

Canadian Bureau Bureau for canadien de International l'éducation Education internationale

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"You have led the horse to the water, why can't you make it drink?"

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CBIE "A World of Learning 2016"

In 2015 there were 353,570 international students in Canada at all levels of study. International Students come from 187 countries. This represents an 8% increase over the previous year, and a 92% increase between 2008 and 2015.



International students in Canada, top 10 countries of citizenship 2015 (2014)

| Citizenship | Percentage | 2015 | (2014) |
|------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|
| | | | |
| 1. China | 33.55% (32.96%) | 118,915 | 110,918 |
| 2. India | 13.74% (11.56%) | 48,705 | 38,891 |
| 3. France | 5.68% (5.66%) | 20,135 | 19,035 |
| 4. South Korea | 5.57% (5.75%) | 19,760 | 19,358 |
| 5. United States | 3.45% (3.70%) | 12,215 | 12,450 |
| 6. Saudi Arabia | 3.30% (4.06%) | 11,685 | 13,677 |
| 7. Nigeria | 2.82% (2.56%) | 9,990 | 8,620 |
| 8. Brazil | 2.07% (2.65%) | 7,325 | 8,920 |
| 9. Japan | 2.00% (2.06%) | 7,105 | 6,900 |
| 10. Mexico | 1.44% (1.53%) | 5,120 | 5,138 |



International Education: CBIE Principles #3

"International students should be valued and recognized for all of their contributions, including enriching institutional life and the educational experiences of all students; providing direct economic and social benefits to local communities beyond the institution; and creating opportunities for long-lasting professional partnerships and relationships that can be of national, international and global benefit."



Role of universities

- Dr. Stephen Toope listed intercultural skills development as a top five challenge for universities today, stating, "Universities have to, more seriously, teach varied cultures to coexist and work together." (Bailey, 2014)
- Integration of cultural difference into Canadian society "has become crucial to social cohesion" (Frideres, 2008, p. 97).



Feature study: International Student Friendships

In CBIE's 2014 international student survey, 56% of international students reported that they don't have Canadian students as friends. In addition, 36.6% indicated that it is difficult to get to know Canadian students.

How to be intentional about changing these statistics for the next CBIE international student survey?



Lack of interaction and engagement between international students and domestic students -Why?

- Lack of diversity "nature has the last call"
- Poor orientation participation
- Lack of innovative social/cultural programs
- Different perception of hospitality and friendship
- Lack of shared experiences and common interests
- "You can lead the horse to the water but can't make it drink."



Case Studies from two Institutions

- Global Kitchen Initiative
- MUN Mentors
- Culture-to-Community
- Community Service Learning project

Global Kitchen Laurier's international and Canadian students learn each other's culture through food

- **Culinary Basics:** Local nutritionists teach international students to shop, prepare and store food.
- The Foods I Eat: Local multicultural community and Laurier students to share their love of food, culture and stories.
- Make and Take: International and domestic students gather together to prepare meals for the week ahead.
- **Community Lunch:** University departments are invited to host a lunch at the kitchen.
- Food for Thought: In-depth speaker series on food related topics.
- Friday Night Kitchen Party: Kitchen concert and potluck dinner series with local artists.
- **Cultural Celebrations:** Cultural celebrations throughout the year highlighted with food.







Memorial: MUNMentors and C2C

- MUNMentors focuses on intercultural development of mentor.
- Each mentor receives extensive intercultural training – IDI and ongoing reflections and debriefs.

Culture-to-Community funded by IRCC. We partner with school boards and Dept of Ed







- The Culture-to-Community
 Educational Outreach
 Program links
 Memorial's
 international students
 to classrooms in
 smaller communities
 across Newfoundland
 and Labrador.
- Goal is to introduce youth from areas that are smaller and more isolated to elements of other cultures, languages, and religion.

INTERNATIONALIZATION FOR ALL



Community Service Learning – Beyond traditional "Buddy system"

- Students from Human Rights Human Diversity 261 Multiculturalism
- Students in Laurier English Academic Foundation (LEAF)
- Office of Laurier Community Service Learning
- Laurier International





Translate the exposure of other cultures into meaningful engagement and learning

- Match students in Human Rights & Human Diversity with LEAF students in an introduction session
- 20 hours of interactive activities in the community
- Learn phrases from another language
- Writing reflective journal of the experience
- Intercultural Competence Training
- Midterm reflection and final debriefing



Program Design Principles

- Universities set up special services to try to support diverse populations, but "do not facilitate the cultural deconstruction and redesign of daily practice to include cultural norms inclusive of all students" (Guido, et al., 2010, p. 11)
- Avoid designing "supports" which are "primarily about the insiders and how much or how little they will have to adjust their practices and share their privileges in order to "respond" to (by once again determining) outsiders "needs"." (Battiste, et al., 2002, p. 83).



Program (re)Design Principles – How to encourage the horse to drink

- Program design should position International students as learning resource rather than in deficit position
- Consider program goals as education for domestic students and not "do-gooder" individualistic acts of philanthropy (Tarc, 2011)
- Design should take into account current or future ability to be embedded in the curriculum as a part of academic requirement
- Interaction and engagement guided through intercultural competence training
- The experiences are debriefed and reflected to contribute to the academic (intercultural?) learning outcome



Questions for you

- What programs do you currently have that are designed according to principles? Do you have other principles to share?
- What are some that could use a redesign?
- What are the challenges?



References

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