



# Student Transitions Project

## Spotlight on International Students

Presentation for BCCAT JAM  
By Joanne Heslop | November 8, 2024

# Agenda



(1)

**International  
Students in  
B.C.**

(2)

**International  
Students in  
Canada**



(3)

**International  
Students:  
Why & Why Not?**

(4)

**Post-Graduation  
Work Permits &  
New Limitations**

# Number of International Students Studying in B.C.'s Education Systems



*Source: Dany Kurniawan, Pexels.com*

How many international students are studying in the  
**B.C. public** post-secondary system? (2022/2023)

92,749

21.5% of Total Enrolment

*Fall 2023: 75,372 international is 24.4% of total enrolment and 9.4% above Fall 2022 (68,880).*

*Fall 2024: Not available yet.*

*Source: STP2023. Excludes 302 international exchange students.*

How many international students are studying in the B.C. **public and private** post-secondary system? (July 2024)

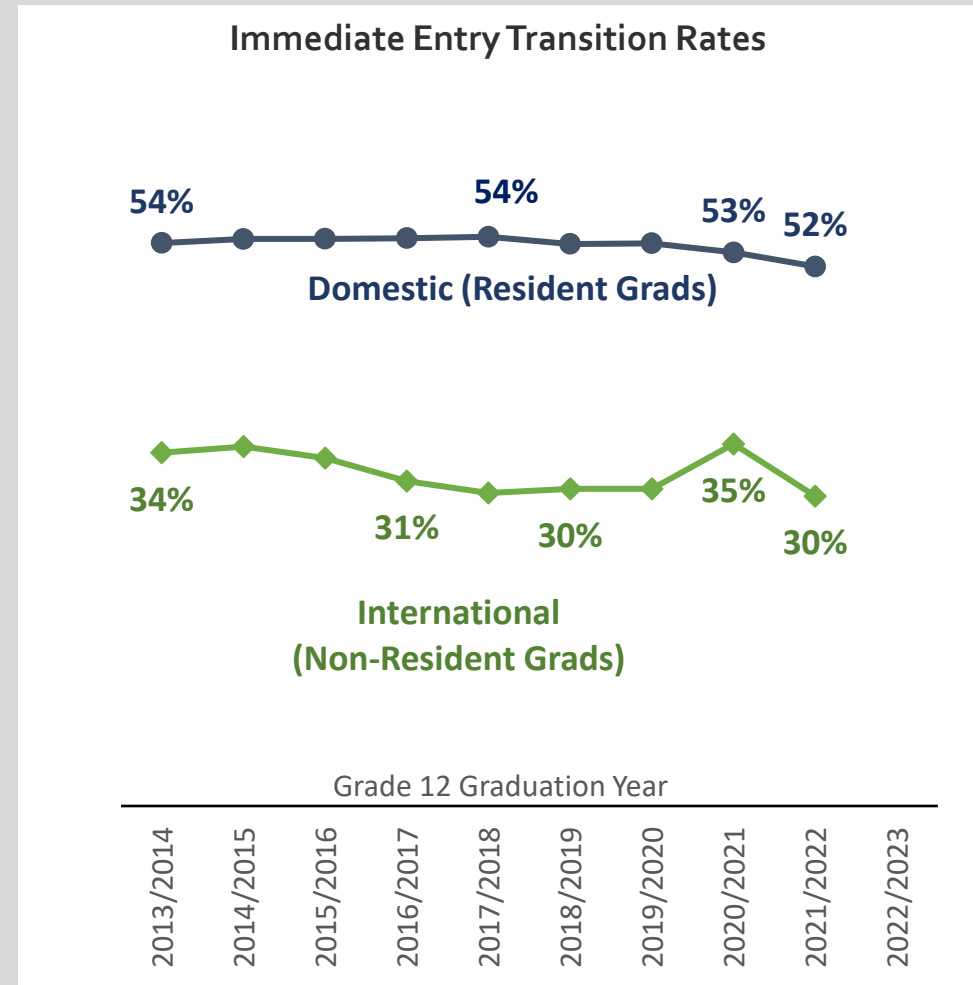
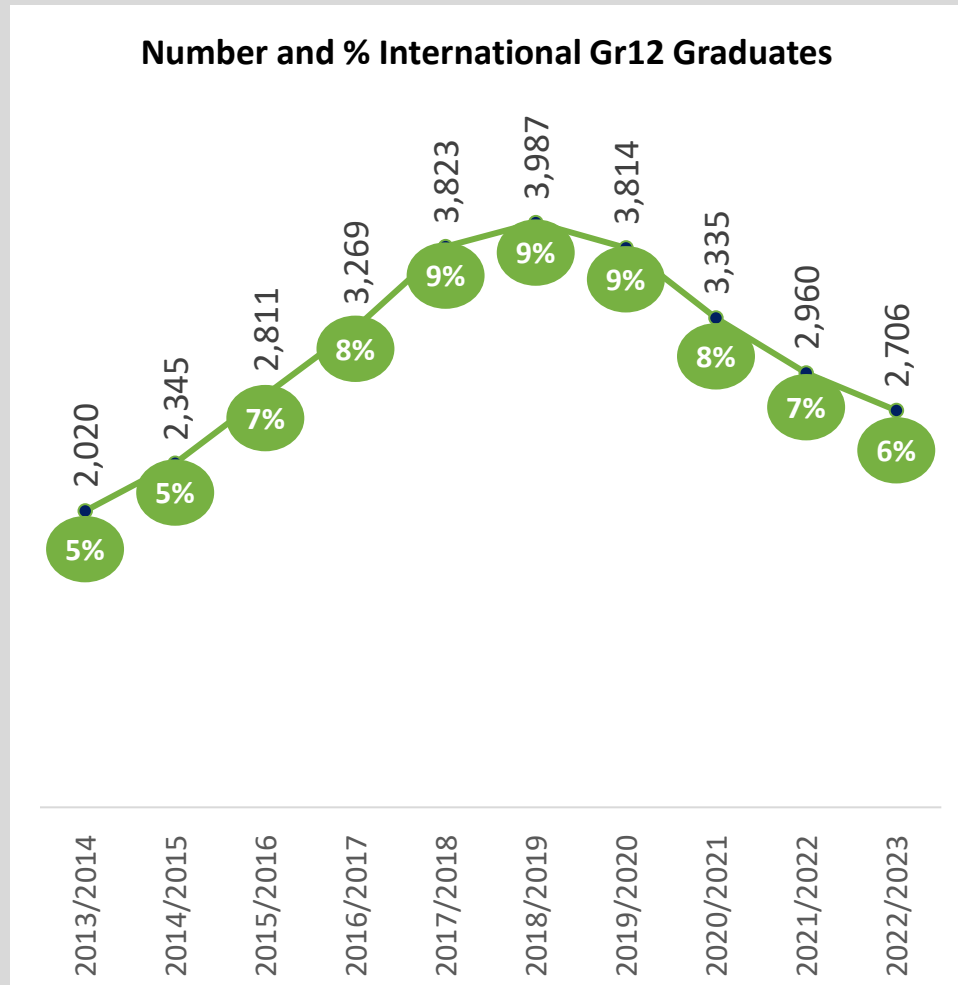
217,600

The Province of B.C. reported in July 2024 that B.C. has 553,000 post-secondary students enrolled in public and private institutions, of which **217,600** were international students: 111,900 in public post-secondary and 105,700 in private post-secondary institutions.

**39.3% of Total Enrolment**

Source: BC Gov New, PSFS, <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2024PSFS0035-001111>

# How many international students graduate from B.C. high schools each year? Do they enrol in B.C. public post-secondary institutions?



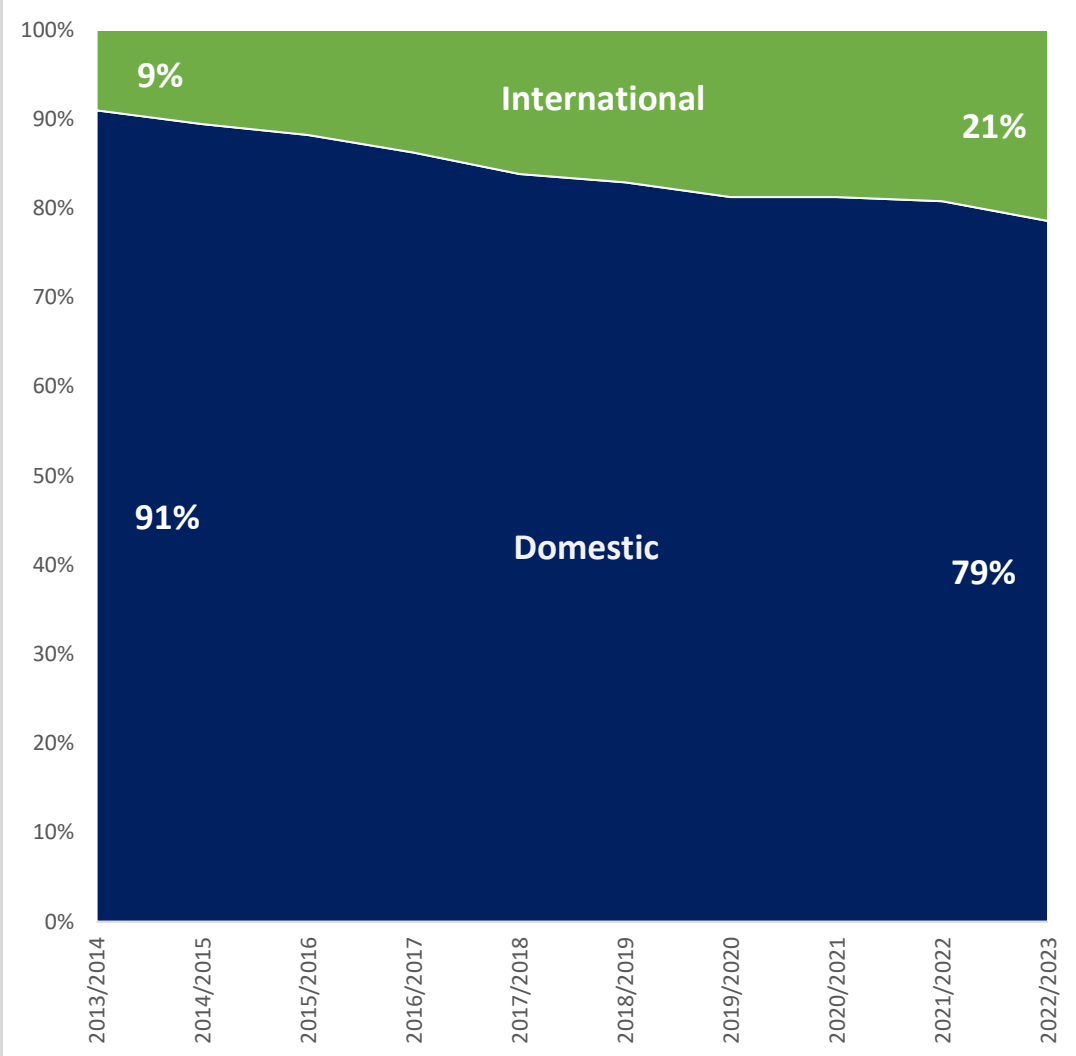
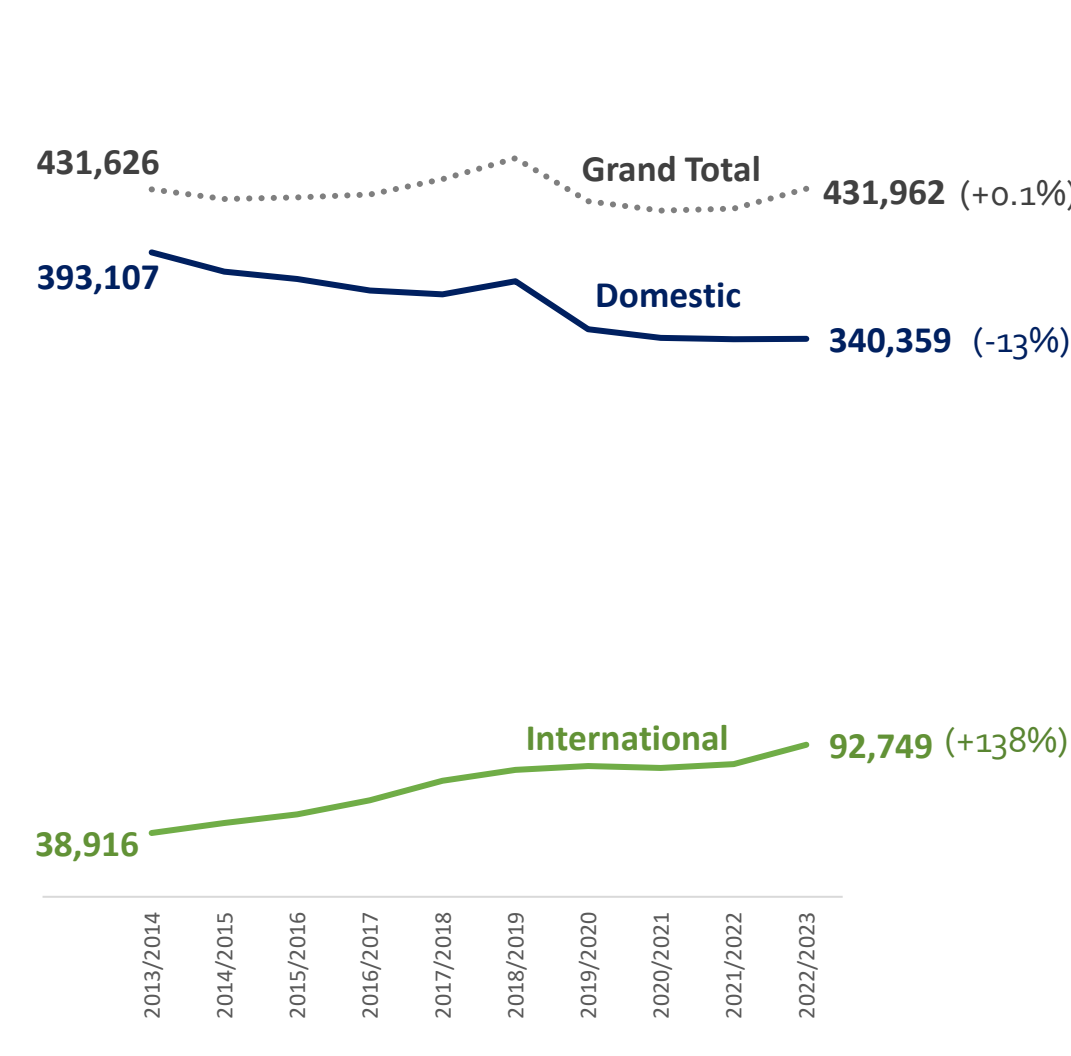
Source: STP2023. The number of non-resident grade 12 graduates is a proxy for international grade 12 graduates.

