

**Canadian Alliance
of Student
Associations**



Access & Opportunity



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CASA-ACAE.COM



The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) is an alliance of 26 student associations from coast-to-coast. CASA represents over 320,000 college and university students at the national level. CASA's members believe that Canada's post-secondary education system should be affordable, accessible, and of the highest quality. We believe that the federal government has an important role to play in higher learning and research. CASA is committed to working with decision makers at the federal and inter-provincial levels to promote the innovative policy solutions developed by our members.

Members

Acadia Students' Union

Alma Mater Society of the University of British

Columbia

Brock University Students' Union

Dalhousie Student Union

University of the Fraser Valley Students Union
Society

University of Prince Edward Island Student Union

Red River College Student Association

Saint Mary's University Student Association

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology Student
Association

St. Francis Xavier University Students' Union

St. Thomas University Students' Union

McMaster Student Union

Student Association of Mount Royal University

UNB Fredericton Students' Union

UNB Saint John Students' Representative Council

University of Alberta Students' Union

University of Calgary Students' Union

University of Lethbridge Students' Union

La Fédération des étudiants et étudiantes du
Centre universitaire de Moncton

University of Waterloo Federation of Students

University of Western Ontario Student Council

Wilfred Laurier University Students Union

Graduate Student Association - University of
Waterloo

Mount Allison Students' Administrative Council

Athabasca University Graduate Student

Association

Kwantlen Student Association

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CASA Recommends

the federal government implement the following balanced, affordable solutions to make college and university education better for students and Canada:

Prioritizing Access

- Amend the Canada Student Loans Program's (CSLP) assessment of borrower assets to exempt ownership of one vehicle per-student, which will promote participation for rural and suburban students.
- Give graduate students access to needs based grants within the Canada Student Grants Program, to make Canada more competitive with other international jurisdictions.
- Further amend the assessment of borrower assets to eliminate the expected parental income contribution through an annual 25% reduction of expected contributions over the next four fiscal years to ease the burden on Canadian families and acknowledge diverse family backgrounds.

Access for Aboriginal Canadians

- Lift the 2% funding cap on the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP), allocate funding to support the backlog of students, and provide additional funds to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for program administration to help thousands more Aboriginal peoples succeed in post-secondary education.

Copyright that Supports Innovation

- Create a free market for academic materials by ending the private tax on books paid by students and other consumers, saving \$30 million each year for students at no cost to the government.
- Amend Canada's Copyright Act to allow for the practical use of digital materials shared between libraries, reflecting the modern needs of students and researchers.
- Allow for the circumvention of Technological Protection Measures for non-infringing purposes in Canada's Copyright Act to encourage innovation and quality in educational institutions.
- Eliminate the 30-day destruction clause on classroom lessons in Bill C-11 to make it more efficient for institutions to offer high-quality instruction, encouraging lifelong learning and discovery.

Building Global Connections

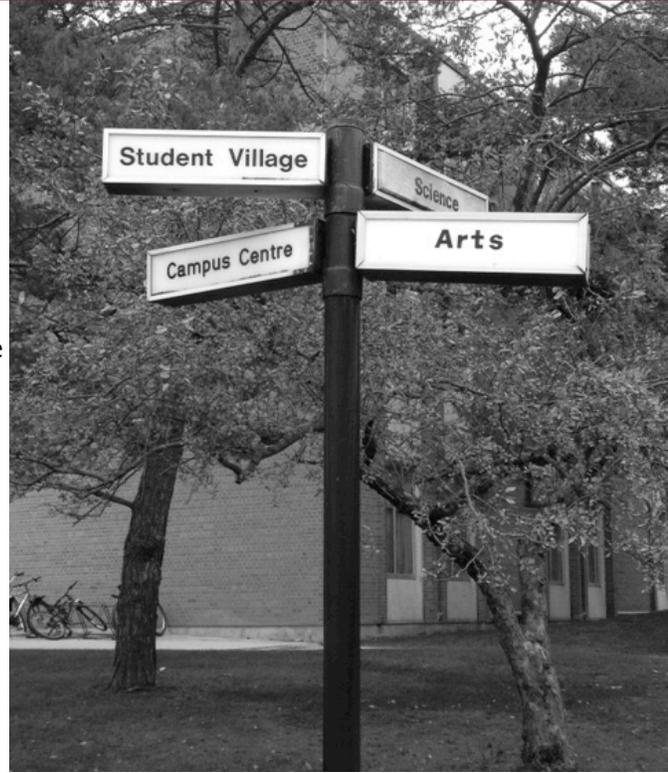
- Make Canada a welcoming destination for international students by eliminating the \$150 fee international students must pay to work off campus.
- Examine the feasibility of providing multiple-entry visas to all international students studying in Canada

International Students: Building our Global Connections

Canada's future as a world leader depends on its ability to create new international partnerships and foster those already established. Universities and colleges have led this outreach for years.

