

## International Students Attending Canada Post Secondary Schools

*John Engels*

The most reliable statistics for post-secondary international students are at Statistics Canada and the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE). It is important to distinguish all education grades versus post-secondary data. There is a much higher number for all international students at 542,472 (2018 [CBIE](#)) versus post-secondary students at 245,895 ([2016/2017 Statistics Canada](#)). Canada was listed in the top three most favorable destinations for all levels of international students according to CBIE in 2018. The CBIE also gives three main reasons students come to study in Canada. First is the quality of our educational system. Second is our reputation for being a tolerant culture. Third, Canada is known for being a safe nation.

International student population on post-secondary campuses is booming. [Canada Study News](#) said that the University of British Columbia had the highest percentage of international students in first-year classes in 2016 at 31%! In 2020 a student recruiter at Georgian College at Barrie Ontario told me that 40% of the campus population there are international students!

The huge influx of international students in Canada presents a wonderful opportunity for our campus ministries and churches to be centres of hospitality and friendship. International students are the “best of” best global academics. They come with high hopes of learning and finding meaningful relationships in our culture. Yet, they struggle with loneliness, English language challenges, exam anxiety, and other mental health issues. God has made it very convenient for us to fulfill His great commission by bringing the nations here. Our “go” connection is just a few minutes away at a local post-secondary institution.

### International Student Ministries Resources

1. Association of Christians Ministering to Internationals (ACMI) <https://www.acmi-ism.org/>

ACMI is a Network of partner International Student ministries. *Vision is to see a connected, effective, & healthy ISM community offering the love of Jesus to international students & scholars.* ACMI has eleven partner international students ministries in their network.

More ACMI Links:

- ACMI Resources: <http://acmi-resources.wixsite.com/acmi-ismresources>
- Canadian Bureau for International Education: <https://cbie.ca/infographic/>
- Free training Videos: <https://everyinternational.com/>
- 2020 ACMI Conference Dallas: <https://www.acmi-ism.org/acmi-conference-2020>

2. International Student Ministries Canada (ISM) <https://ismc.ca/> ISMC is on fifty plus post-secondary campuses and is an ACMI partner.

3. Home Away From Home: <http://home-away-from-home.ca>. (matching international students with host families).

4. Friends For Dinner: <https://friendsfordinner.ca>. Connecting international students and local families.

## **Where the PAOC Connects with International Students**

Around three dozen PAOC churches and campus ministries are engaging International Students on campuses across Canada. I am sure there are many more I am not aware of. For current locations see the [Serve Campus Network Locator](#).