# Focus on International Students in the B.C. Public Post- Secondary System (2022/2023)



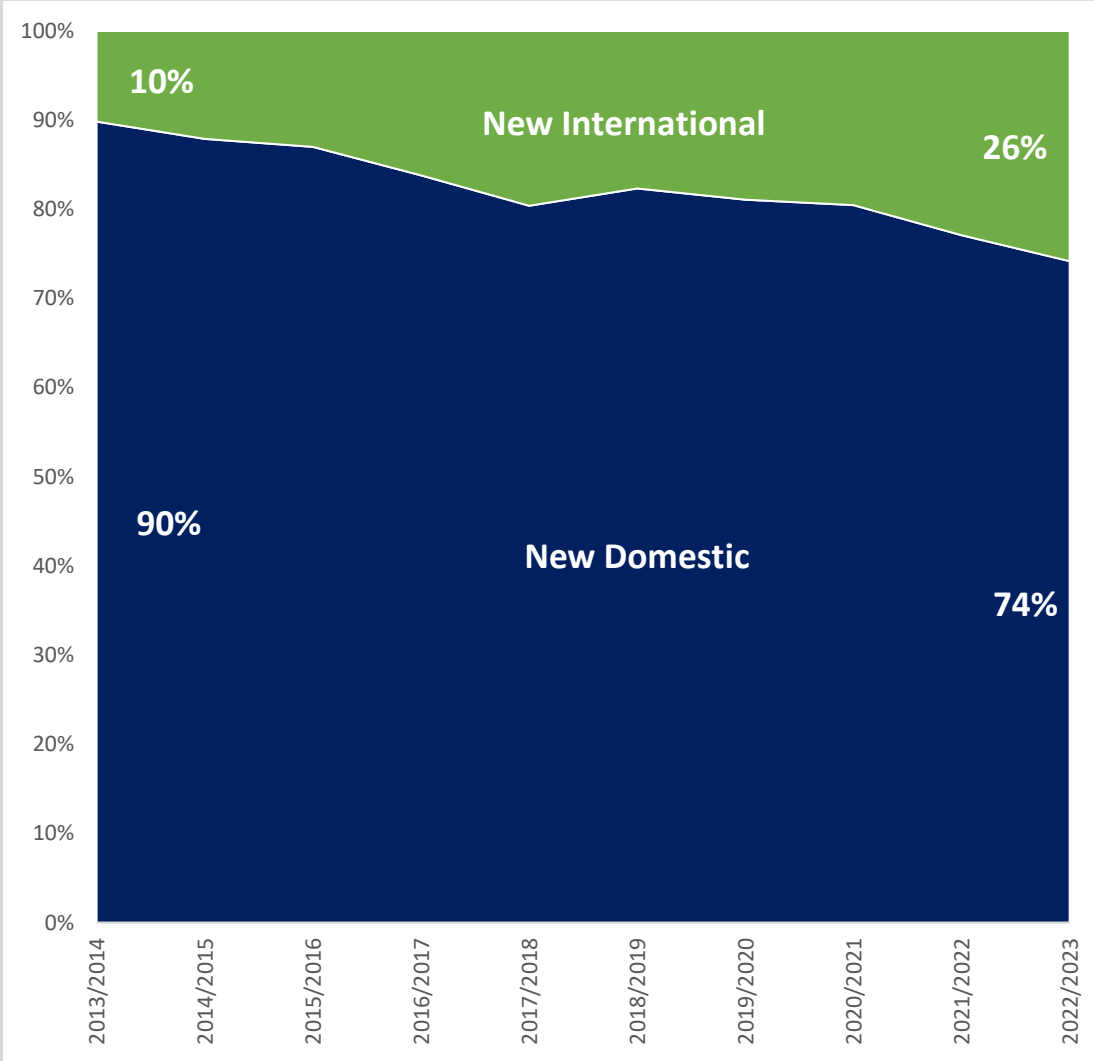
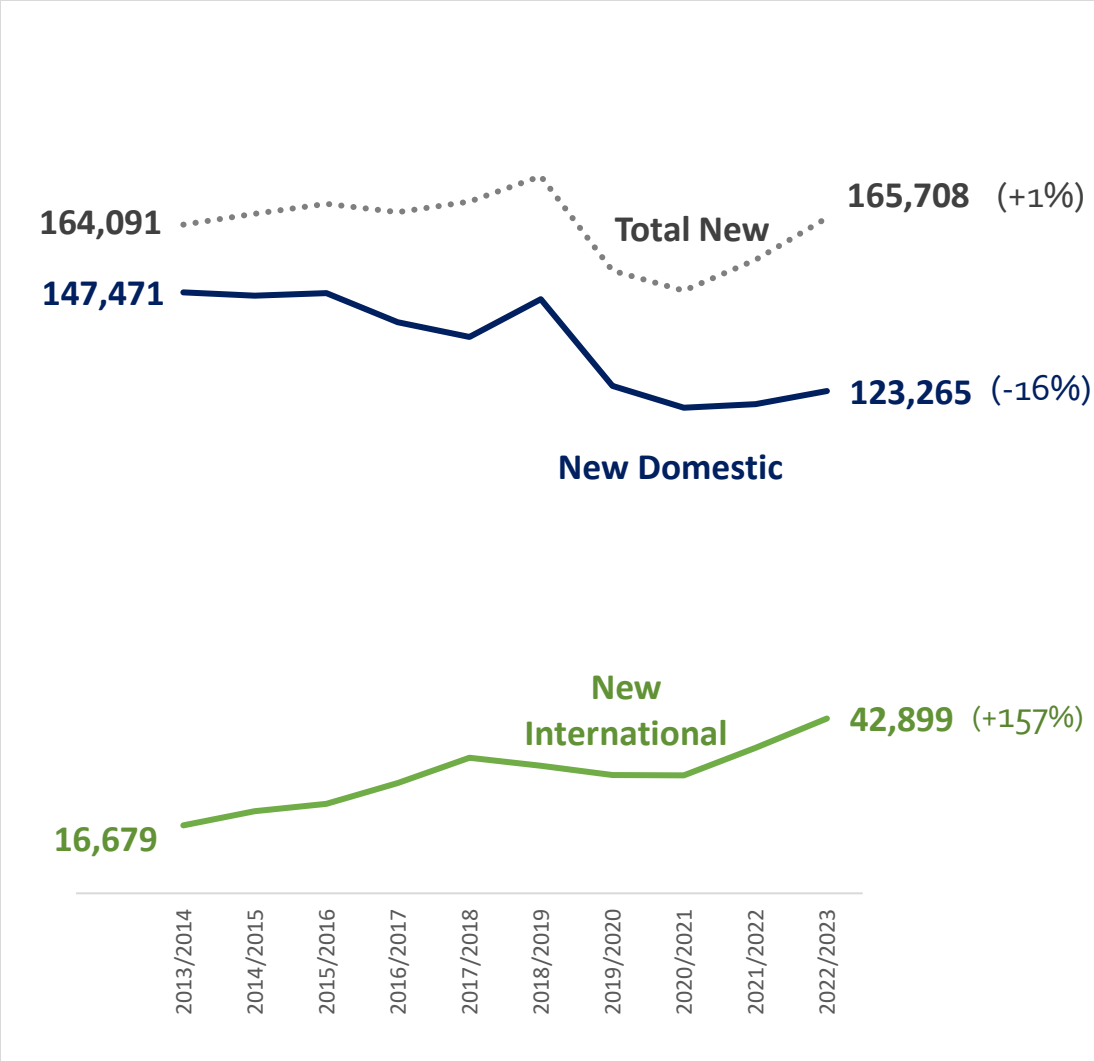
*Source: PowerPoint Stock Image*

# What are the 10-year enrolment trends in the B.C. public post-secondary system (domestic and international)?



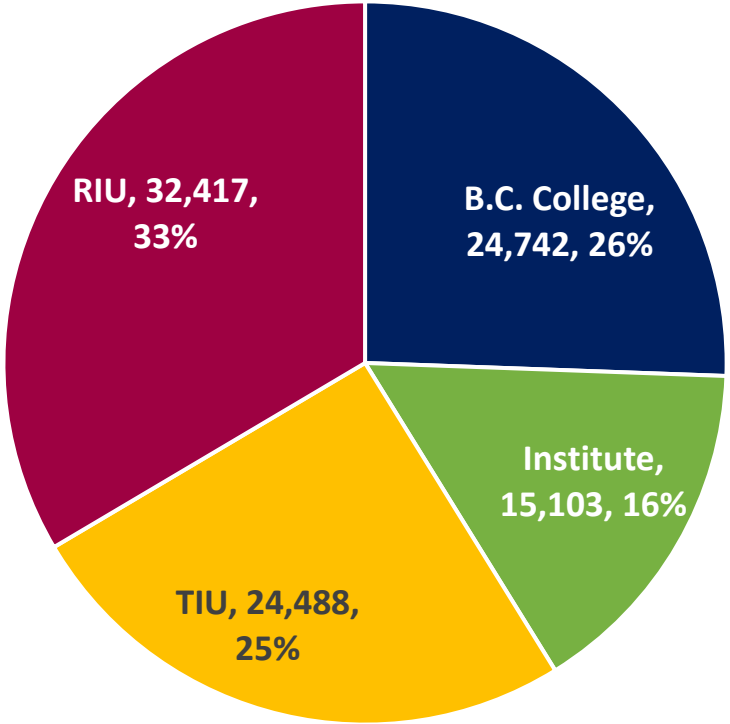


# What are the 10-year trends in new student enrolments (domestic versus international)?

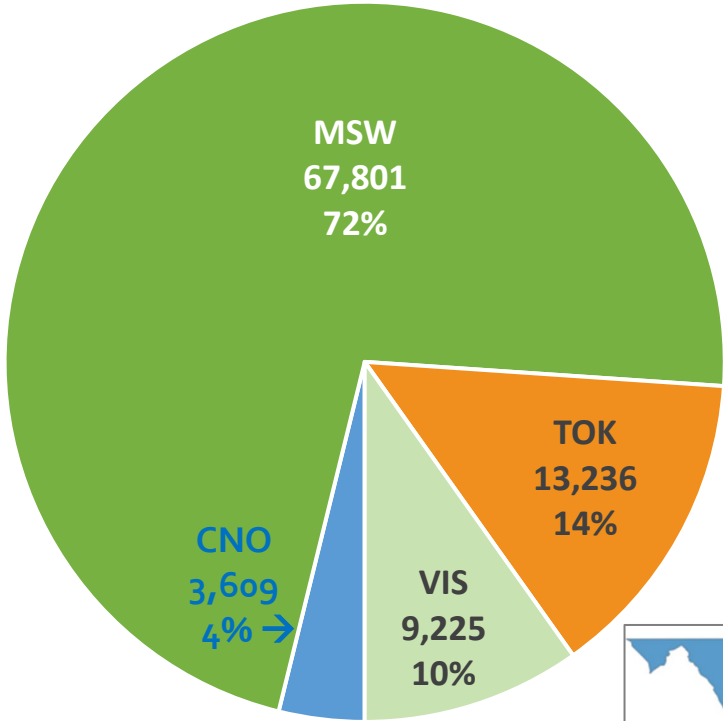


# Where do international students study in the B.C. public post-secondary system?

% Distribution of International Students by Institution Type (2022/2023)



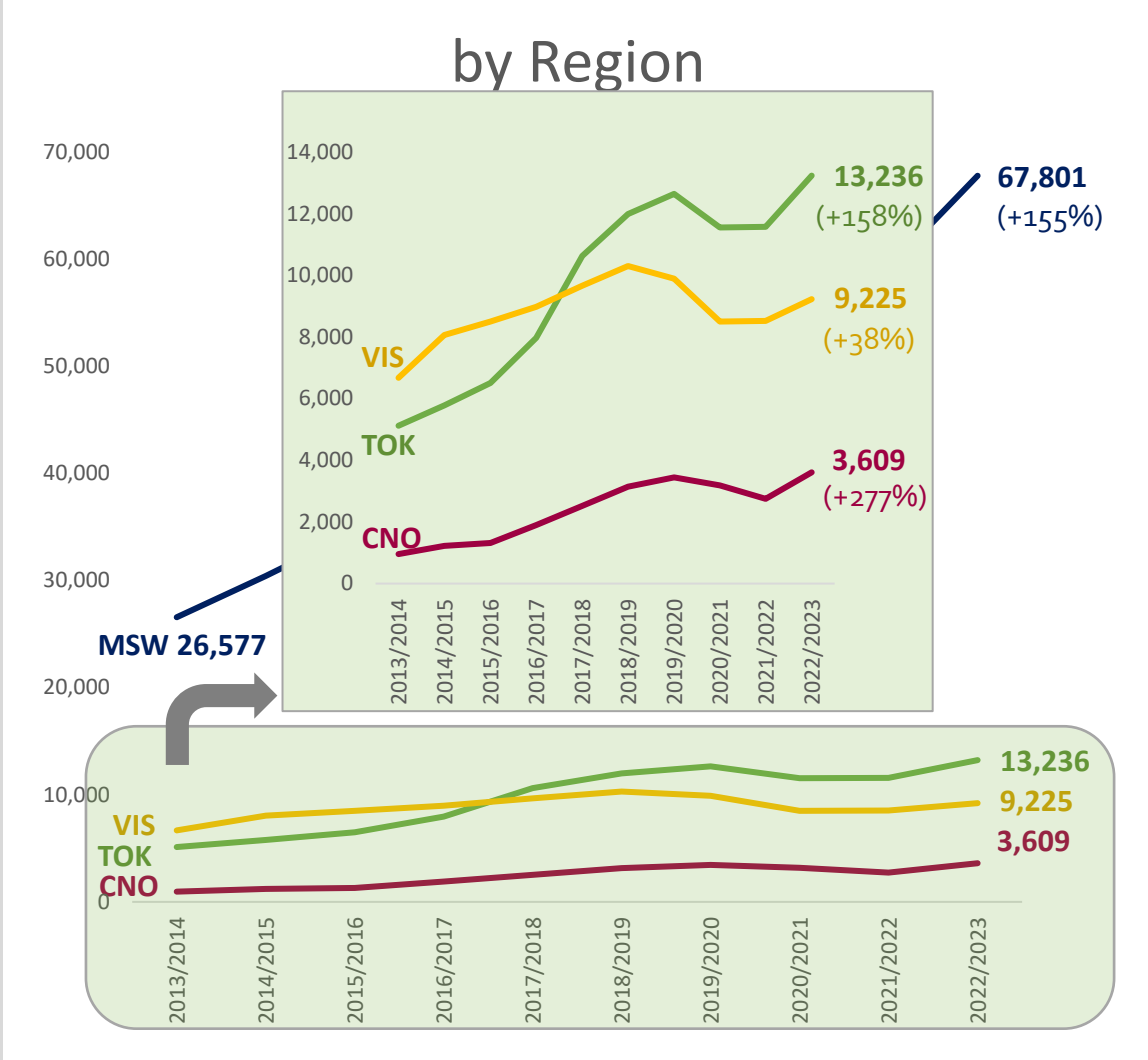
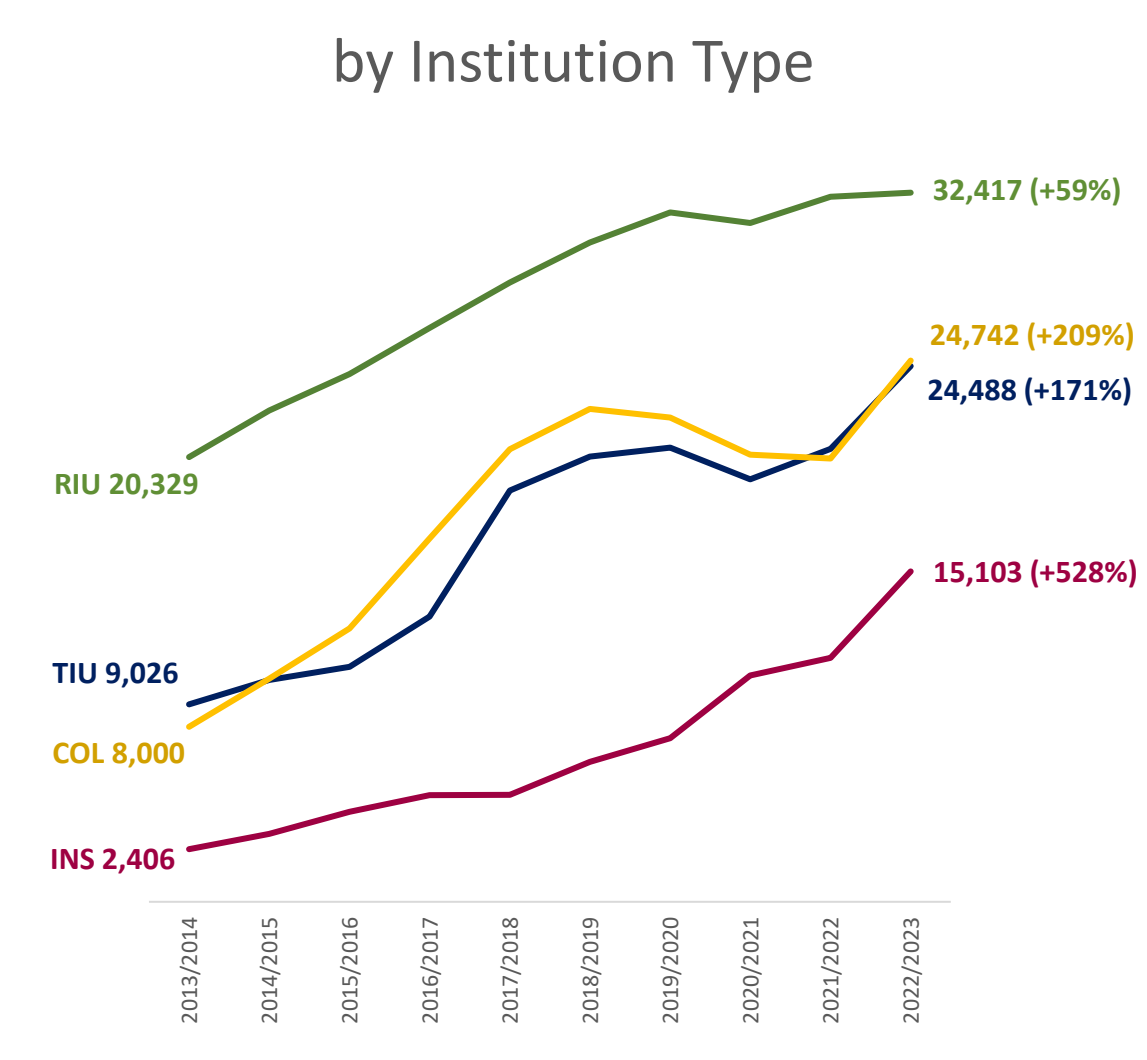
% Distribution of International Students By B.C. Region (2022/2023)