The number of international students in Canadian universities has more than doubled since 1992, from 36,822 students to 87,798 in 2008.²¹ This is despite strong competition from the United States, Australia, and the U.K.

We cannot afford to fall behind in supporting international students. Remaining a top choice for international learners will help Canada grow economically and socially in a sustainable way. The proposals below will help to attract more international students and help those already studying here.



- **International students contributed over \$6.5 billion to the Canadian economy in 2008, creating 83,000 jobs and more than \$291 million in government revenue.²²**
- **In total, 3.7 million students globally studied abroad in 2009, a 75% increase from 2000.²³**
- **Canada has the highest stay rate of OECD nations at 33%. More than 80% of those who stay in Canada post-study do so for work.²⁴**
- **At the undergraduate level international student tuition increased 4.3% to \$17,571 in 2011/2012. It is more than triple that of domestic students.²⁵**
- **International students come from more than 200 countries, and compose 8% of undergraduate student bodies and 20% of doctoral students.²⁶**
- **International students must pay a \$150 fee to apply for a job off campus**
- **Many students from certain countries must reapply for an entry visa every time they cross the border.**

CASA Recommends the Federal Government:

- **Make Canada a welcoming destination for international students by eliminating the \$150 fee international students must pay to work off campus.**
- **Examine the feasibility of providing multiple-entry visas to all international students studying in Canada**

Lagging Behind in Recruiting and Retaining International Students

The recent return of economic uncertainty has called the strength of Canada's own recovery into question. The success of Canada's recovery will be tied to major shifts taking place in the interconnected global market. The government has anticipated this by reaching out to new international partners such as Brazil, Russia, India and China.

Canada's schools have long been leaders of this outreach. The number of international students attending Canadian universities has doubled since 1992.²⁷ In 2008, 4% of students studying in Canada were from emerging economies in Asia.²⁸ Exposure to different cultural perspectives enhances the quality of learning in the classrooms of Canada's colleges and universities.

Universities and colleges are magnets for talent from around the world. Not only does the enrolment of international students enhance the quality of learning, but it also produces positive economic effects. In 2008, international students contributed \$6.5 billion to the Canadian economy. International students also contribute to the operating budgets of the publicly funded schools they attend.

Increasing the number of international students in Canada has the potential to support economic recovery and ensure Canada's role as a global leader is maintained for years to come. Unfortunately, the challenges currently faced by international students go beyond the difficulties associated with going to school in Canada for domestic students.

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international students in 2008

Improving International Student Access

Examining the feasibility of multiple-entry visas for all international students studying in Canada

International students studying in Canada are subject to visa regulations depending on their country of origin. Students with multiple-entry visas do not face the same restrictions and have the peace of mind to travel home during their studies. These students can take the same advantage of study abroad programs and international conferences as their domestic counterparts. Those with single-entry visas must re-apply every time they return to Canada and do not have the assurance that temporary leave from Canada will not keep them from their studies.

By isolating students in a foreign culture they may develop negative feelings toward their host country. Canada should strive for positive attachments to make the best global ambassadors for Canada. Canadian policies should reflect the hospitality we are known for.



Photo 2

Paying to Work: Difficult Realities for International Students

Make Canada an attractive destination for international students by eliminating the \$150 fee international students must pay to work off campus.

International students studying at the undergraduate level in Canada will pay an average of \$17,571 in tuition.²⁹ Their domestic peers will pay \$5,366 on average this year. For international graduate students the 2011/2012 cost is \$12,802 as compared to \$5,599 for their domestic counterparts.³⁰

When domestic students face high need they are eligible for financial assistance or can look for a job. International students cannot access our financial aid system. Looking for work is often the only solution for those who need to balance their budgets.

In 2006 the federal government made the international Off-Campus Work Permit Program national. This program allows full-time international students to work off campus up to 20 hours per week while studying and up to 40 hours per week during study breaks. The program has been good for some international students, but it could be vastly improved. When looking for work in Canada international students are held down by unnecessary regulation.

International undergraduate students pay

3x

as much tuition as domestic students; and have to

Pay to Work



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