



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

# Education Abroad Professional Learning Community

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## 2021 Annual Report



# PURPOSE

The Education Abroad Professional Learning Community (EA PLC) provides a forum for professionals in the fields of education abroad and global learning to share resources, ideas, successes, and challenges in a supportive environment. It also aims to identify and work to address the needs of those facilitating education abroad at our respective institutions.

## MANDATE



- Facilitate the role of education abroad professionals at educational institutions across Canada
- Create an informed and effective support network and forum of discussion amongst education abroad professionals
- Speak on behalf of the Canadian education abroad community and their institutions for the purpose of providing information to CBIE that supports its advocacy efforts

## OBJECTIVES

- Establish tools and resources that encourage the free exchange of ideas and information between professionals involved with education abroad (EA) programs at different institutions/organizations
- Encourage the sharing of resources and best practices within the EA PLC community
- Develop and/or promote education and training for education abroad professionals
- Support research activities in the field of education abroad
- Work cooperatively with agencies supporting student mobility
- Identify and work to address the needs of those facilitating EA at our respective institutions
- Initiate discussion on the development of support services for EA programs in Canada
- Collect and disseminate information that aids with advocacy for financial support for EA initiatives
- Support and promote the internationalization of Canadian campuses through EA programs
- Raise education abroad in Canada to a high profile issue within our institutions and organizations, including CBIE and its partners

# EA PLC CO-CHAIRS

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**Janine Knight-Grofe (she/her)**  
Manager, International Education  
Durham College



**Colleen Packer, MEd. (she/her)**  
Director, Global Learning  
University of Calgary

## SUB-GROUP LEADS

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### **Accessibility & Inclusion**

- Zhi Jones, University of Alberta
- Rebecca Trautwein, Humber Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning

### **Education Abroad Measures**

- Shabnam (Shay) Ivkovic, University of Waterloo

### **Intercultural Competence & Education Abroad**

- Karima Ramji, University of Victoria
- Heather Tobe, Douglas College

### **Pre-Departure, Re-Entry & Wraparound Support**

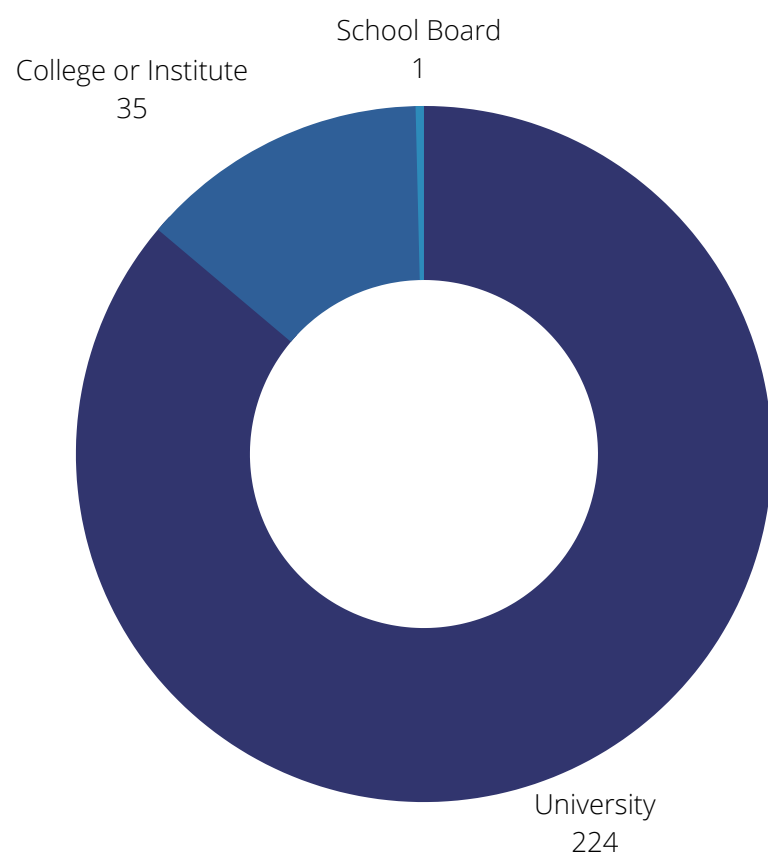
- Geneviève Boutin, Université d'Ottawa
- Mike Lafleur, University of Guelph