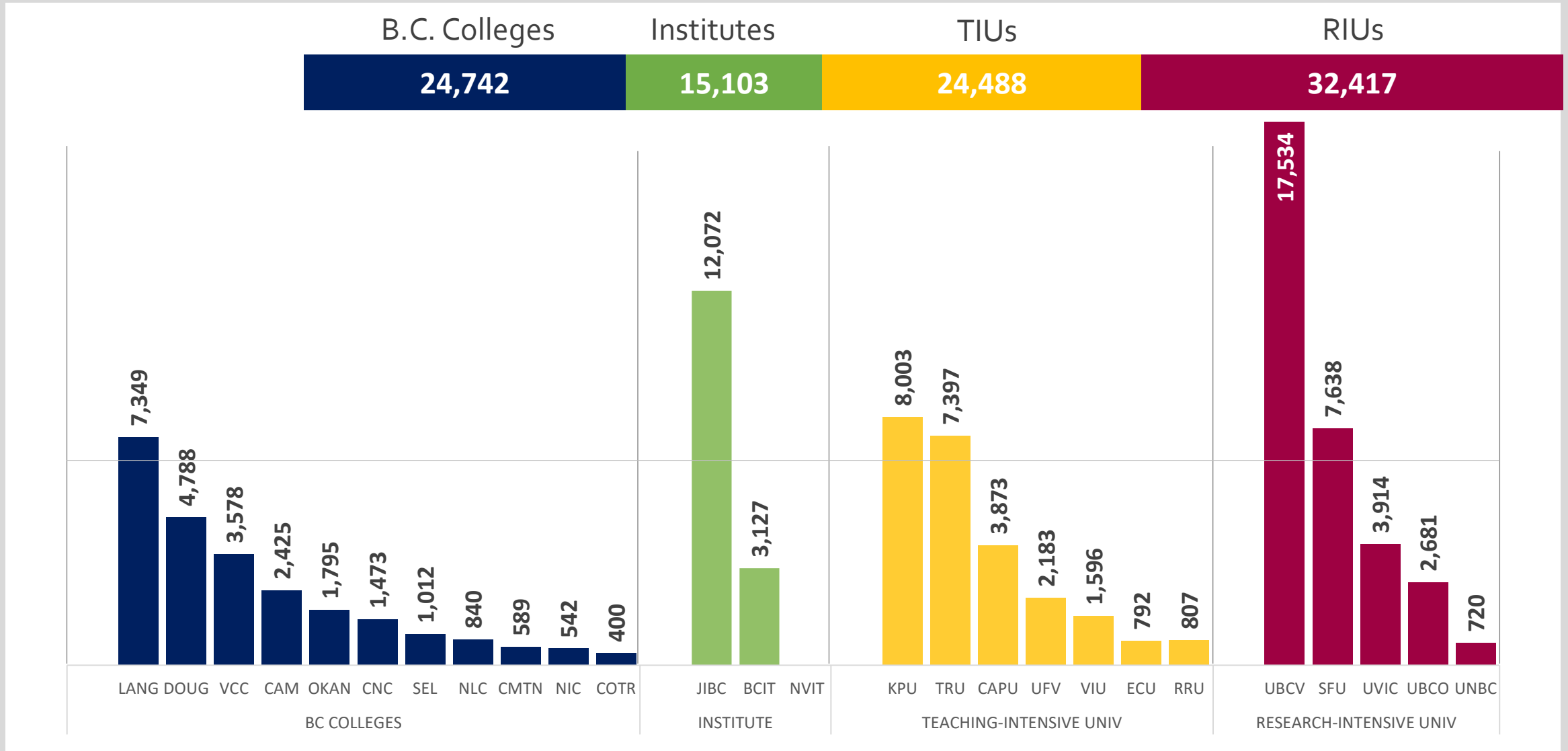
CNO=Cariboo-North  
MSW=Mainland/Southwest  
TOK=Thompson-Okanagan-Kootenays  
VIS=Vancouver Island-Coast



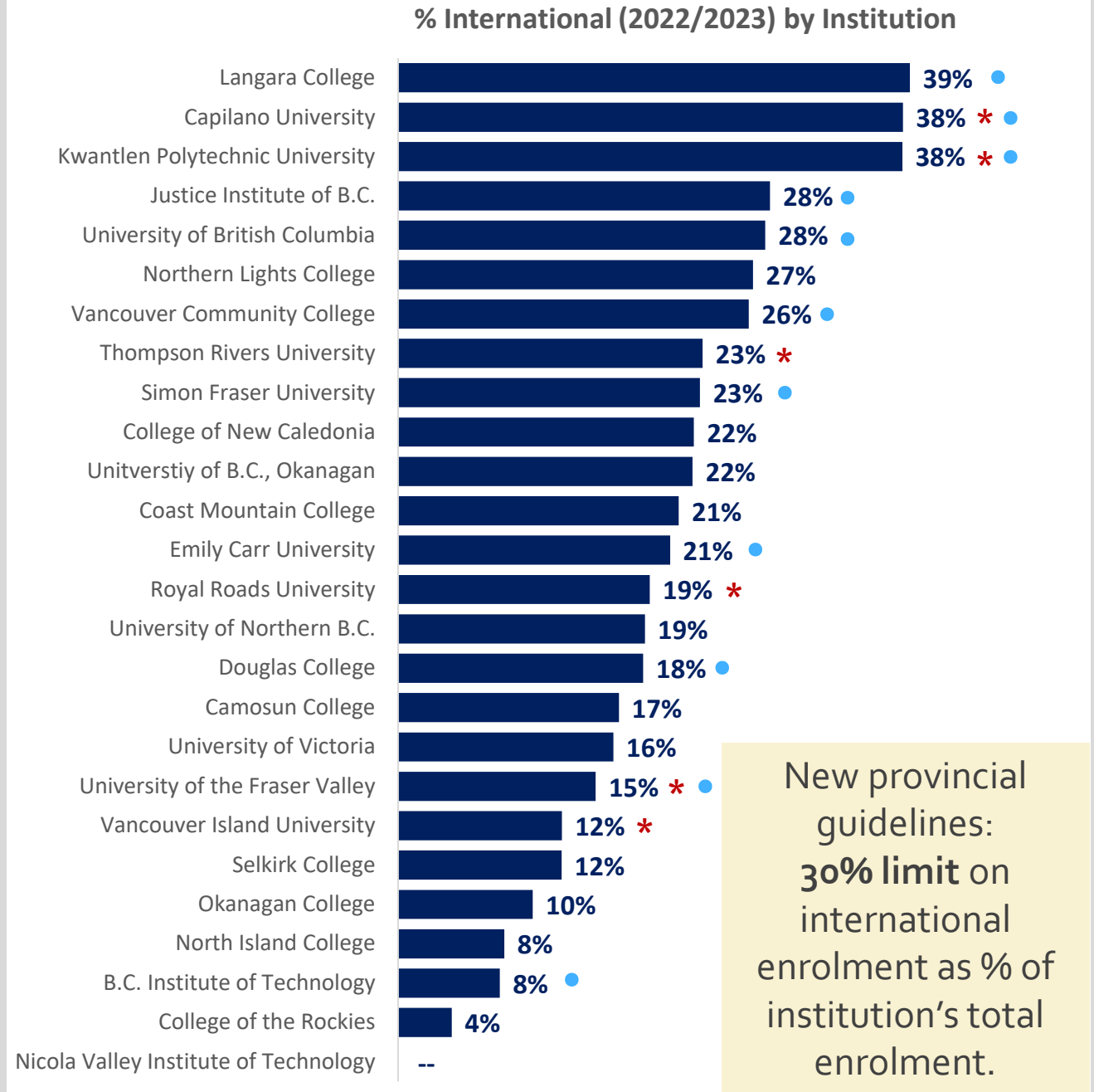
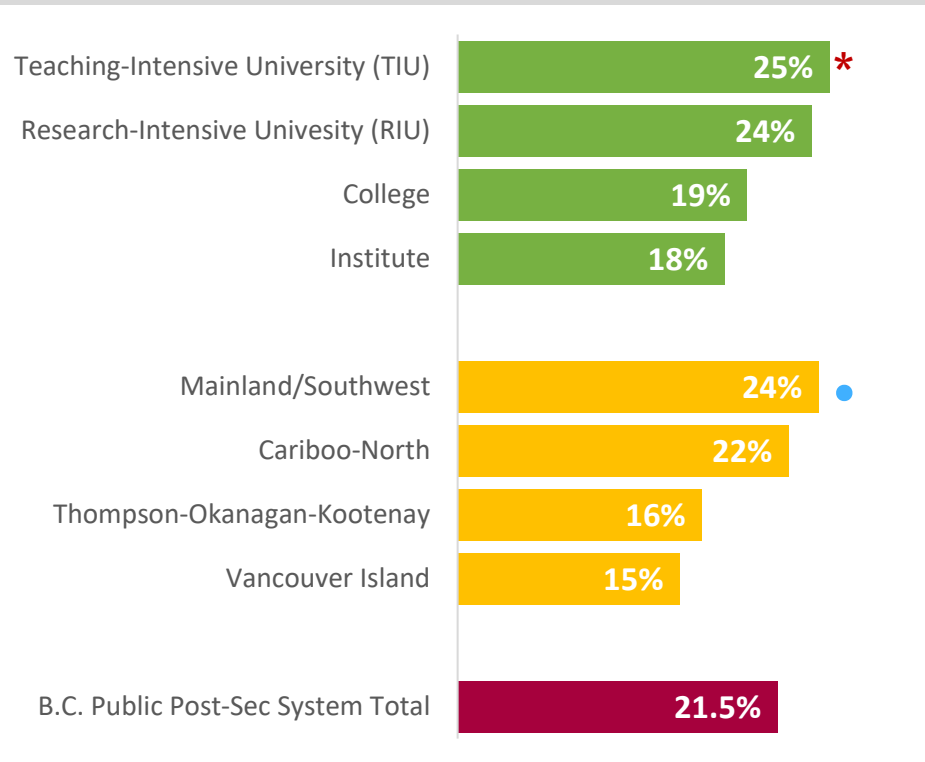
# What are the 10-year international enrolment trends by institution type and region?



# How many international students are studying in each of the B.C. public post-secondary institutions? (2022/2023)



# What proportion of each institution's total enrolment is international?

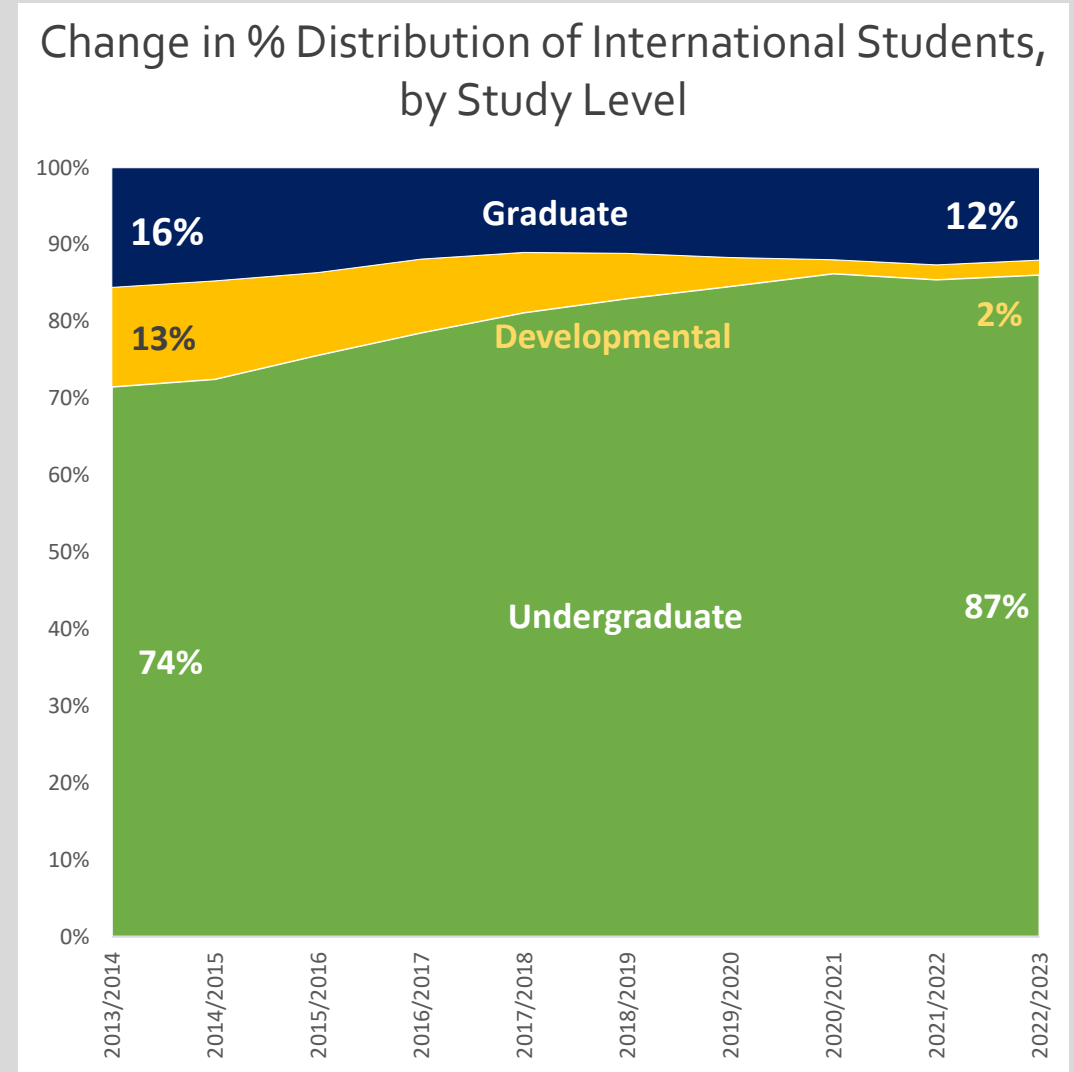
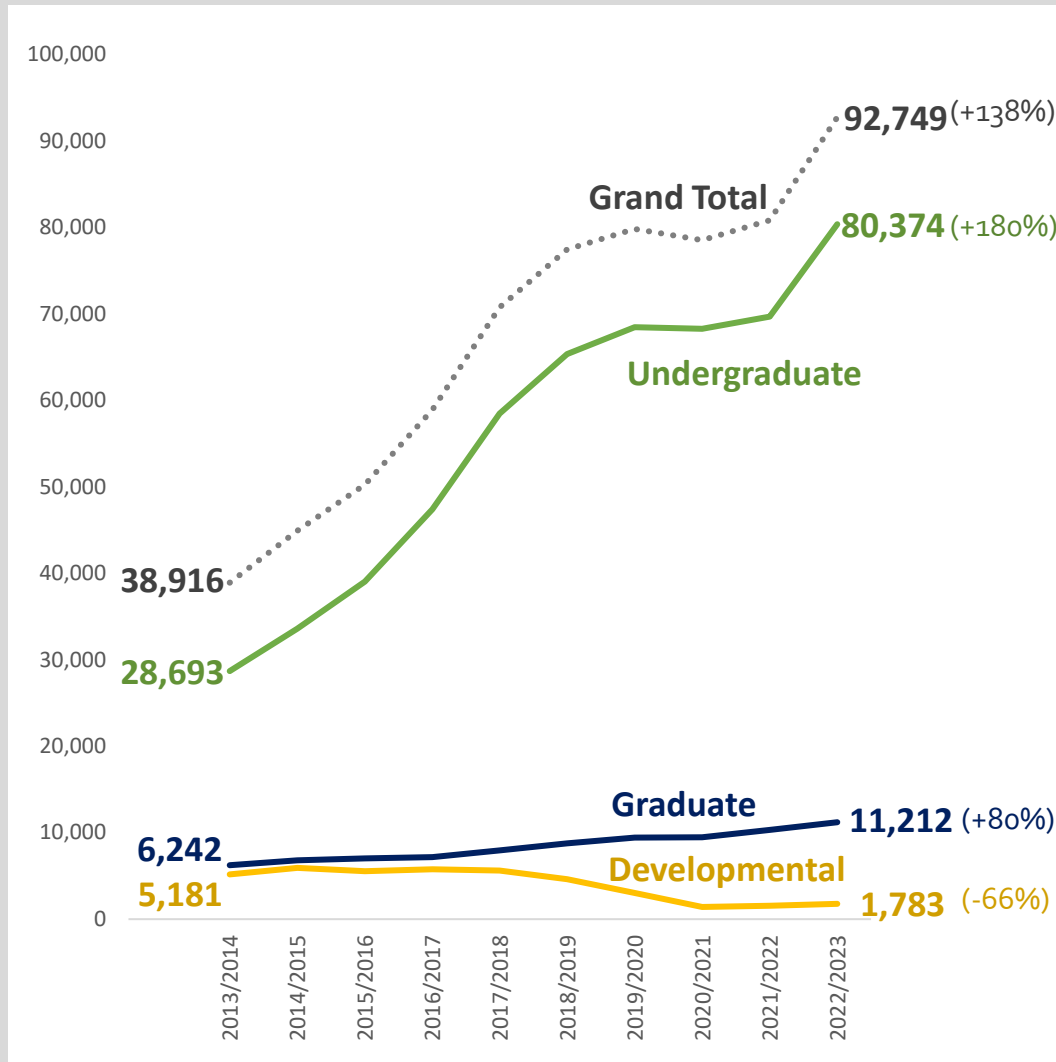


