining the Impact of Canada's International Education Strategy

September 18, 2017

Background

Internationalization is a priority for Toronto's educational institutions and for the Federal Government. To quote from Global Affairs Canada:

"International education is critical to Canada's success. In a highly competitive, knowledge-based global economy, ideas and innovation go hand in hand with job creation and economic growth. In short, international education is at the very heart of our current and future prosperity.

International collaboration in higher education contributes to success on many levels—both domestically and globally. Inviting international students and researchers into Canada's classrooms and laboratories helps create new jobs and opportunities for Canadians while addressing looming skills and labour shortages. Perhaps most importantly, international education fuels the people-to-people ties crucial to long-term success in an increasingly interconnected global economy."¹

Educational institutions' efforts to attract more international students coupled with policies that have eased access to work permits and facilitated immigration pathways for this group have resulted in increasing numbers of international students studying in Canada in general, and in Toronto in particular. CBC recently reported that "the number of foreign students attending university in Ontario increased 88.5 per cent over six years, starting in 2010.... During the same period, enrolment of domestic students grew just seven per cent. Total revenue from international students' tuition fees more than doubled in a four-year stretch, shooting upward from \$620 million in 2011-12, to \$1.28 billion in 2015-16, the most recent year for which statistics are available." CBC also cited federal government research that "estimates the economic impact of international students in Canada at about \$11 billion annually, with about \$5.4 billion of that spent in Ontario."²

¹ "Economic Impact of International Education in Canada – 2016 Update," Global Affairs Canada (<http://www.international.gc.ca/education/report-rapport/impact-2016/sec-2.aspx?lang=eng>).

² "Universities growing more reliant on foreign student fees," by Mike Crawley, CBC News Toronto, July 12, 2017 (<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/international-students-universities-ontario-tuition-1.4199489>).

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to document the impact international students are having on Toronto's economy, society and post-secondary education infrastructure. The project is to focus on post-secondary institutions and students. While international students also are being sought by pre-secondary private schools and institutions, including this sector in the analysis would require a greater budget than is available.

Scope of Work

The researcher will:

1. Investigate and analyse information and data to summarize trends and the impact that international students at the post-secondary level are having on Toronto's economy, society and education infrastructure. It is expected that the analysis will:
 - a) Identify five-year trends in international student enrolment and tuition as compared to domestic students in absolute numbers and percentages of the total. Breakdowns for key programs are to be provided as well as totals.
 - b) Estimate direct economic contributions made by international students and domestic students in terms of accommodation and living expenses and tuition paid.
 - c) Analyse and comment on any impact on domestic students' access to post-secondary programs.
 - d) Analyse and comment on any impact on capacity building and investment in Toronto's post-secondary education infrastructure.
 - e) Document any evidence of international students' rate of transition to permanent residents and on their success in finding employment, forming new businesses, and creating Canadian intellectual property and patents.
 - f) Document any evidence of international students' impact on international relations or success in building international partnerships.
 - g) Provide a bibliography of sources and research studies already completed on these topics that were identified through the research process.
2. Conduct and document interviews and/or focus groups with key informants such as members of Toronto's Higher Education Alliance, the Ontario Research Innovation Centres (RICs), international students who have graduated and settled in Toronto, relevant post-secondary institution staff, employers, businesses, and industry to inform analyse and comments on the seven topics listed above.
3. Document data gaps that limit analysis of the six topics listed above.

Deliverables

The researcher will be responsible for the following deliverables:

- Interim written research report summarizing findings to date and presented to the ICE Committee by mid-March 2018;
- Final written research report incorporating feedback from the ICE Committee and presented to the ICE Committee by mid-May 2018. It is expected that the final written research report will be of sufficient quality (form and content) for publication on the ICE website and wide distribution through our network;
- Participation in a report launch event later in 2018 (beyond the completion of the report).

Budget

The maximum budget for this contract research project is **\$15,000** inclusive of HST (if applicable).

Timeline

The anticipated project timeline start date is November 1, 2017, with an interim report due in mid-March 2018 and a final report due mid-May 2018. The successful applicant(s) should be available for the launch of the report and any associated events beyond completion of the report.

Application Process

To apply, email a two- to three-page submission to info@icecommittee.org with the subject line "ICE Contract – International Students".

Your submission should:

- Outline how you propose to carry out the work related to this project.
- Demonstrate the requisite experience and capacity to carry out the project in the allotted timeframe, including your ability to do the required research.
- In addition to the two- to three-page submission, include a short resume or CV.

Application deadline: 5:00 p.m. October 6, 2017

We will accept joint applications from groups of individuals or organizations. We encourage applications from current graduate students and graduates with relevant degrees. Credentials and professional experience earned either in Canada or internationally will be recognized.

Selection schedule (subject to change):

- All applicants will be notified of receipt of their submission when received.
- Applications selected for an interview will be contacted by October 16, 2017.
- Interviews will take place the week of October 23, 2017.
- The project contract will be awarded by October 30, 2017.
- The project start date is November 1, 2017.

About the ICE Committee

The Intergovernmental Committee for Economic and Labour Force Development in Toronto (the ICE Committee) was established in 1997 by officials in the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario, and the City of Toronto. The purpose of the committee is to coordinate the economic and labour force development activities of the three governments (and the various departments and ministries within each government) in Toronto. The ultimate goal of the ICE Committee is to achieve the effective delivery of economic and labour force development programs in Toronto. ICE has played a key role in bringing together critical players to share information on their respective programs and projects. For more information about ICE, please visit www.icecommittee.org.