### **Virtual Education Abroad Programming**

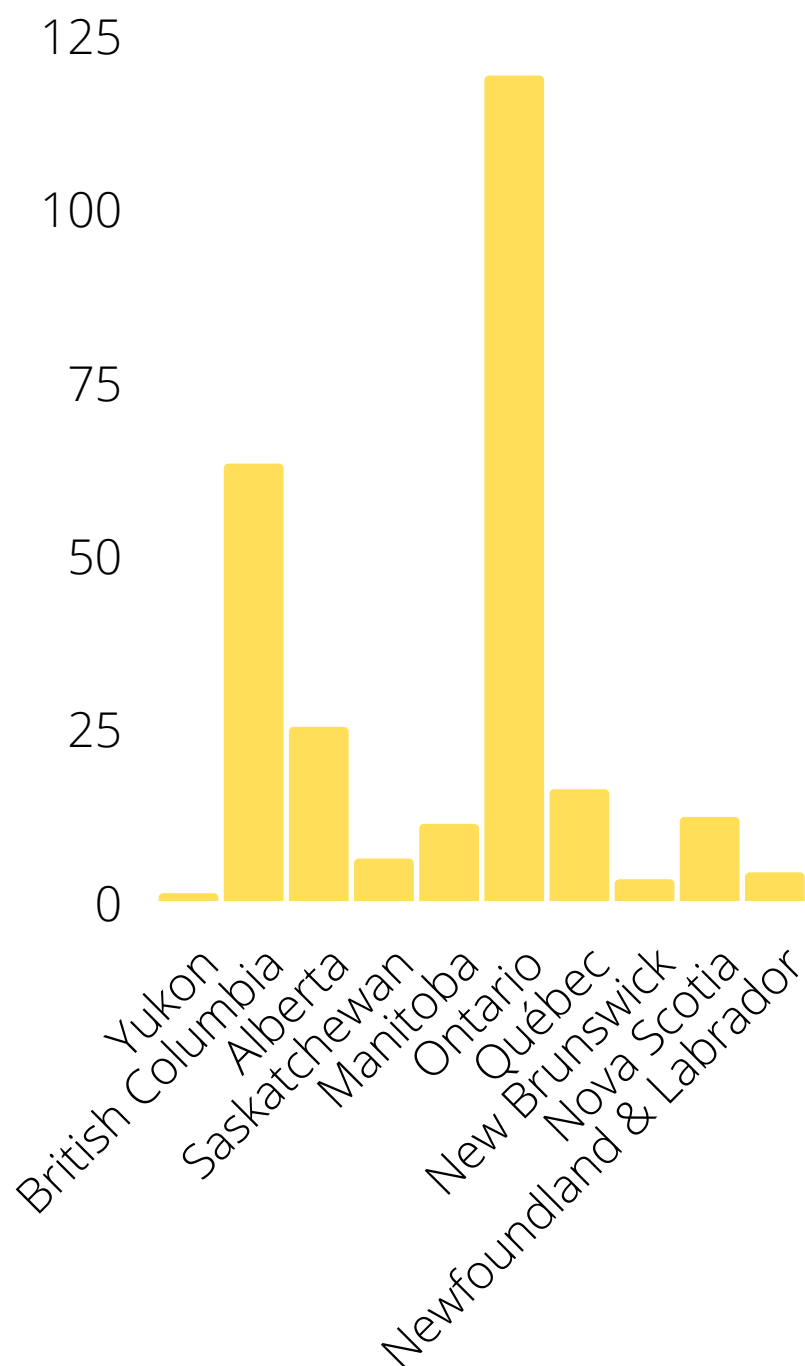
- Ada Lee, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Eunjung Riauka, Algoma University

# MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

**TOTAL EA PLC  
MEMBERSHIP:  
260**



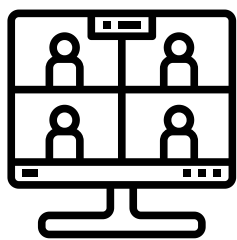
**INSTITUTION TYPE**



**MEMBERS BY PROVINCE**

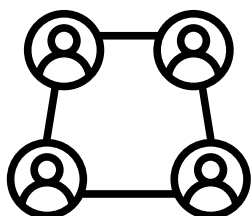


# PLC EVENTS & INITIATIVES



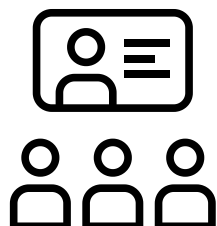
## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Discussion of issues related to ongoing travel restrictions and impact on mobility, alternative mobility options, Canada's Outbound Mobility Innovation Fund and subsequent Global Skills Opportunity funding, education abroad marketing & promotions, and sharing of resources.



## SUB-GROUPS

Established 5 sub-groups in March 2021 to focus on issues of importance and relevance to the PLC, share best practices, and develop resources for members.



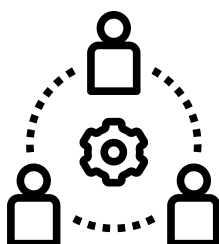
## SUMMER SYMPOSIUM

Organized and facilitated the Education Abroad: Building Back Better Summer Symposium, which included a keynote from Dr. Sharon Stein, from the Critical Internationalization Studies Network, followed by presentations showcasing innovative projects funded by the 2020/21 Outbound Student Mobility pilot program.



## PRESENTATIONS

The PLC Co-Leads developed and led presentations at the CBIE Regional Meetings (Education Abroad: Looking Beyond COVID), and the CBIE Conference (PLC Info Session). Many of our sub-group leads and PLC members also presented at the Regionals and Conference.



## COLLABORATION

The EA PLC has collaborated extensively with the Canadian Higher Education Travel Safety Network (CHETSN) and with Global Skills Opportunity (GSO), including leading the CBIE Workshop "Reframing Marketing & Recruitment to Expand Access to Education Abroad." We look forward to continued collaboration in 2022.

# SUB-GROUP ACTIVITIES

## ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION

**Purpose:** The Accessibility & Inclusion sub-group is committed to engaging in dialogue, collaboration, and sharing best practices for the support of all students to participate in high impact education abroad opportunities. The sub-group is a forum to discuss what needs to be addressed institutionally and beyond to increase access for students who have been underrepresented in global mobility and support the equitable inclusion of diverse backgrounds and identities.

- Number of members: 10
- Meetings held in 2021: 8
- **Activities in 2021:**
  - Resources added to the CBIE Hub in the Sub-group section
  - Collaboration between institutions for best practices on advising, risk management, marketing & communications, and transparency in the global mobility process
  - Discussion of COIL as a practice for inclusion in global mobility
- **Plans for 2022:**
  - A monthly meeting to highlight a specific initiatives within global mobility and how accessibility and inclusion elements require incorporation and/or how institutions have been advancing and advocating in this area
  - Creating an ongoing resource document with useable materials for individuals/institutions to garner inspiration and facilitate advising, pre-departure, re-entry and marketing initiatives
  - Sharing accessibility and inclusion professional development opportunities for greater learning
  - Inviting guest speakers to monthly meetings for further research and discussion
  - Encouraging a CBIE presentation for 2022/23

## ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION SUB-GROUP CO-LEADS



**Zhi Jones, PhD (she/her)**

Associate Director, Education Abroad (Services)  
University of Alberta, International



**Rebecca Trautwein (she/her)**

Manager, Global Learning & Engagement  
Humber College



# SUB-GROUP ACTIVITIES

## EDUCATION ABROAD MEASURES

**Purpose:** The Education Abroad Measures sub-group focuses on the study and categorization of what and how various aspects of Education Abroad can be measured

- Number of members: 2
- Meetings held in 2021: 4
- **Activities in 2021:**
  - Reading and research on Education Abroad measures, including the Erasmus program, the New Colombo Plan, literature from organizations such as IIE and NAFSA, and international education strategies of countries such as Australia, UK, and Canada
  - Deeper study and categorization of the Canadian context to develop a non-prescriptive framework offering insights on what the measurement process might look like and what aspects of Education Abroad can be measured
- **Plans for 2022:**
  - Welcoming new members
  - Drafting a white paper that lays out measurement process considerations, a framework for selecting measures, lists of measures that can be considered, and some best practices for monitoring measures, data retention and security, and reporting outcomes