# Study Level, Programs & Credentials Sought in B.C. Public Post- Secondary Institutions



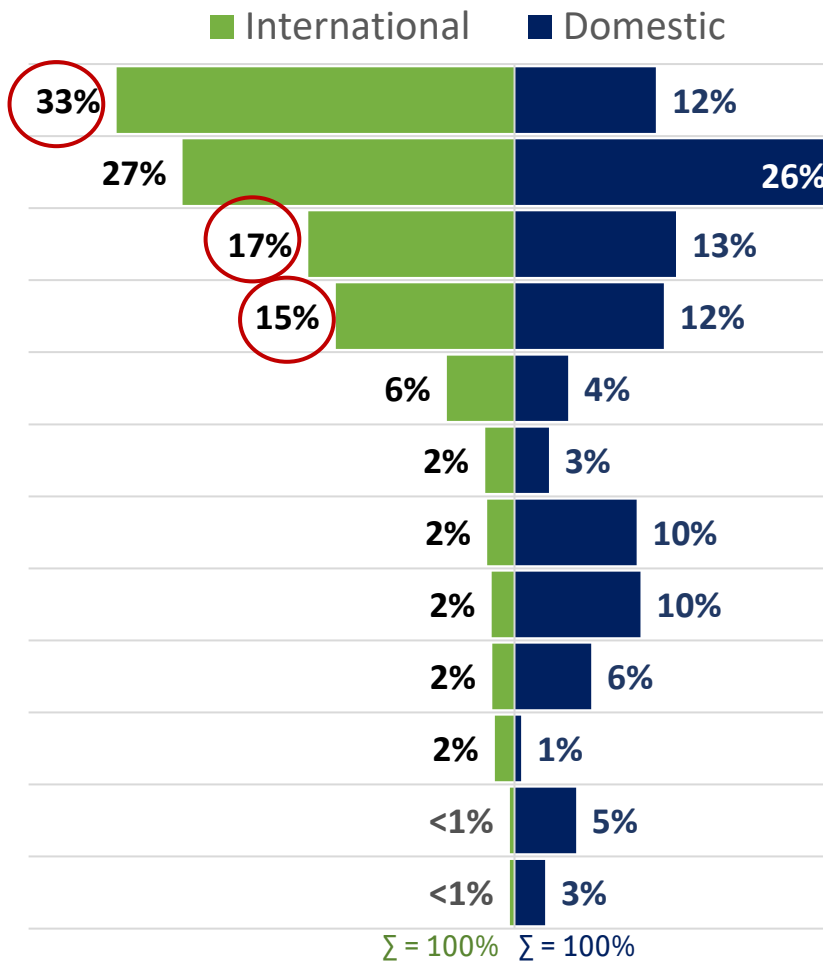
*Source: PowerPoint Stock Image*

# What are the 10-year international headcount enrolment trends, by study level?

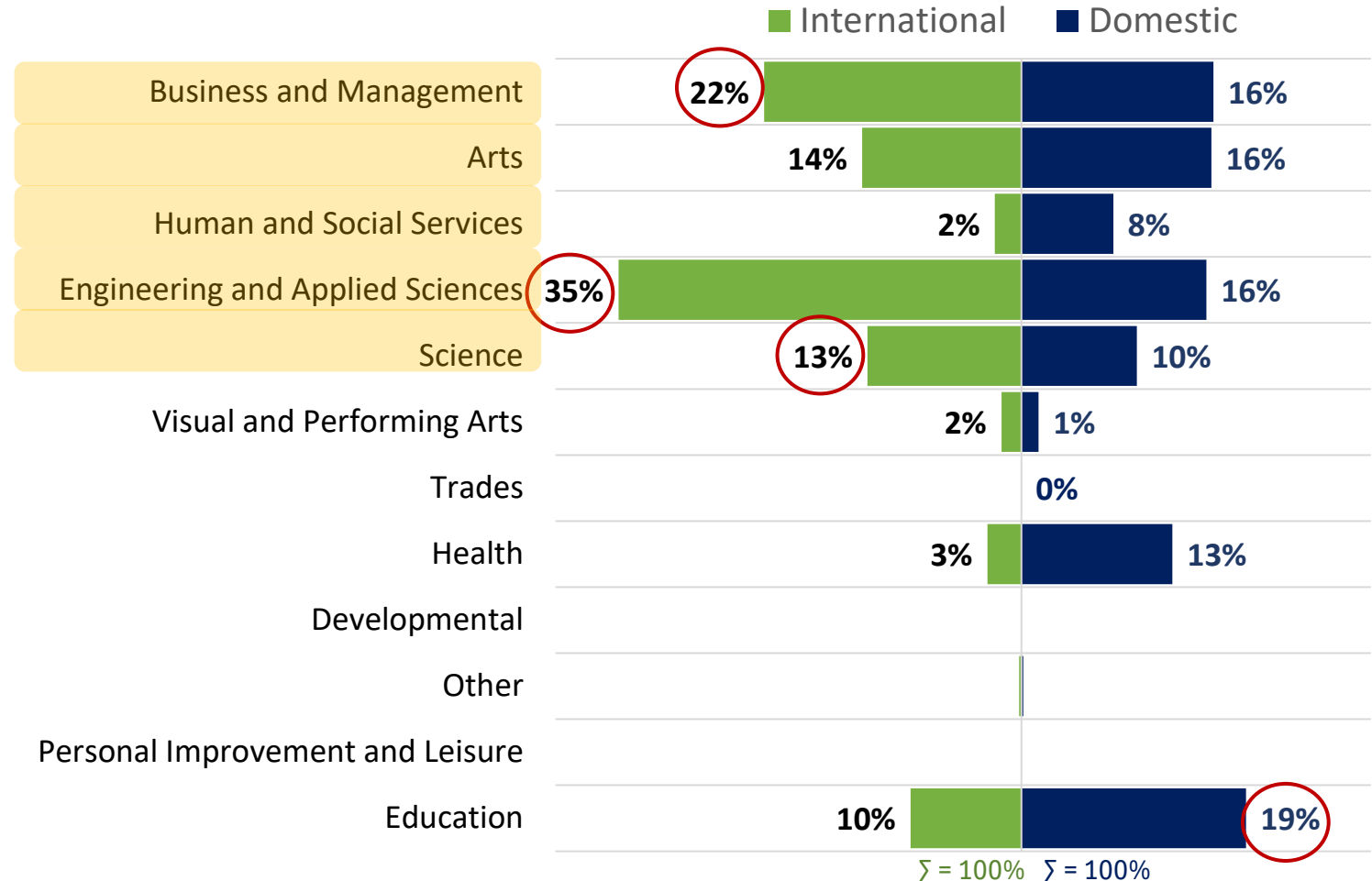


# What are the program preferences of international students compared to domestic students?

## Undergraduate Students



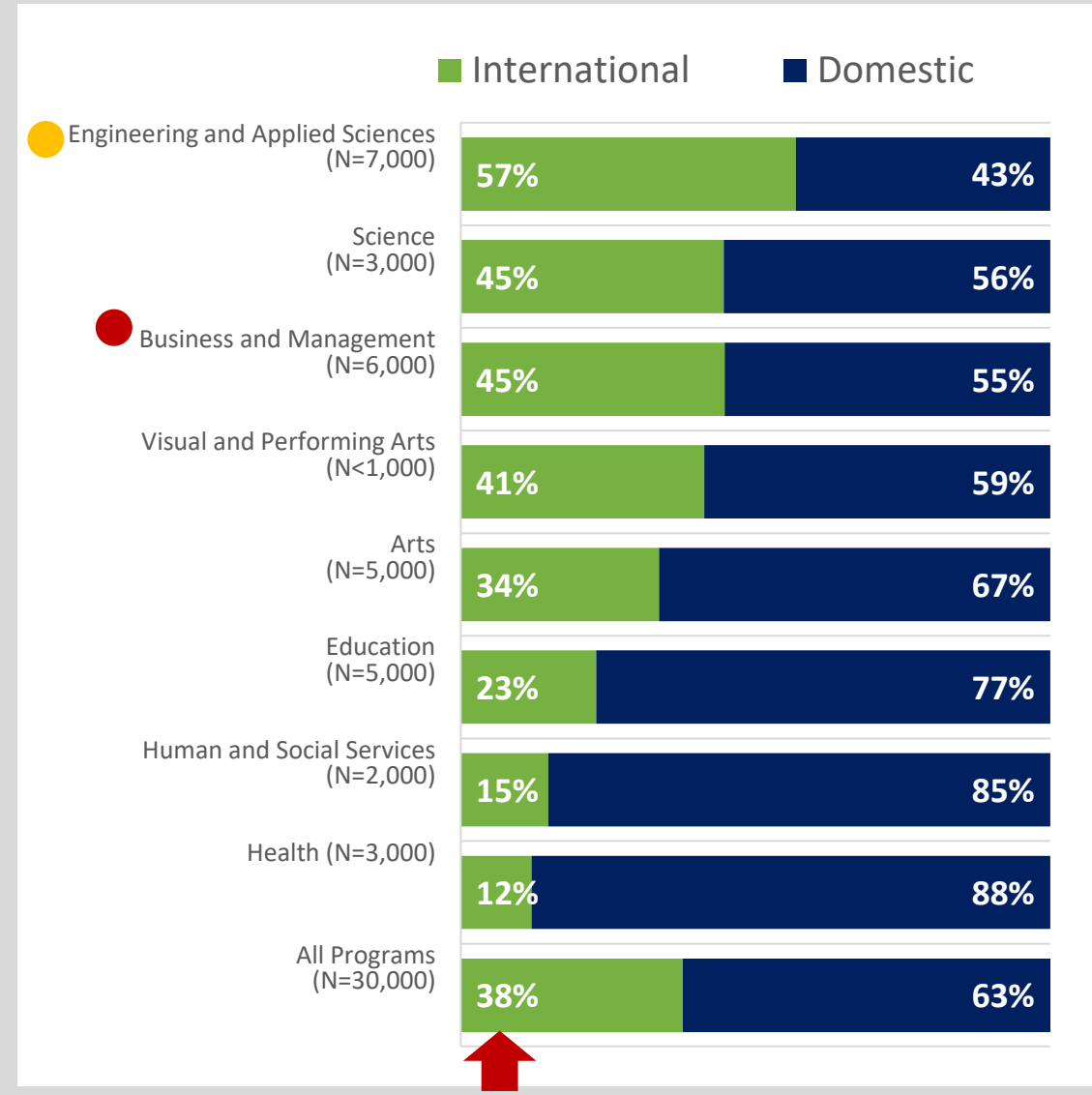
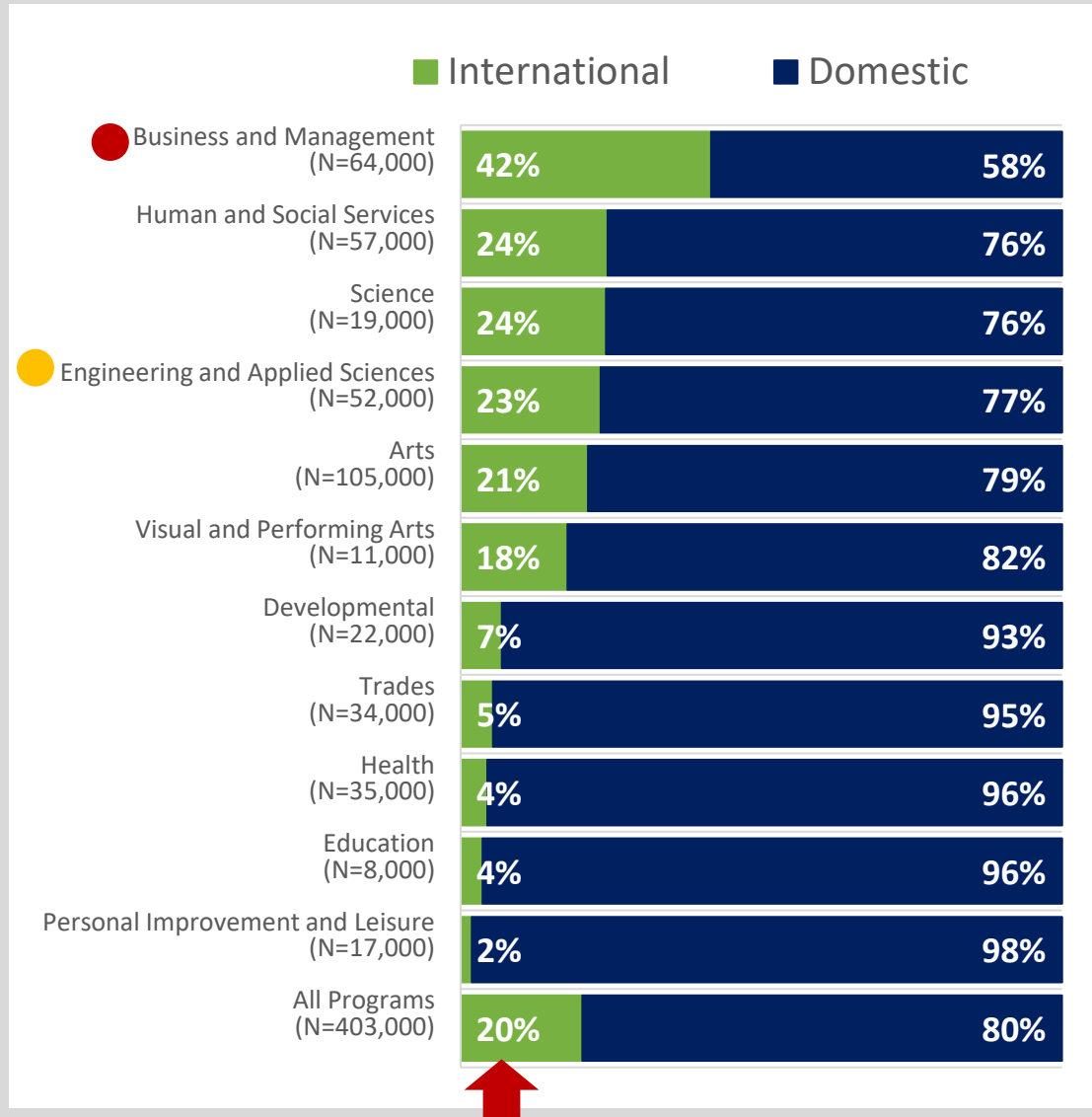
## Graduate Students





