

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONNECT PILOT PROJECT



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONNECT

International Student Connect is a bilingual pilot project managed by COSTI Immigrant Services.

The core purpose of the project is to identify and develop an appropriate service response to the settlement needs of international students pursuing post-secondary education in Ontario.

The project is funded by the Ministry of Immigration and International Trade.



Canada's Performance and Potential in International Education 2015

Where do inbound students come from?

336,000

international students
in Canada at all levels
of study in 2014

83%

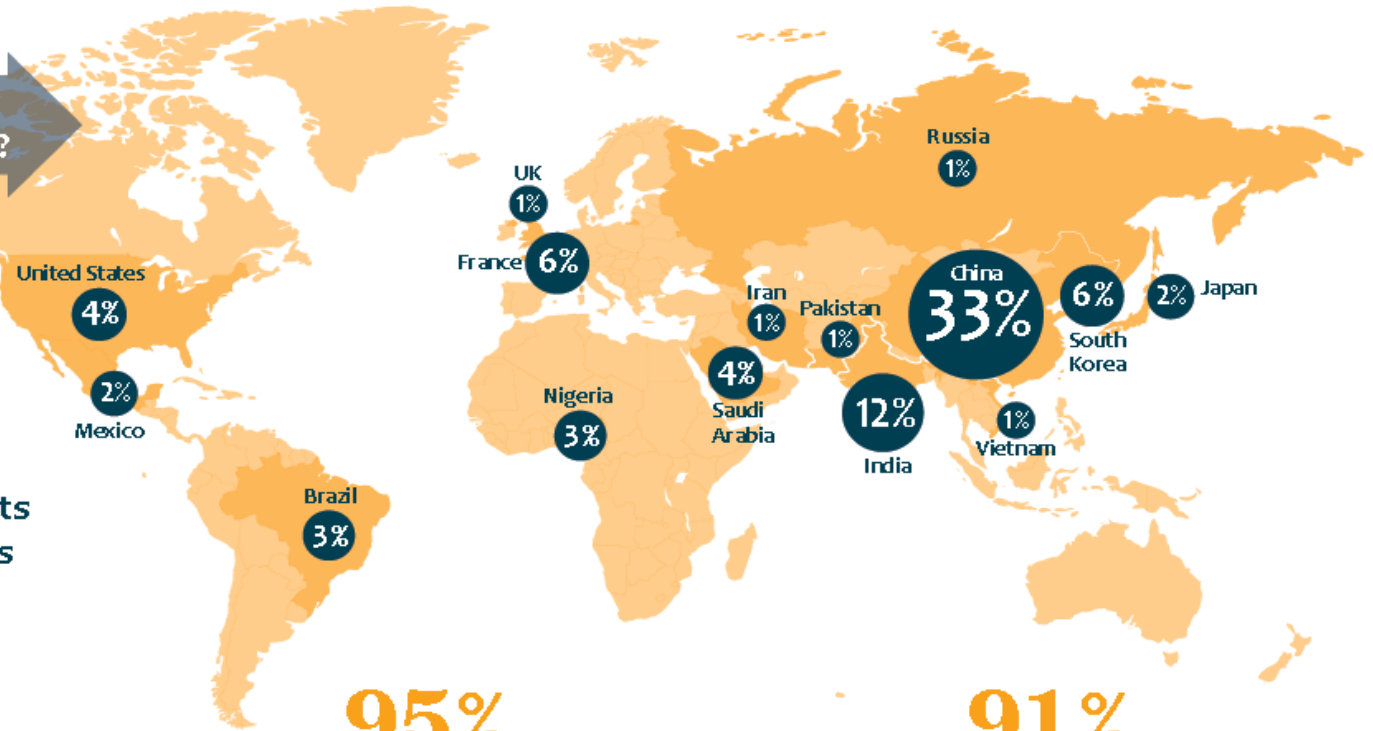
Increase in international
student population in Canada
from 2008 to 2014