## EDUCATION ABROAD MEASURES SUB-GROUP LEAD



**Shabnam (Shay) Surjitsingh Ivković, PEng (ON)**

Director – International Strategic Initiatives

Co-operative & Experiential Education

University of Waterloo

# SUB-GROUP ACTIVITIES

## INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE

**Purpose:** To explore intercultural competency development in study abroad. Our goal is to explore the parameters of this topic as it relates to post secondary institutional programming around intercultural competencies

- Number of members: 3
- Number of meetings held in 2021: 4
- **Activities in 2021:** limited activities given challenges in recruiting members
- **Plans for 2022:**
  - develop terms of reference
  - recruit members
- **Project ideas for 2022 include:**
  - create a resource list of academic studies on intercultural in study abroad
  - develop training programs
  - conduct a survey of post secondary institutions to find out what institutions are doing in relation to intercultural competencies in study abroad, and what their needs are

## INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE SUB-GROUP CO-LEADS



**Karima Ramji**

Associate Director, International, Indigenous & Strategic Initiatives  
Co-operative Education Program & Career Services  
University of Victoria



**Heather Tobe**

Faculty, Communications Department  
Douglas College



# SUB-GROUP ACTIVITIES

## PRE-DEPARTURE, RE-ENTRY & WRAPAROUND SUPPORTS

**Purpose:** This sub-committee focuses primarily on pre-departure, re-entry and wraparound supports pertaining to outbound mobility

- Number of members: 14
- Meetings held in 2021: monthly online meetings held from June-December 2021
- **Activities in 2021:**
  - Meetings provided an informal and inclusive space for members to discuss wraparound supports for outbound mobility and to share knowledge and best practices pertaining to study abroad. Members also had the opportunity to engage in small group discussions to discuss challenges within the field such as COVID-19 related issues, as well as the Global Skills Opportunities funding.
  - We are currently building a shared document outlining the content and delivery of pre-departure and re-entry programming offered at various institutions.
- **Plans for 2022:** we look forward to increasing membership, facilitating a safe space for international education professionals to discuss ongoing issues, and creating a shared document that outlines best practices for wrap around supports.

## PDO, RE-ENTRY & WRAPAROUND SUB-GROUP CO-LEADS



**Geneviève Boutin (elle/la | she/her)**

Responsable, mobilité et partenariats | Lead, Mobility & Partnerships  
Bureau international | International Office  
Université d'Ottawa | University of Ottawa



**Mike Lafleur**

Education Abroad Advisor for Sciences and Engineering  
Centre for International Programs  
University of Guelph

# SUB-GROUP ACTIVITIES

## VIRTUAL EDUCATION ABROAD

**Purpose:** To define the terms of current virtual education abroad (VEA) programs offered in Canadian postsecondary education institutions, share best practices of VEA programming, and create a community of practice to share resources and strategies

- Number of members: 11
- Meetings held in 2021: 6
  - Some of the hot topics covered at meetings included: virtual education abroad programs other than COIL, 6 months in - where does VEA sit in your institution? professional development resources for faculty and staff, COIL projects conducted thus far, how to get faculty and institution buy-in/funding
- **Activities in 2021:**
  - 4 Institutional Showcases of virtual initiatives at various institutions
  - The two co-chairs presented "The Value of Virtual Education Abroad Beyond the Pandemic" at the 2021 CBIE Conference drawing over 50 participants
- **Plans for 2022:** The VEA group continues to meet monthly in 2022, acting as a community of practice to share best practices and resources for each other

## VIRTUAL EDUCATION ABROAD SUB-GROUP CO-LEADS



**Ada Lee**  
Global Development Manager  
Kwantlen Polytechnic University



**Eunjung Riauka (She/Her), B.A. (Hons.), M.Ed.**  
Coordinator, Global Engagement & Mobility;  
Internationalization Lead  
Department of Experiential Learning & International Affairs  
Algoma University



# SPECIAL THANKS

The Education Abroad Professional Learning Community would like to thank their members, guest speakers, the Canadian Higher Education Travel Safety Network (CHETSN), Global Skills Opportunity, and CBIE for their engagement and support.