# What is the proportion of domestic versus international students within each program?

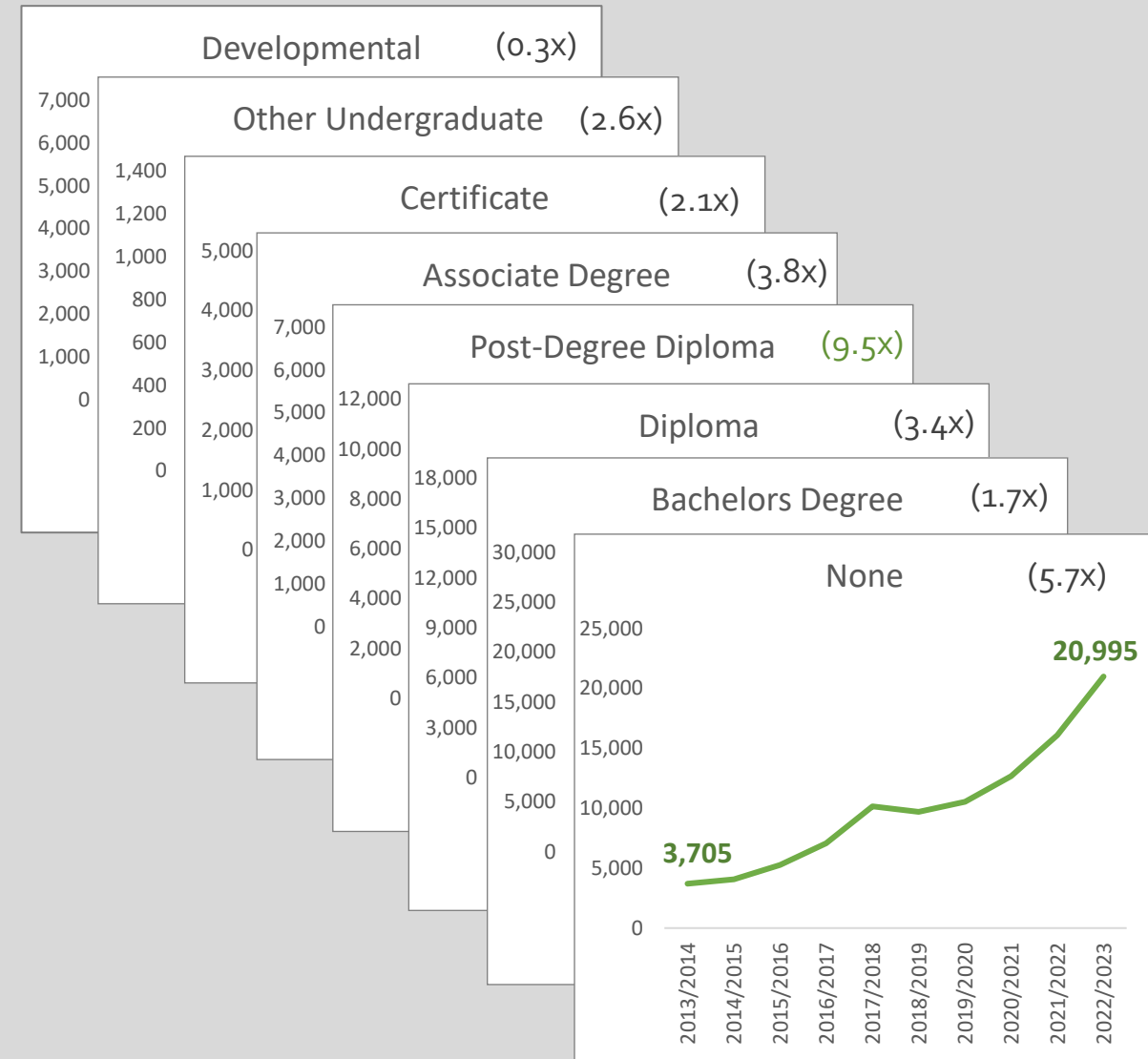
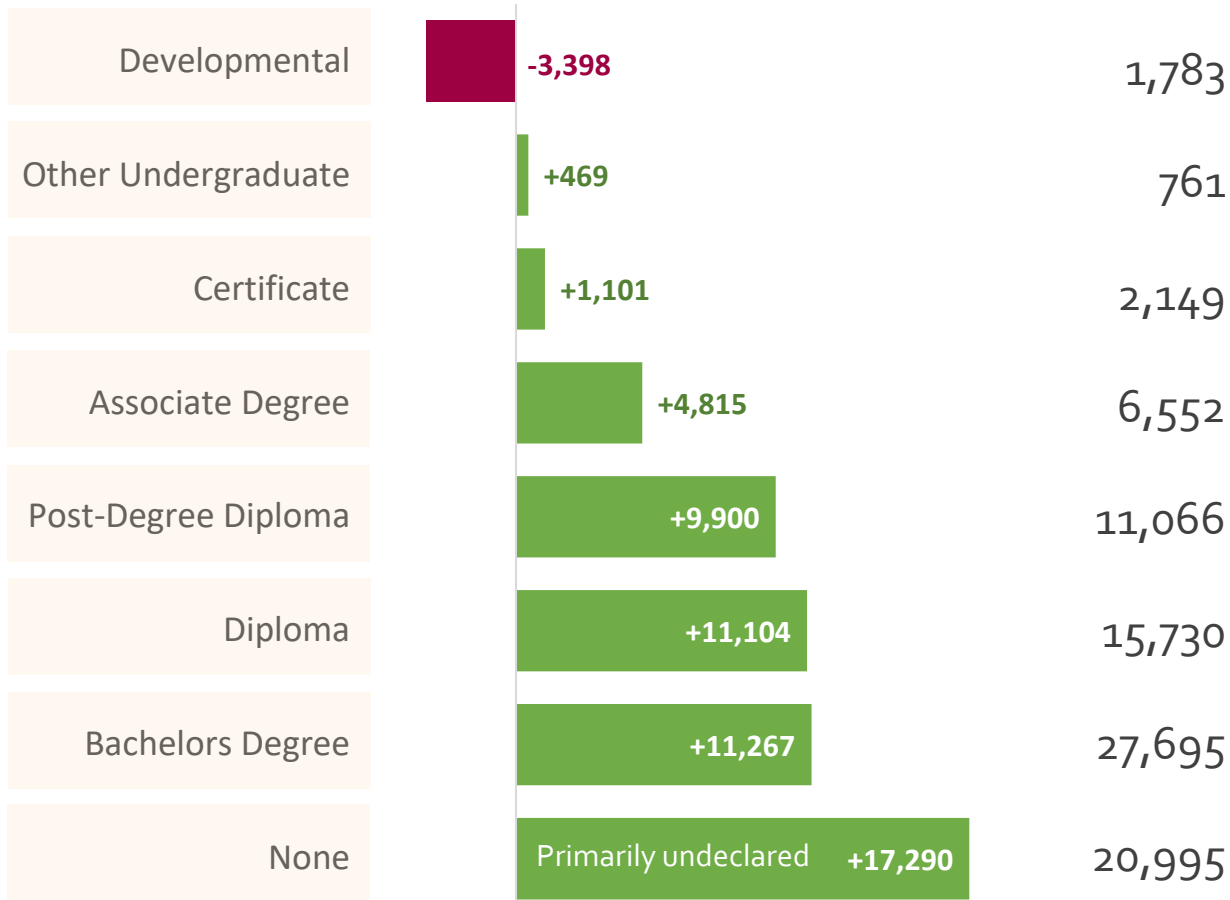
Undergraduate Students



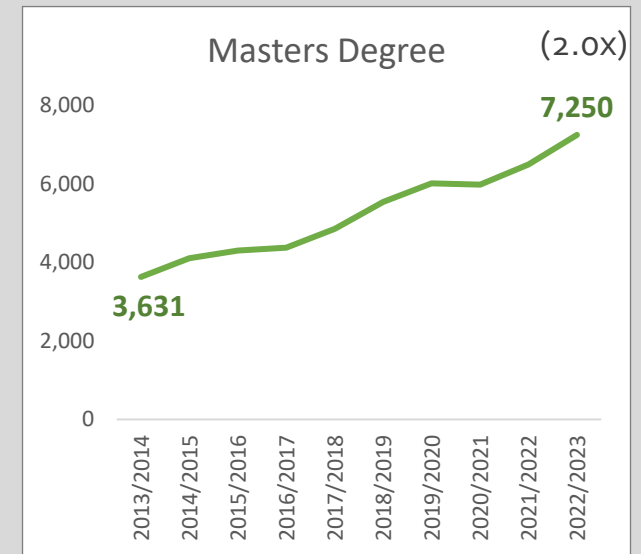
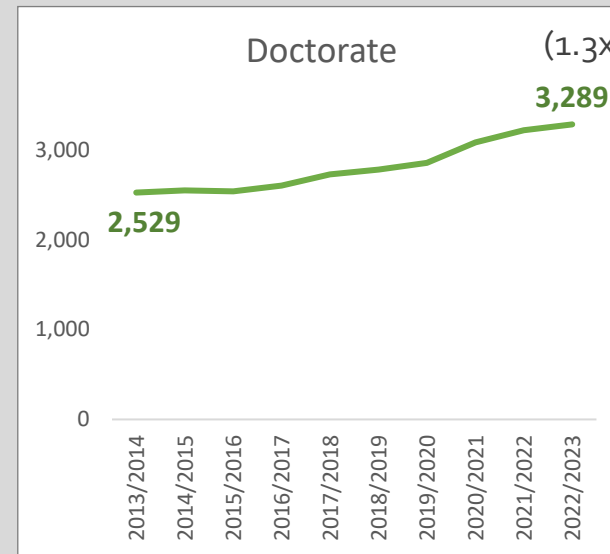
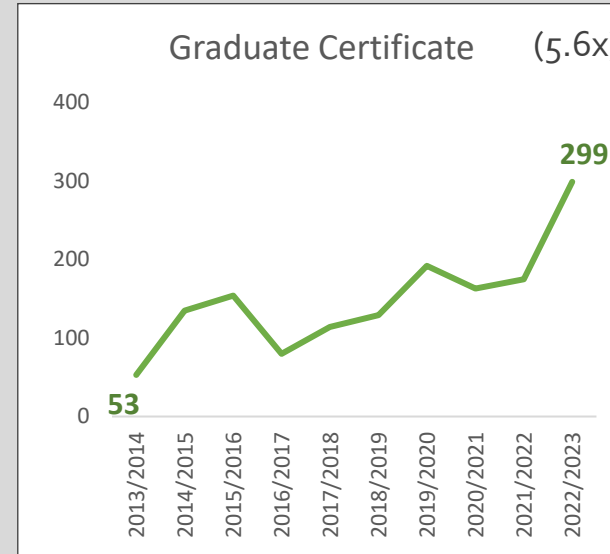
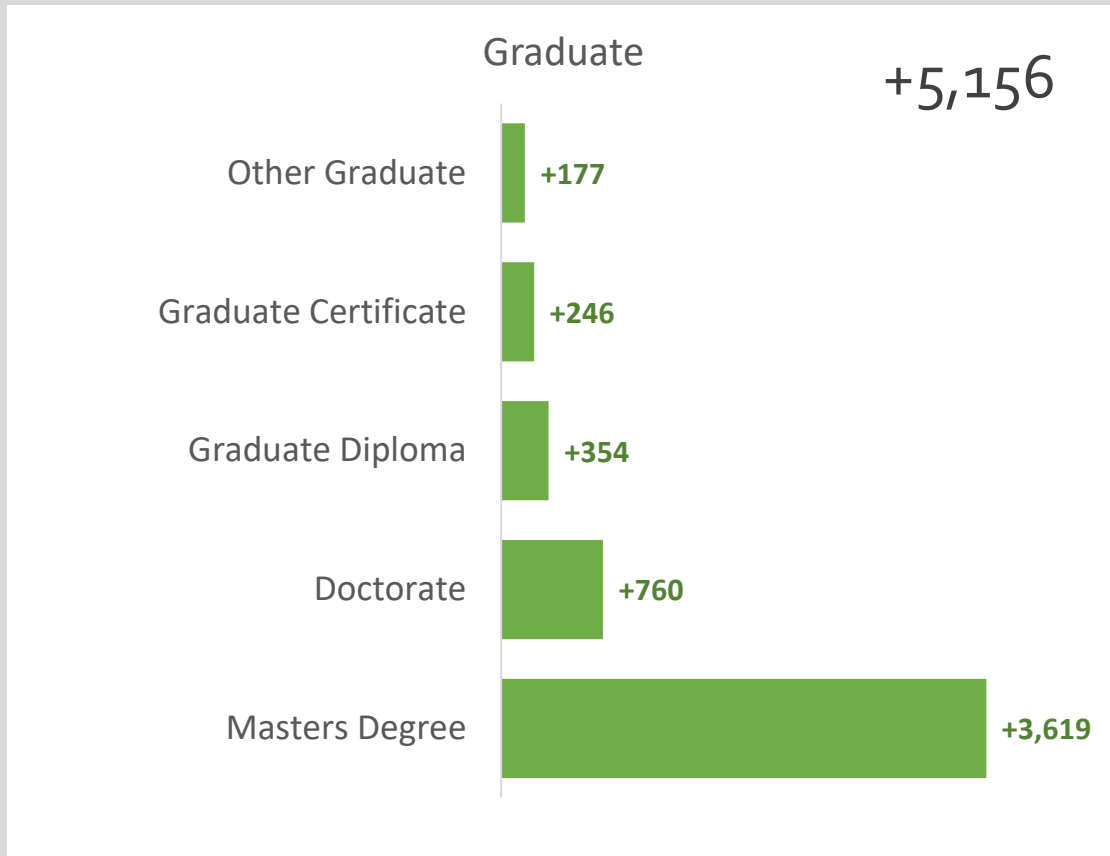
Graduate Students

# What is the 10-year change in undergraduate credentials sought by international students?

Undergraduate **+52,548** to 2022/2023



# What is the 10-year change in graduate credentials sought by international students?



# International Students by Country of Citizenship



*Source: PowerPoint Stock Image*

How many different countries do B.C.'s international students come from? (2022/2023)

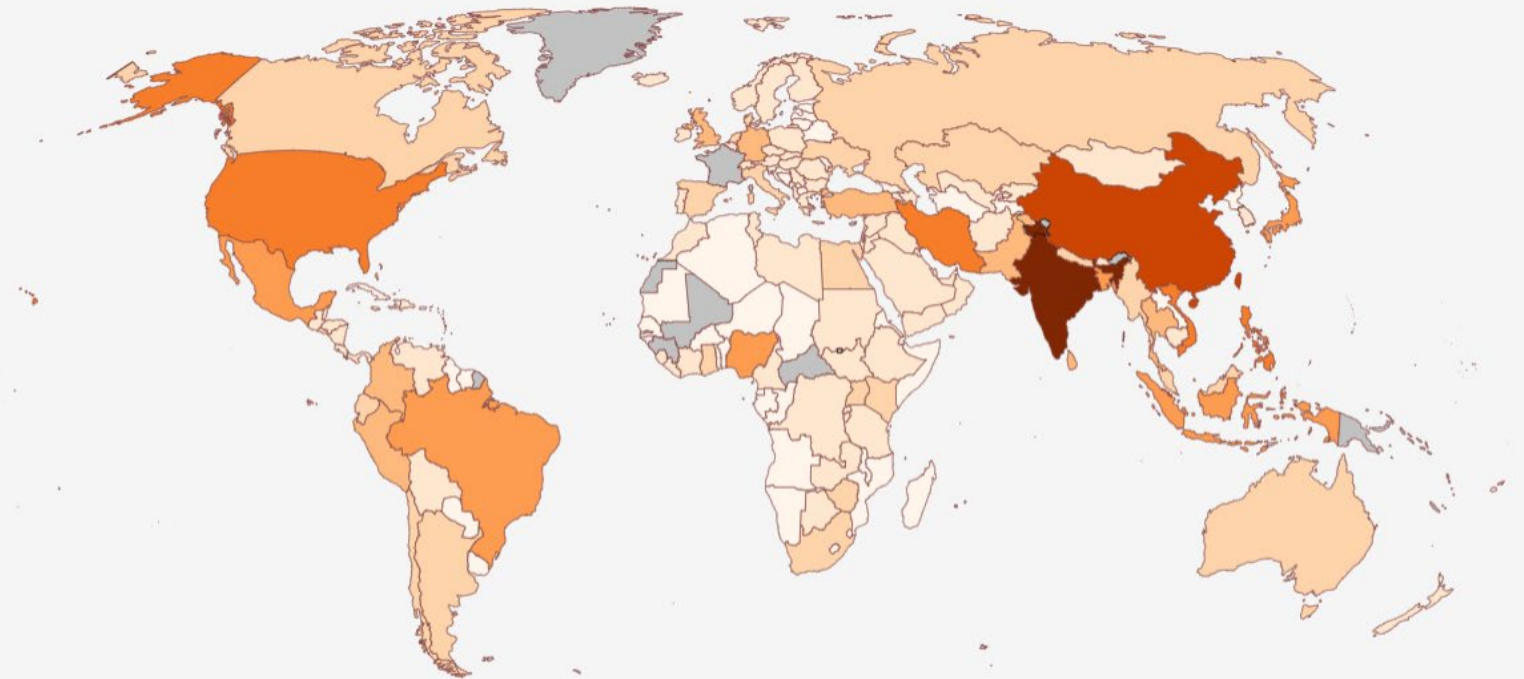
185

Where in the world do B.C.'s international students come from? What are the trends by country? *(Interactive Map)*

India (1)
China (2)
Philippines (3)
Iran (4)
United States (5)
Viet Nam (6)
Korea, South (7)
Japan (8)
Mexico (9)
Nigeria (10)

## B.C. Public Post-Secondary International Students (2022/2023)

by Country of Origin



Source: Student Transitions Project (STP2023)  
International exchange students included.

