McMaster University is pleased to host the 2021 Ontario Association for International Educators (OAIE) Annual Conference in conjunction with CBIE.

This year the conference will be virtual from June 7th to 11th, 2021 in a series of midday sessions scheduled between 12:00 - 2:30 pm. After a one-year absence, we are pleased to host a modified regional conference to share our experiences, lessons learned, and seek new ways of moving forward post-COVID challenges. CBIE and McMaster have decided to embrace the possibilities of a virtual conference as a means to connect, share ideas and experiences, and find encouragement among our peers across the globe. We look forward to having many interesting and engaging discussions.

We are launching the virtual conference and invite you and your team to submit your brief abstract through the on-line call for presentations portal by CBIE. Given the shared challenges we all have faced over the past year, we have entitled the conference: Opportunities for International Higher Education: Keeping the Future Human and have identified themes and possible topics to guide and frame the session proposals. We are certain that over the week there will be many areas of interest for both our new and seasoned colleagues.

Guidance while developing your presentation proposal:

A. To what extent will virtual or hybrid studies become a permanent part of international education? (possible topics: Is virtual in competition, complementary or secondary to in-person studies? What’s innovative and/or effective in virtual and hybrid international education? Will virtual mobility and exchanges become more widely embraced?)

B. How can we better contribute to the well-being of our students, both in the institutional sense, (possible topics: realizing the UN-SDGs, risk management, inclusion and equity issues specific to international education) and in the personal sense? (possible topics: student mental health, inclusion and equity issues specific to international education)
C. What are the current and future key opportunities or challenges for international education in Ontario going forward?
(possible topics: How do we articulate the core values of higher education and values-based approaches in a rapidly shifting educational landscape? To what extent could we make intercultural communication competency initiatives a part of our international education strategies? What do innovative and effective educational-private sector partnerships look like in the international education context? What are opportunities for applied research activities relevant to international students)

D. What will be new and what will remain relevant for in-person studies in international education?
(possible topics: What will the future student market look like? What will student expectations be? How will recruitment strategies change? How will we deal with contingency and quarantine strategies going forward?)

Session structure for the virtual conference:

The 2021 OAIE conference will allow conference attendees to join live presentations, panels and Q&A/discussion sessions throughout the week. Presenters will be able to deliver presentations live (or in some cases livestream pre-recorded content) as well as host live sessions for discussion and Q&A.

We encourage a variety of approaches to presenting content. I.e., not only “traditional” narrated PowerPoints with embedded presenter video, but also other video or audio formats in addition to solo, duo or group interactions (e.g., TEDtalk style, podcast, roundtables, etc.) The emphasis is not on production value as much as exploring ways to make our subject matter more intriguing, accessible and impactful for our audience. This could be as simple as sitting with your co-presenters at a table and turning on the camera during a thoughtful and compelling discussion of your subject matter! We welcome sessions which include the voices of international students sharing their lived experiences navigating the international education landscape.

Sessions should be 30-70 minutes in duration. Please be sure that your proposal identifies:

- presentation subject matter and how it addresses an identified theme or themes
- importance, relevance or uniqueness of your presentation
- content format details, including:
  - live presentation format (or pre-recorded content format for livestream) and expected length
  - expected length of live discussion/Q&A
- presenter name(s) and organization(s)

*EXTENDED* Presentation proposal submission deadline is 12:00pm (EST) April 21, 2021.

Please submit your proposals in .doc or .pdf format and any inquiries to oaie2021@mcmaster.ca.

Proposals should be no more than 2 pages in length.

Successful applicants will be notified by May 4, 2021. Presenters will be exempt from the registration fee.