

Economic and Social Impact of International K-12 Students on Alberta

The Benefits of Hosting International Students

Each year, Alberta welcomes international students for their K-12 studies. In an increasingly interconnected world, international education helps students to build a global outlook and acquire international and intercultural knowledge, skills and awareness.

International students provide economic and social benefits for Alberta as a whole, as well as specific benefits for the communities that host these youth. From a social perspective, the presence of international students can help increase acceptance of other cultures and ethnicities among Canadian students.

This fact sheet summarizes a social and economic impact study conducted for Alberta Education in Fall 2016. It looks at direct economic impact, future impact from students' plans, including repeat visits and post-secondary studies, the added impact of international students Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR) and social impact.

Alberta hosted 2,444 international fee-paying K-12 students in the 2015/16 academic year.

The primary countries international fee-paying K-12 students in Alberta came from are:

- China (948 students)
- South Korea (161 students)
- Vietnam (157 students)
- Brazil (122 students)
- Japan (118 students)



International Fee-paying Students in Public and Separate Schools

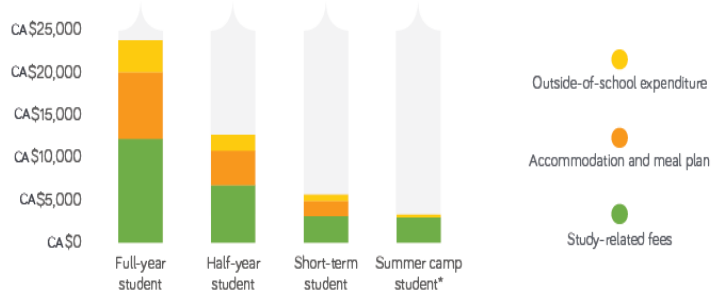
Student Expenditures

The average economic contribution to Alberta per year is:

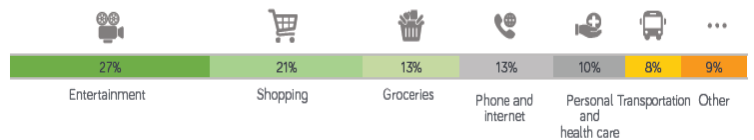
- \$23,731 per full year student,
- \$12,638 per half-year student and
- \$5,595 per short-term student.

Expenditures include study-related fees, accommodation and meal plan, and outside-of-school spending. Tuition is the main component of study-related fees (91%) in full year programs. Annual expenditure within Alberta by all international fee-paying K-12 students and their visiting friends and relatives amounts to \$52.5 million. The expenditures of international fee-paying students and their VFRs generate an output of \$66.4 million, with this annual economic activity supporting 670 jobs.

AVERAGE EXPENDITURE BY AN INTERNATIONAL FEE-PAYING K-12 STUDENT



COMPOSITION OF STUDENTS' MONTHLY OUTSIDE-OF-SCHOOL EXPENDITURE

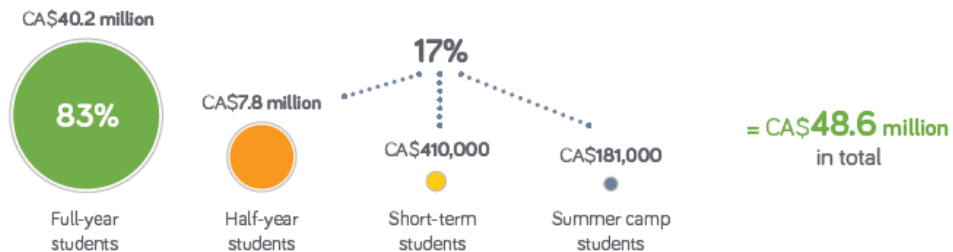


INTERNATIONAL FEE-PAYING K-12 STUDENT EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAM TYPE

	Full-year student		Half-year student		Short-term student		Summer camp student	
Study-related fees	\$12,154	51%	\$6,730	53%	\$3,106	56%	\$2,967	92%
Accommodation and meal plan	\$7,847	33%	\$4,032	32%	\$1,744	31%	-	-
Outside-of-school expenditure	\$3,730	16%	\$1,865	15%	\$746	13%	\$261	8%
Total expenditure per student	\$23,731		\$12,628		\$5,595		\$3,228	
Number of fee-paying students	1,694		621		73		56	
Total annual expenditure of fee-paying students	\$48,624,431							

Due to rounding, numbers presented in this chart do not add up precisely to the totals.

TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENDITURE OF INTERNATIONAL FEE-PAYING K-12 STUDENTS



International Fee-paying Students in Public and Separate Schools

TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENDITURE OF VISITING FRIENDS AND RELATIVES (VFR)



Job Creation

The spending activity of all international fee-paying K-12 students and their VFRs is projected to support approximately 670 jobs, in the following sectors:

- 276 in the education sector
- 336 in related sectors (including accommodation and food services, transportation services, and retail), and
- 58 supporting the economic activity of visitors, friends and relatives

ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL FEE-PAYING K-12 STUDENTS ON ALBERTA

	Expenditure	GDP at Basic Prices	Employment (jobs)	Output
Students	\$48,624,431	\$39,456,780	612	\$60,910,345
VFR of students	\$3,867,549	\$3,143,785	58	\$5,462,853
Total	\$52,491,980	\$42,600,565	670	\$66,373,198

International Fee-paying Students in Public and Separate Schools

Social Impact

Hosting international students provides a positive social impact for Alberta. The presence of international students in schools and local communities provides unique learning opportunities for both international and domestic students.

Overall, international students are positive about interacting with the community they are a part of. 71% of students felt welcomed when they first arrived. This percentage increased as the students adapted to their new environment. Out of all students surveyed, only 2% of students felt they were not welcomed in the community.

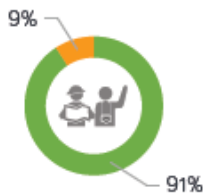
International students, through their positive interactions with their host communities, are creating stronger ties to Canada.

According to the study:

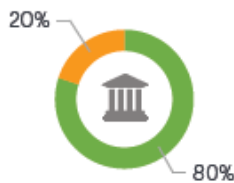
- 76% of students are keen on visiting their host location again in the future.
- 66% would like their friendships built here to last for a long time, and
- 65% would like to bring Canadian culture and customs back home with them.

STUDENTS' FUTURE PLANS

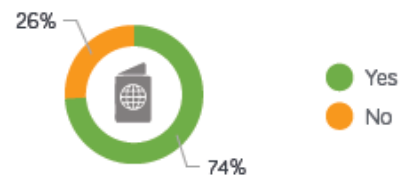
DESIRE TO VISIT CANADA AS A TOURIST IN THE FUTURE



DESIRE TO PROGRESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES IN CANADA



DESIRE TO LIVE IN CANADA AS A RESIDENT OR CITIZEN



Benefits for School Communities

Alberta school authority representatives reported that international K-12 students in their schools increased tolerance towards other cultures and ethnicities among local students (82%). They also reported that the presence of international students in their schools increased the local students' desire to travel more.

The majority of school authority representatives agreed that international students have a positive effect on the local community and the personal development of Canadian students.

Projected Ongoing Impact

Hosting international students will continue to provide positive benefits to Alberta, both economically and socially, with a projected sustained long term impact.

In the 2016 study of Alberta's international fee-paying students, 91% plan to visit Canada as future tourists, 80% expressed a desire to return to Canada for higher education, and 74% would like to settle in Canada as a resident or citizen.