Source: <https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/19839929/>

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# Bar Chart Race: International Students, by Country (Top 10)

How has the number of international students and ranking by country of citizenship changed over the last 20 years, from 2002/2003 to 2022/2023.

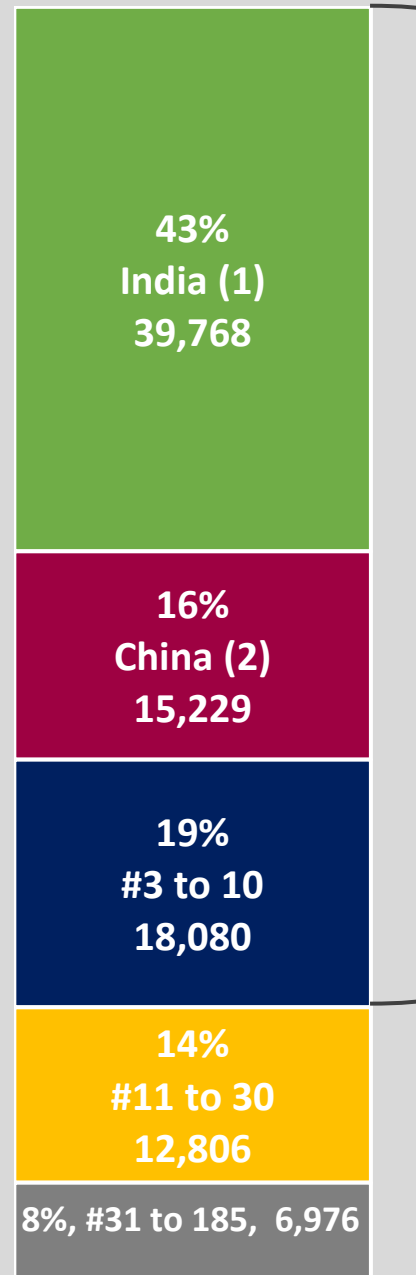


TEMPLATE CREDITS  
Bar chart race by Flourish team

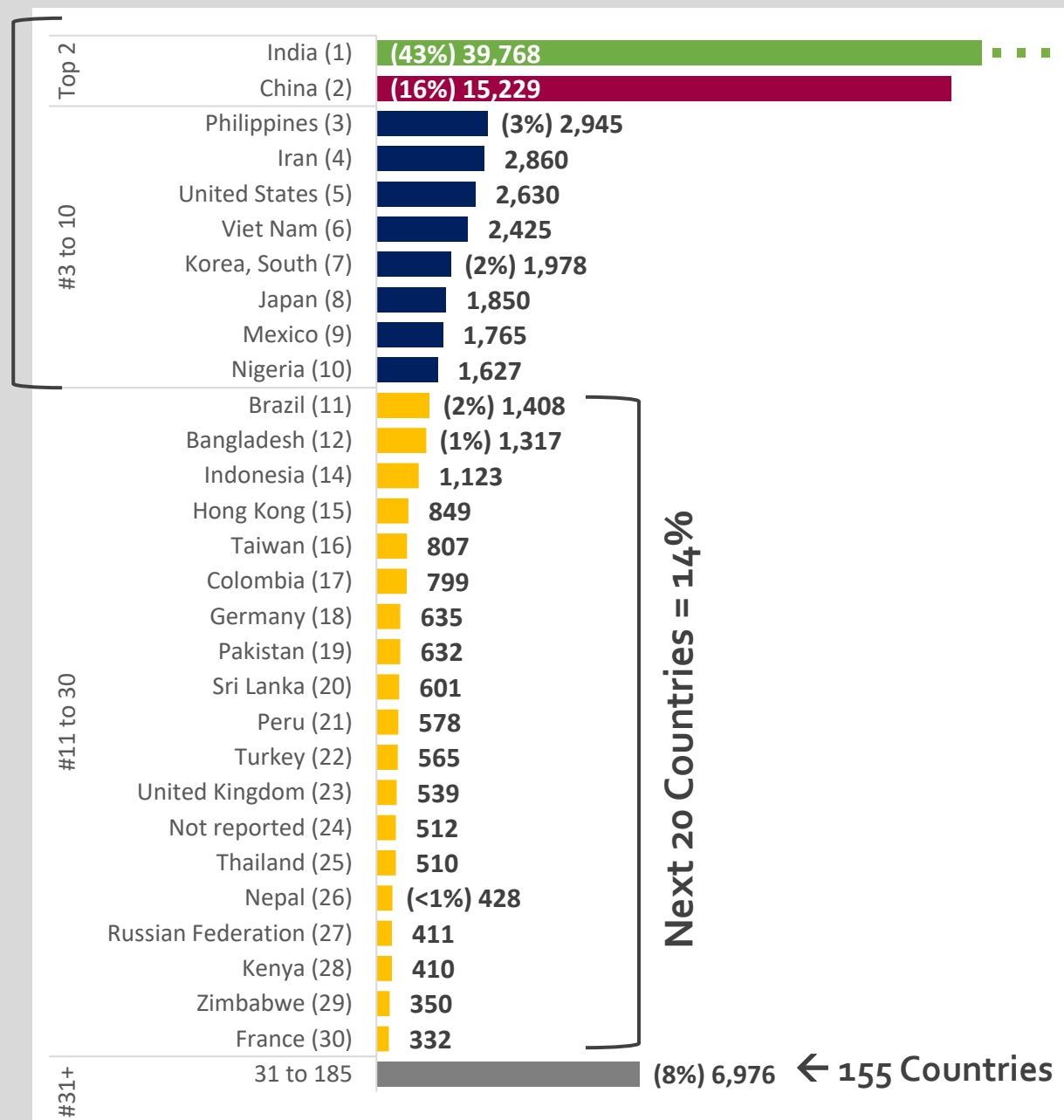
Source: <https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/19842093/>

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What proportion of international students come from the top 10 countries represented in B.C. public post-secondary institutions in 2022/2023?



Top 10 = 78%



Next 20 Countries = 14%

(8%) 6,976 ← 155 Countries

Excludes 302 international exchange students.



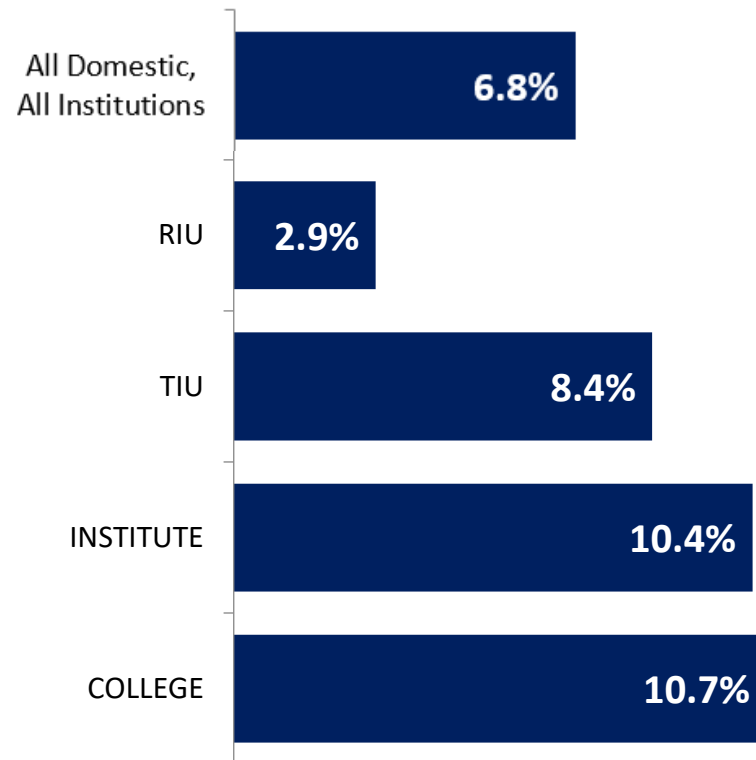
# International Student Academic Performance & Credential Completion



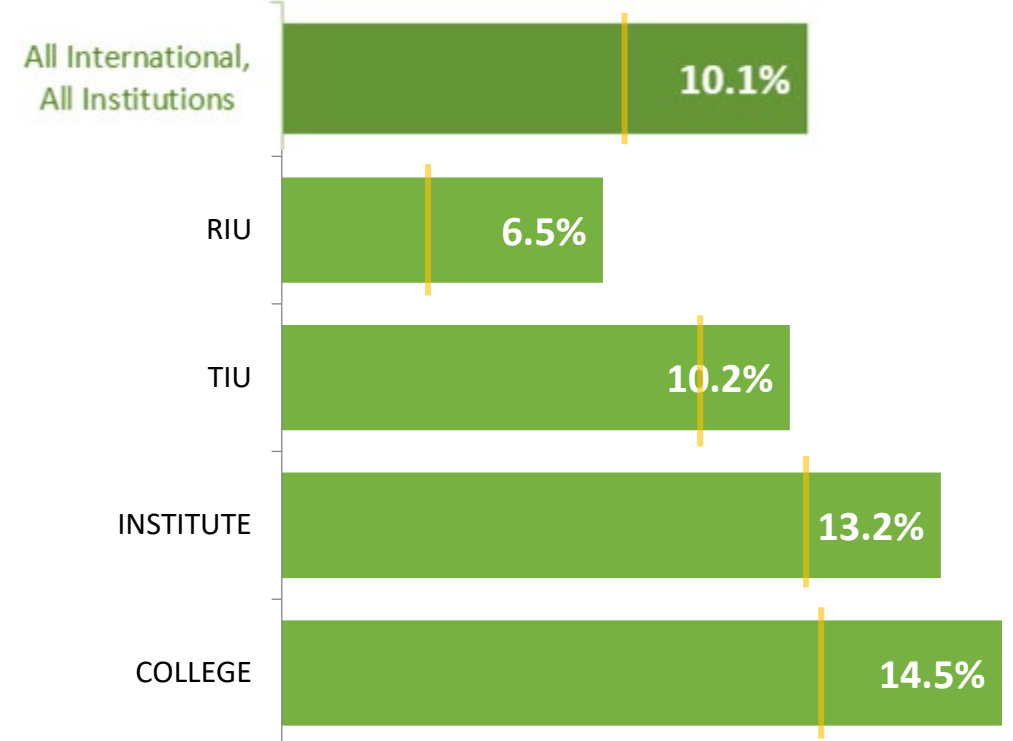
*Source: PowerPoint Stock Image*

# What are the first-year attrition rates of Immediate entry students: international versus domestic?

Domestic Students (N=21,017)

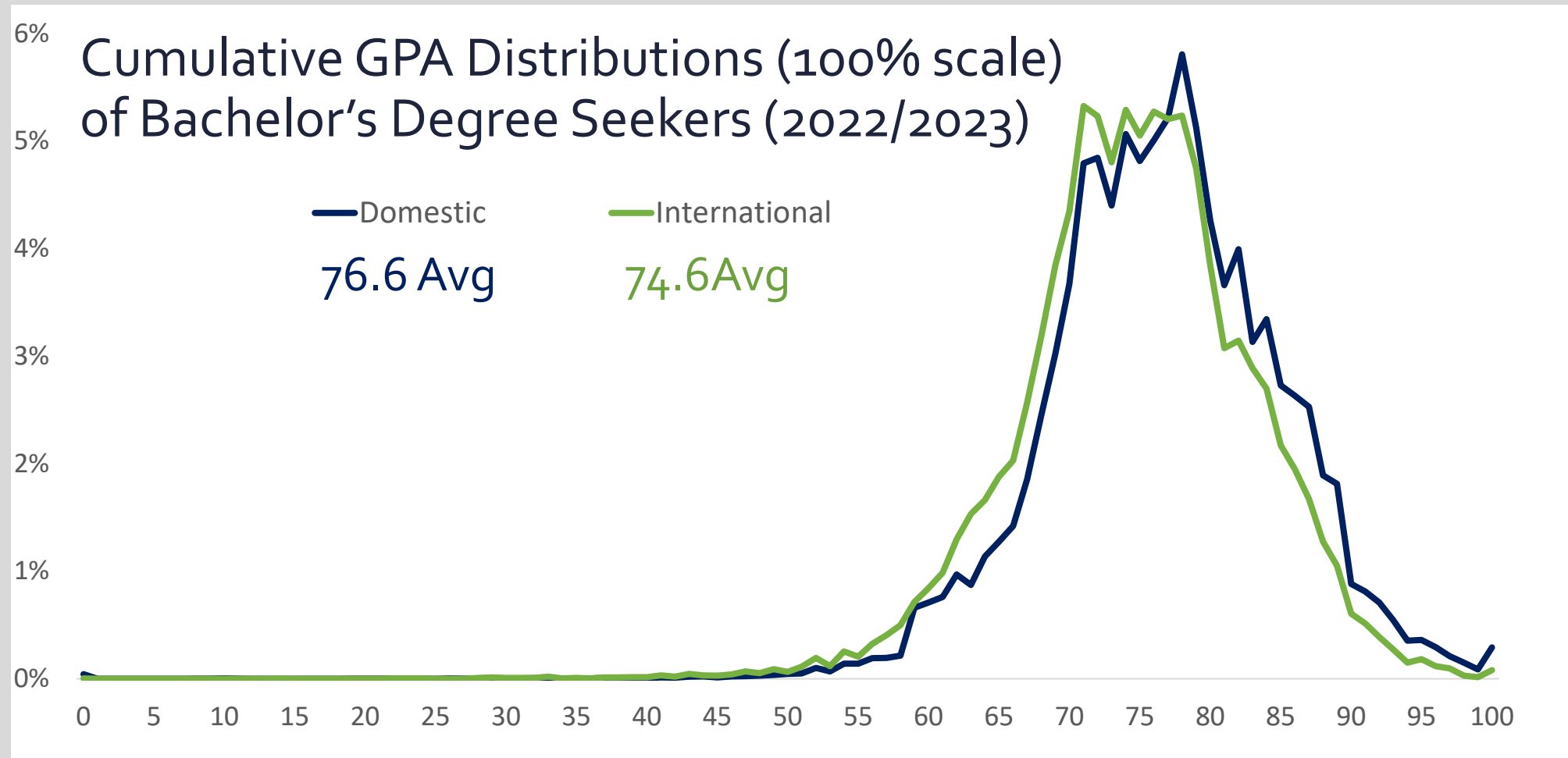


International Students (N=1,106)

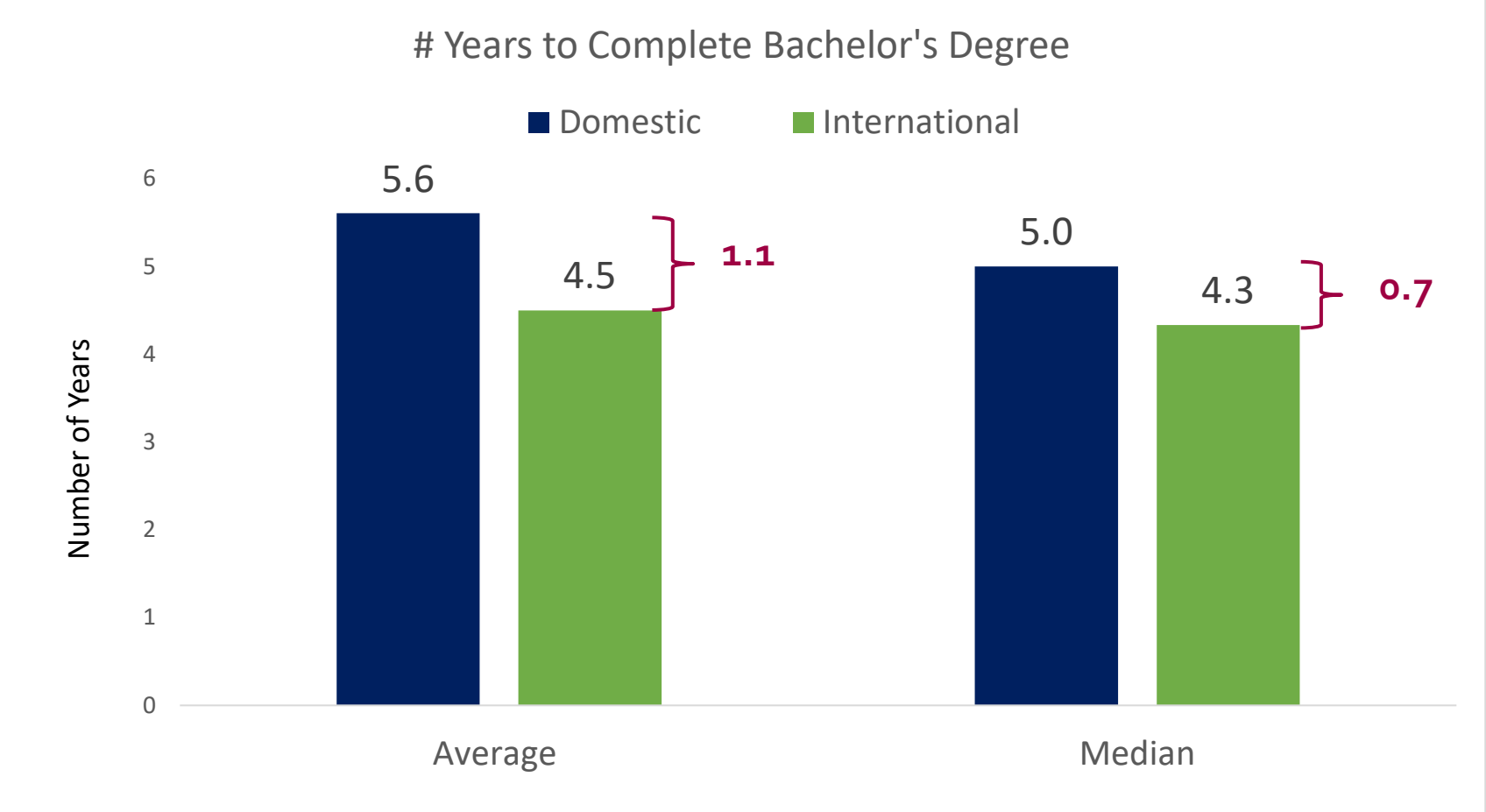


Attrition rates are derived from immediate-entry students who graduated from B.C. grade 12 in 2016/2017, enrolled immediately in B.C. public post-secondary education in 2017/2018 and did not complete or re-enrol over the next 4 years (2018/2019 to 2021/2022).

