



BCCAT

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL
ON ADMISSIONS & TRANSFER

Impact on Transfer due to Changes to International Study Permits

JAM, November 8, 2024



OVERVIEW



- Background
- Panel Discussion

2023 IRCC Announcements

June 2023

IRCC announced a task-force to review and improve admission letter fraud detection

- 38% of cases reviewed were fraudulent

October 2023

- In December 2023, DLI's must verify all admission letters (LOA) before a study permit application is processed
- A review of the post-graduate work permit criteria will be completed
- IRCC will introduce a recognized institution framework for institution that set a high standard for service and support to international students in Fall 2024
- The cost-of-living requirement increased to \$20,000CAD for study permit applicants, effective January 2024

January 2024 Announcements

- Canada will set an intake quota for new student permit applications for a two-year period
- 2024 capacity will be ~600,000 applications or 360,000 approved permits (35% reduction)
- Capacity will be allocated by province/territory based on population. Provinces will allocate to DLI's
- Study permit application will require a Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL)
- PGWPP Changes:
 - Programs at private college under a license agreement of an associated public college are no longer eligible
 - Masters and doctoral programs may not solely be tied to the length of their program

September 2024 IRCC Announcements

- 2025 and 2026 will see a further 10% reduction in study permits
- The cap will now include master's and doctoral students
 - 12% of PALs will be reserved for graduate students
- Spousal work permits only available to students in master's degree programs at least 16 months in duration.
- Language requirement for all PGWPP applicants.
 - English/French. University graduates will require a Canadian Language Benchmark level 7 and college graduates a CLB 5

Geo-Political Landscape

- Changes introduced during turbulent times
- Strained diplomatic relations with India compounding issues
- In BC, Institutions are facing uncertainty about their enrollments and budget
- Many institutions experiencing dramatic reduction in international students
- Additional IRCC announcements expected in 2025

Panelists



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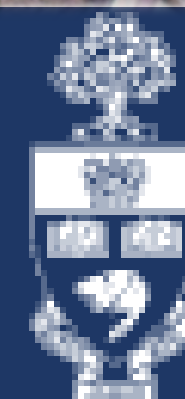
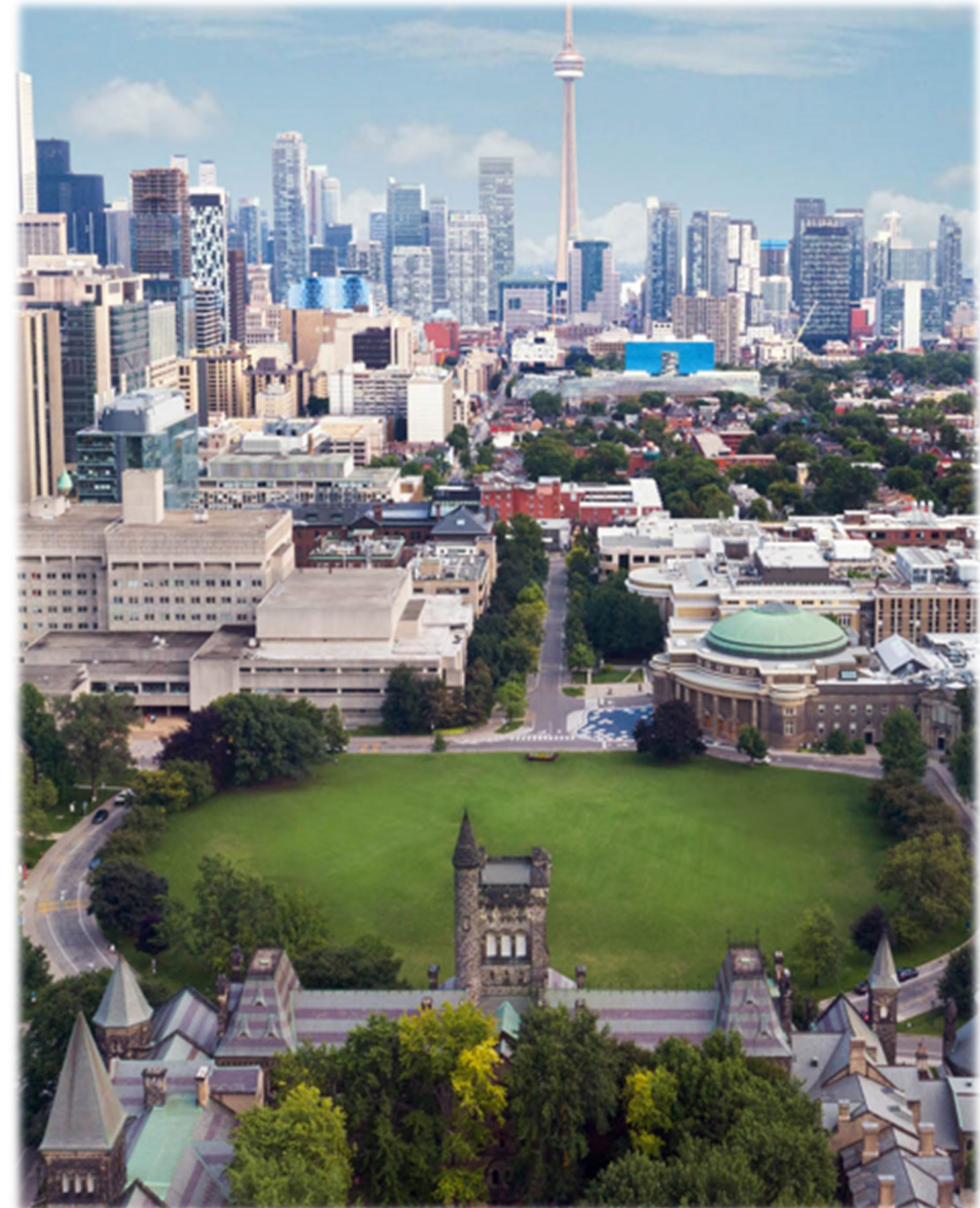
Out of Province Perspective

