



Transfer Pathways of International Students

Background

International student enrolment at BC post-secondary institutions (PSIs) has grown substantially in the last decade, with its share of total post-secondary enrolment increasing from 7% to 19% between 2011 and 2021 and remaining steady during the pandemic (Heslop, 2022). The relatively new prominence of international student enrolment highlights questions focusing on these learners and their influence on programming, institutional practices, and transfer in the BC post-secondary environment. The BCCAT Survey of Mobile Student (2019) uncovered that 14% of mobile students are international, but how well international learners' programming facilitates transfer requires closer study. This study focuses on assessing the volume and flows of transfer pathways for international students from private to public BC post-secondary institutions and reviewing students' post-transfer performance.

Purpose/ Goal

To assess the efficacy of typical post-secondary transfer pathways of international students from private to public BC post-secondary institutions.

Scope

- Case-studies of selected BC Transfer System (BCTS) member institutions.
- A cohort of international students selected based on a pre-transfer program, specific academic year, or country of origin.

Objectives

The objectives of the study include:

1. To identify case-study PSIs among BC Transfer System private institutions with a large proportion of international enrolment;
2. To assess the transitions of international transfer students to further credentialed programs at BCTS public post-secondary institutions;
3. If possible, to evaluate international students' performance and experiences post-transfer;
4. To compare international students' transfer pathways with those of domestic students; and
5. To identify areas for future research and to develop forward-looking recommendations to support international student transfer pathways.

Timeline

Dependent on start date, completion date for this project will be no later than March 2024.

Budget

Maximum budget available for this project is \$23,000, inclusive of all hourly charges, travel and associated costs, and GST.

BCCAT's [Proposal Template for Research Projects](#) may be used as a guideline for submitting the proposal.



References

Duklas, J. (2019). International Transfer Credit Practices. BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT).
https://www.bccat.ca/pubs/Intl_Transfer_Credit.pdf

Heslop, J. (2022). STP (Student Transitions Project) Research Results.
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/post-secondary-education/data-research/stp/stp_research_results.pdf