# Are there any differences in the academic performance of international and domestic students?



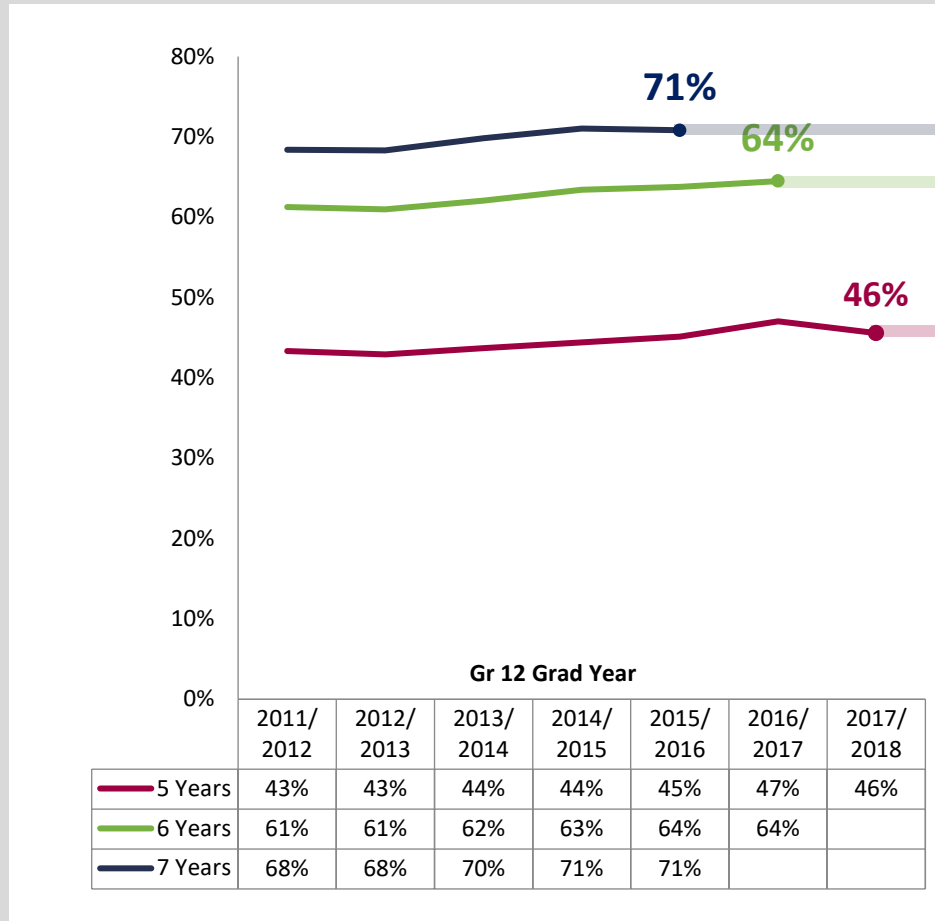
# How long does it take to complete a Bachelor's degree in B.C.? (Domestic vs International students)



*Derived from the three-year average or median time to completion for bachelor's degree recipients of 2020/2021, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023.*

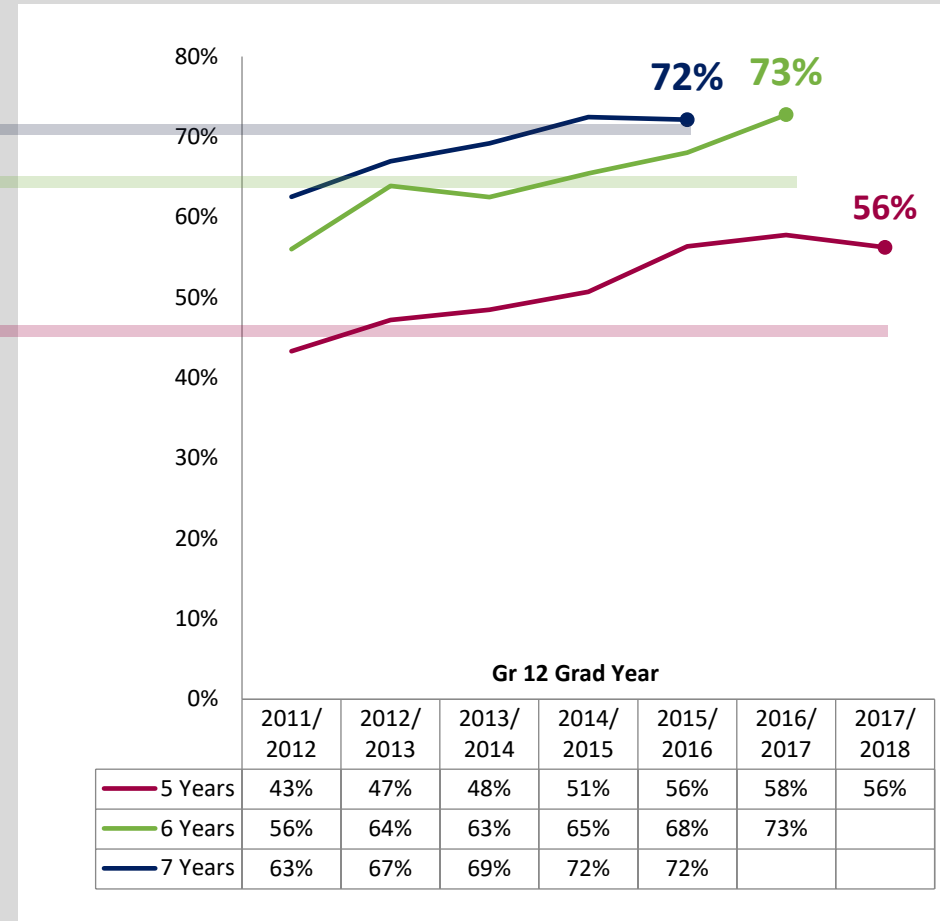
# What are the bachelor's degree completion rates of international vs. domestic students? (Among immediate entrants to bachelor's degrees after BC Gr12 graduation)?

## Domestic Students



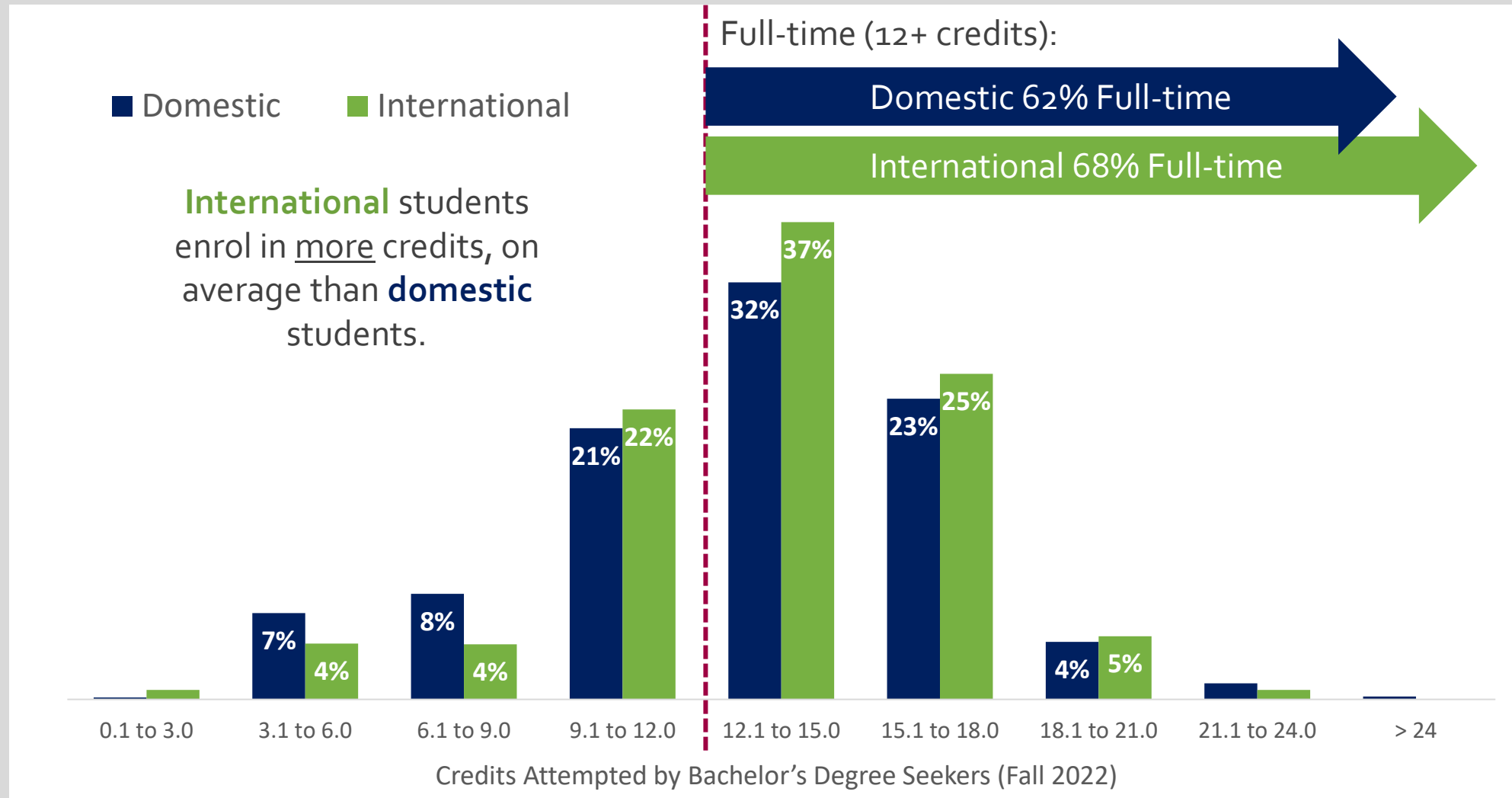
Cumulative bachelor's degree completion rates derived from 7 immediate entry cohorts (N = 11,062 per year, on average).

## International Students



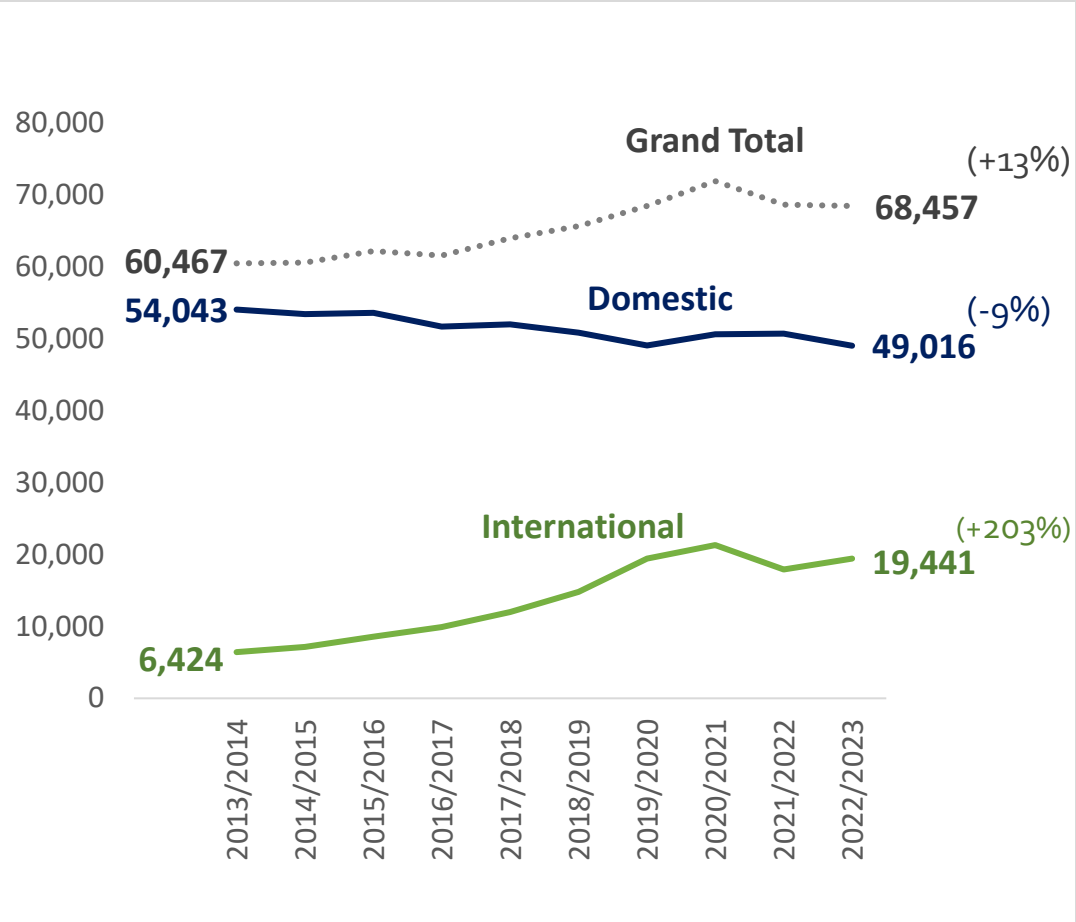
Cumulative bachelor's degree completion rates derived from 7 immediate entry cohorts (N = 200 students per year, on average).