Province / Territory	% Change from 2023
Alberta	10%
British Columbia	-18%
Manitoba	-10%
New Brunswick	-10%
Newfoundland & Labrador	10%
Northwest Territories	4900%
Nova Scotia	-10%
Nunavut	6567%
Ontario	-41%
Prince Edward Island	-10%
Quebec	10%
Saskatchewan	10%
Yukon	205%
Total	-28%



Ontario Impact

- Varying impacts on colleges vs universities
 - Budget
 - Enrolment plans - diversification
 - Reputation: Canada no longer a favorable destination
- Colleges:
 - Satellite campus closures
 - Discontinuation of public-private partnerships
 - Program restructuring



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

IRCC Changes at a Research University

- **“Brand Canada” Reputational Damage:** Increased student uncertainty and stricter permit requirements are diminishing Canada’s appeal as a preferred study destination, affecting recruitment and global competitiveness.
- **PGWP Announcement:** Lack of clarity and piecemeal announcements contribute to uncertainty
- **Transfers & Enrolment Challenges:** Permit processing delays, caps, new systems for reporting are creating disruptions for all levels, including transfer with the new requirements around PALs/new SP’s for transfers
- **Frontline Staff Impact:** Higher demand for support services (current and incoming students) and case management is placing additional pressure on staff
- **Financial Pressures & Transfer Significance:** Reduced enrolment affects finances, making inter-institutional transfers critical for maintaining program sustainability and student progression.
 - Specifically in the BC context, mobility partners need to work together even more to ensure that the path to transfer and degree acquisition is as smooth as possible for international students.
 - Students need to feel confidence in these pathways





IRCC Changes from BCCIE perspective

- **Chaos and uncertainty in the sector:** Lack of consultation and clarity/interpretation from IRCC re: new policies, leading to unclear communication channels, and not always a clear understanding of the different roles of Government (provincial or federal), Crowns, provincial or national Associations, etc.
- **Reduced enrollment and financial strain on institutions:** The cap on study permits means fewer international students can enter Canada in 2024 and 2025, which impacts institutions in BC that rely heavily on international tuition fees. [The government was aiming for 35% fewer approved study permits in 2024, but ApplyBoard projects a 47% decline](#)
- **BC and Canada must rebuild their reputations internationally:** BCCIE offers partnership development events for the sector, virtual and in-person events for international education professionals from all regions of BC to introduce opportunities and provide market intelligence about current partners, all with the messaging that BC is open for business and [a destination of choice for international students](#).
- **Post-graduation opportunities:** [The IRCC's decision to limit Post-Graduation Work Permit \(PGWP\) eligibility to certain programs will have implications on which the institutions attract international students](#). With PGWP eligibility more closely linked to public institutions, students are more likely to select programs that offer this pathway to gain Canadian work experience and potentially transition to permanent residency. According to [2023 CBIE data](#), 70% of international students in Canada planned to apply for a PGWP after graduation.
- **Financial burden on students:** [The cost of living threshold was raised for the first time since the early 2000s from \\$10,000 to \\$20,635](#). The temporary removal of the cap on working hours was reversed in April 2024, with a new cap of 24 hours per week set to take effect shortly. This limitation, combined with the high cost of living in major Canadian cities like Vancouver, places [significant financial pressure on students](#)

Private Degree Institution Sector

Overview

- Organizational Group - PDGIA
 - Transitioning to the IDGIA
- Regulated by the Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB)
 - Degree Authorization Act (2002)
 - Authorization by Program, and separately for university Status
- 19 Institutions
 - 11 Universities - 8 College/Other
 - 8 Graduate level degrees,
 - 6 Bachelor, 5 Associate
- Sector Enrolment 2023 - 56,214
- 13 Members of BC transfer system
- 20 Pathway Agreements with non-BCCAT institutions

Impact

- Negative image of Canada uncertainty = instability
- Only 30% of PALs will be issued.
- ~60% Drop in applications “not just about PAL process – there is a lack of interest in Canada”
- “Short-term enrolment okay, but long-term enrolment will be an issue”
- “CIP codes will drive program planning”
- “We will see a reduction in the number of students changing institutions”
- “Increase in pathway development outside of BCCAT”

Questions?