95%

of international students
recommend Canada as
a study destination

91%

of international students
are satisfied with their
experience in Canada



NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

Assessed settlement needs of both Anglophone and Francophone international students from the perspective of the following groups:

- Accompanying family members
- The International Student Offices (ISO)
- Settlement sector and other stakeholders



NEEDS ASSESSMENTS - KEY FINDINGS

- International Student Offices (ISOs) have, to varying degrees, developed significant resources to support IS, with a primary focus on academic and campus life.
- Due to IS ineligibility for settlement services ISOs and IS are generally unaware of community programs and services.
- Institutions and settlement service providers are keen to collaborate on supporting the transition and settlement of IS.



NEEDS ASSESSMENTS – GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Pre-arrival welcome packages
- Orientation and welcoming activities
- Multi-stage support – Immigration, Employment

Francophone Students

- In person and face to face interactions
- Preference for printed information Vs. Online
- Expert staff to provide answers to their questions



COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

University of Ottawa
University of Toronto
University of Windsor
York University
Lakehead University
Wilfrid Laurier University

Centennial College
Humber College
St. Clair College
Seneca College
George Brown College
Confederation College
Mohawk College
Georgian College



SETTLEMENT AGENCIES

- Culture Link
- YMCA Simcoe/Muskoka
- North York Community House
- Catholic Centre for Immigrants
- Catholic Cross-cultural Services
- Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office
- Thunder Bay Multicultural Association
- New Canadians' Centre of Excellence Inc.
- YMCA of Hamilton / Burlington / Brantford
- Centre for Immigrant and Community Services
- Conseil économique et Social d'Ottawa - Carleton



NUMBER OF LET's CONNECT SESSIONS

Over 800 students served

Top Topics:

- Immigration
- Housing
- Budgeting & Finance
- Community Participation



ONE ON ONE SETTLEMENT SUPPORT

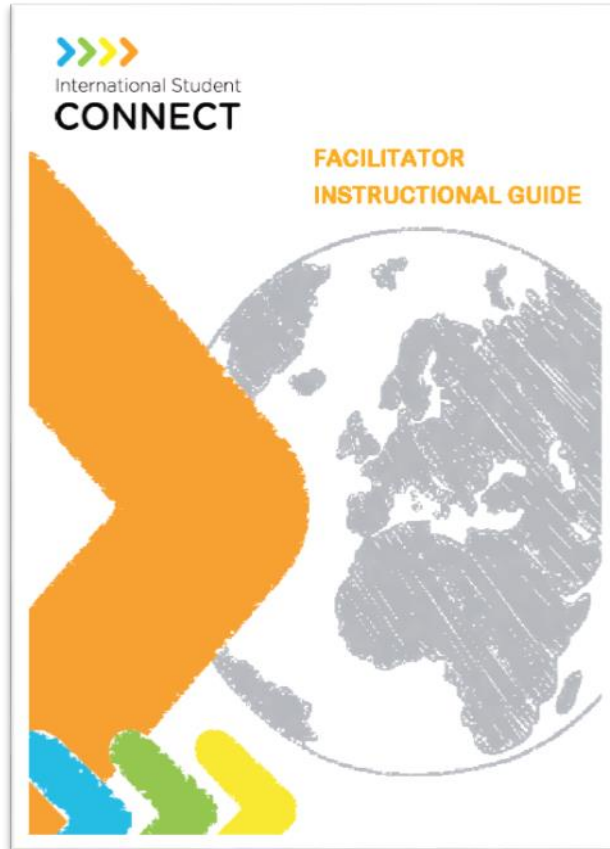
Over 270 students have accessed one on one settlement support offered by Counsellors from Settlement Agencies.

Top Topics:

- Provincial Nominee Program
- Sponsorship
- Employment



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONNECT RESOURCES



Evaluation

- A third party external evaluation
- Report due on March 31, 2016
- Webinars in April – May 2016 to share findings



THANK YOU
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