# Why do international students complete bachelor's degrees faster than domestic students?

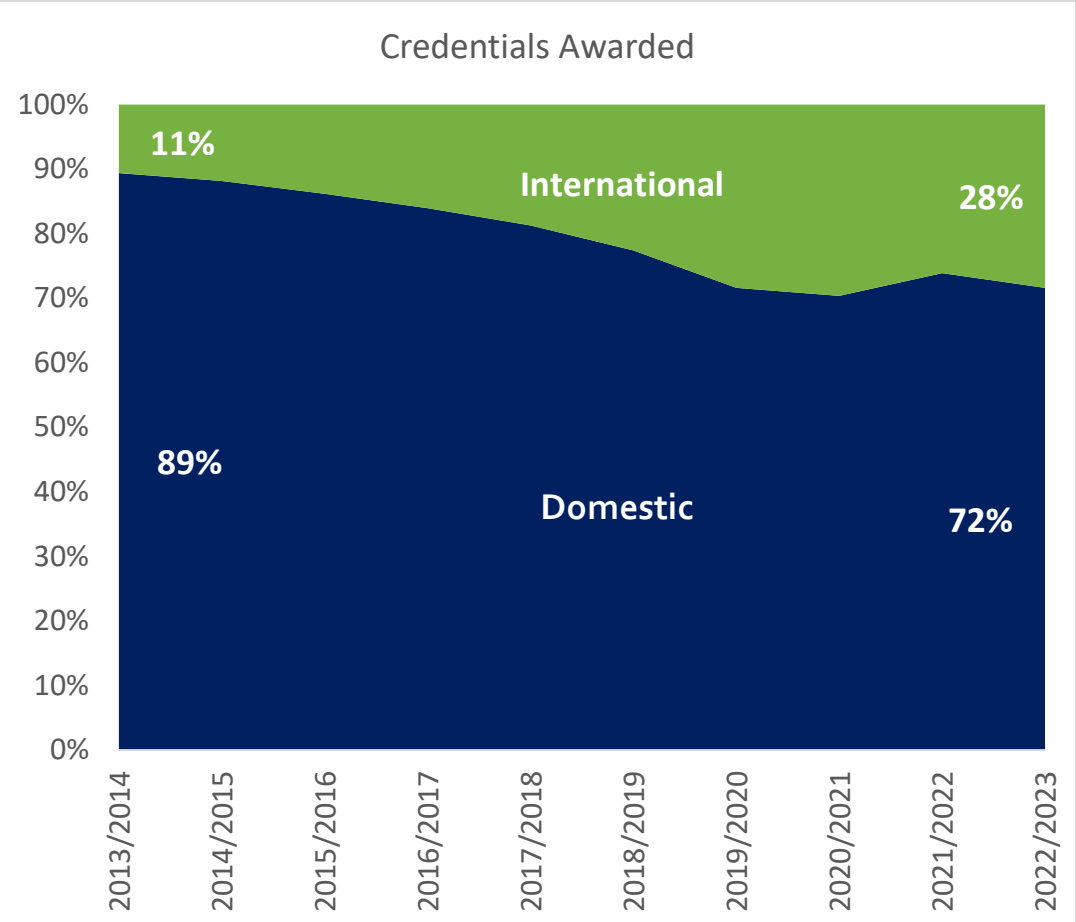


# What are the 10-year trends in credentials awarded to domestic and international students?

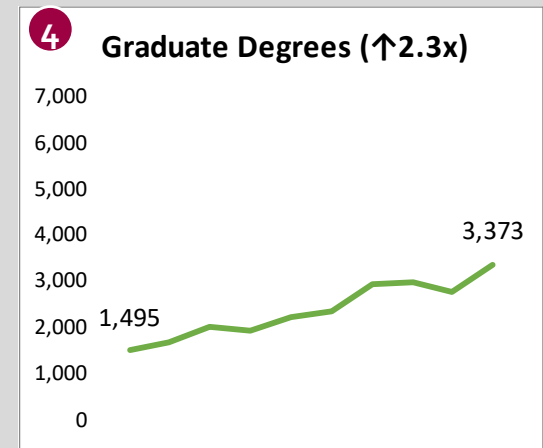
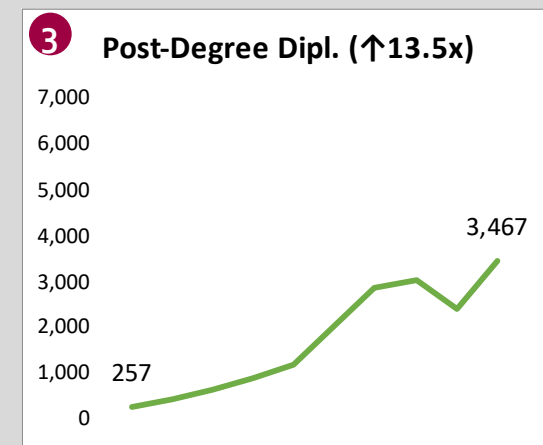
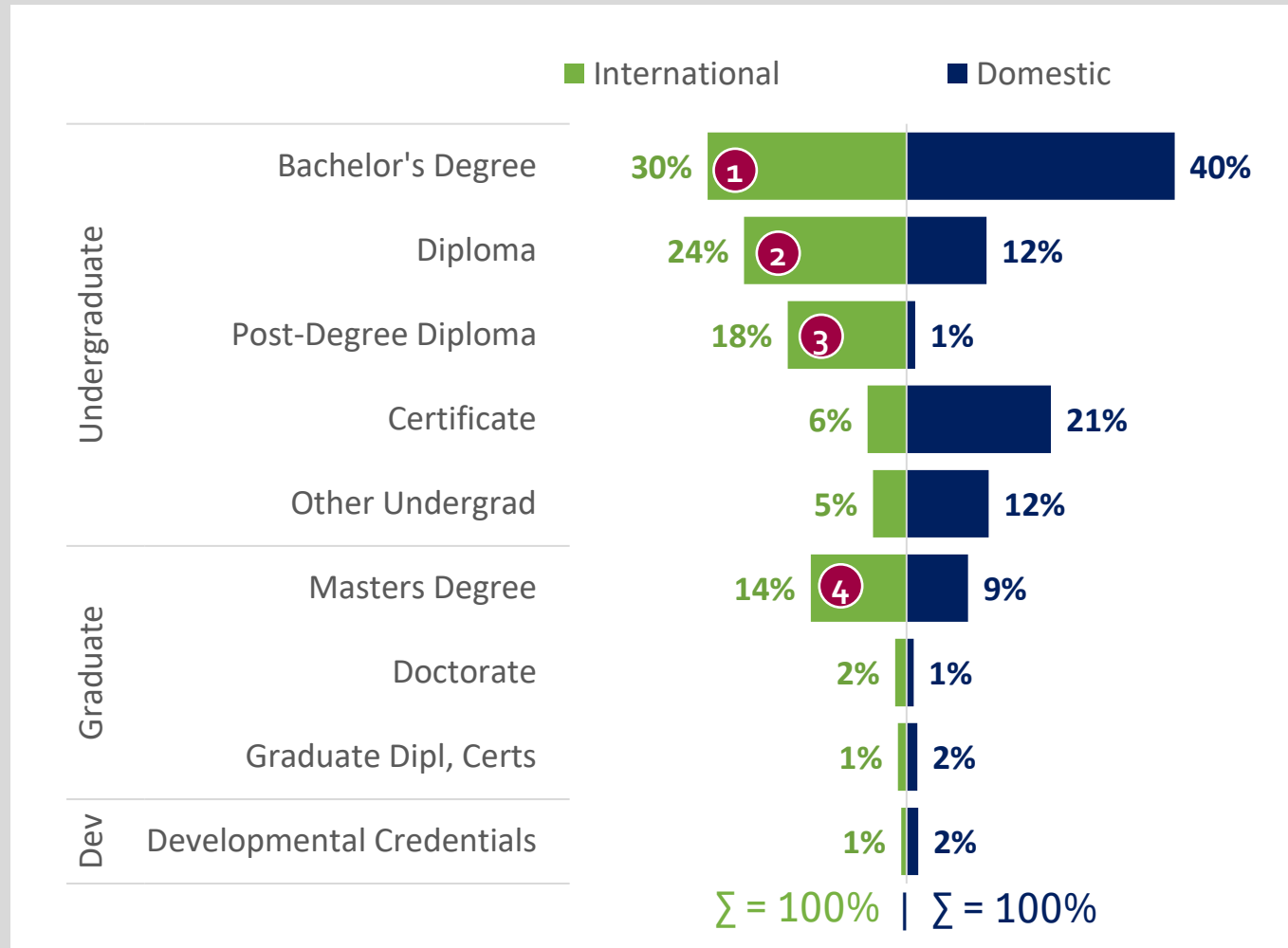
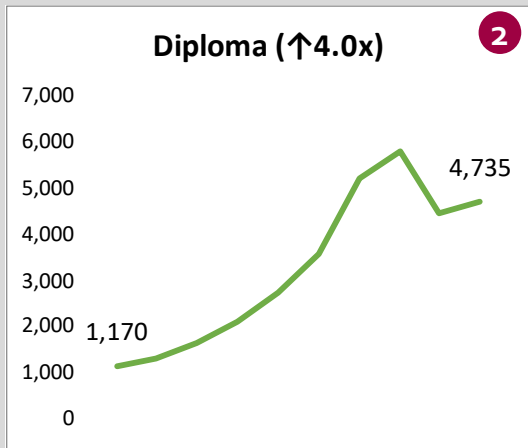
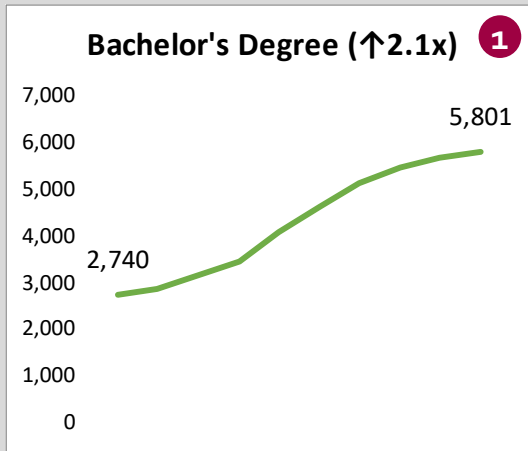
# of Credentials Awarded



% Share of Credentials Awarded



# Which credentials were awarded to international and domestic students in 2022/2023?



10-year trends 2013/2014 to 2022/2023  
(International Credentials Awarded)

10-year trends 2013/2014 to 2022/2023  
(International Credentials Awarded)



# International Students Studying in Canada



Source: PowerPoint Stock Images

# What is impacting international enrolments in Canada?

- **January, 2024** - Canadian government set new limits on the number of visa permits for international students (35% reduction over the next 2 years), in response to concerns about “disreputable institutions and chronic housing shortages.”
- **September, 2024** - further cuts of 10% were announced for 2025. Spouses of Master’s students will be denied work permits, unless the program is at least 16 months long.
- **October, 2024** – New limits on language requirements and eligible programs for Post-Graduation Work Permit program.

How many international students are studying in Canada?  
Will the future look anything like the past?

- *Times Higher Education*, “Canada to cut new international student visas by a third”, January 22, 2024, <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/canada-cut-new-international-student-visas-third>

# Caution!



Multiple data sources.



Different sub-populations of international students in Canada.



Different time periods.  
Accessing consistent and current data is challenging.

# How many international students study in Canada?

Source: <https://cbie.ca/infographic/>

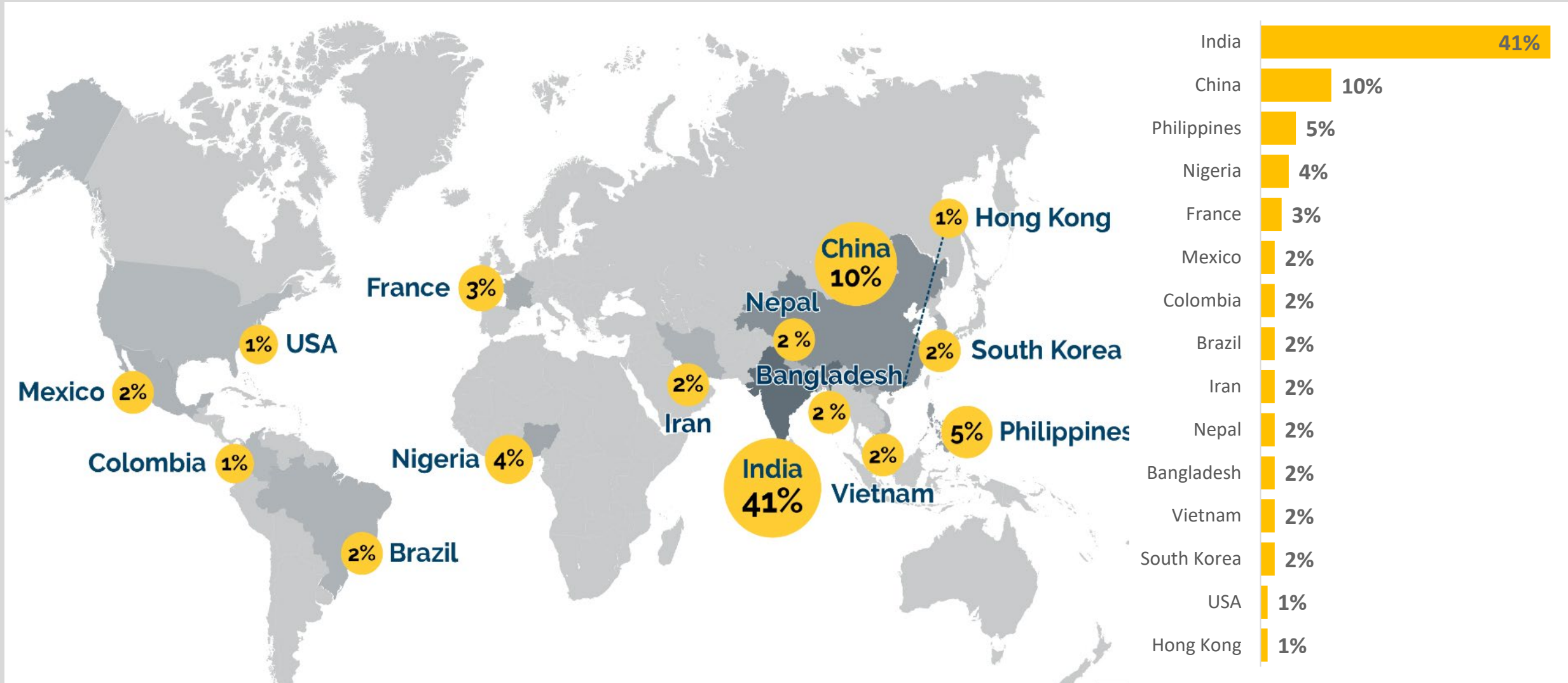
*CBIE uses Immigration,  
Refugees and Citizenship  
Canada (IRCC) data.*



1,040,985 international students in Canada at all levels  
of study at the end of 2023<sup>1</sup>

# Where do international students at Canadian institutions come from?

(At all levels of study, CBIE, 2023)

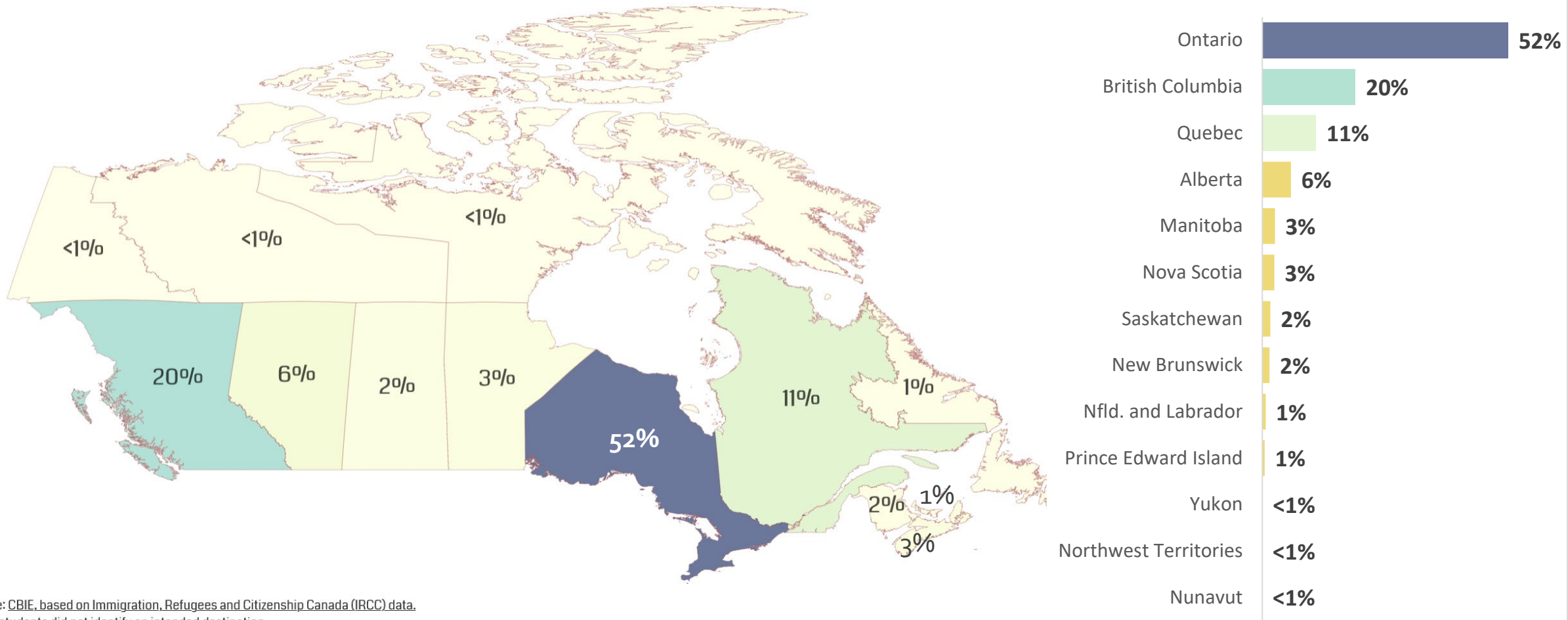


Source: <https://cbie.ca/infographic/>

CBIE uses Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) data.

# Where do international students study in Canada?

(At all levels of study, CBIE, 2023)

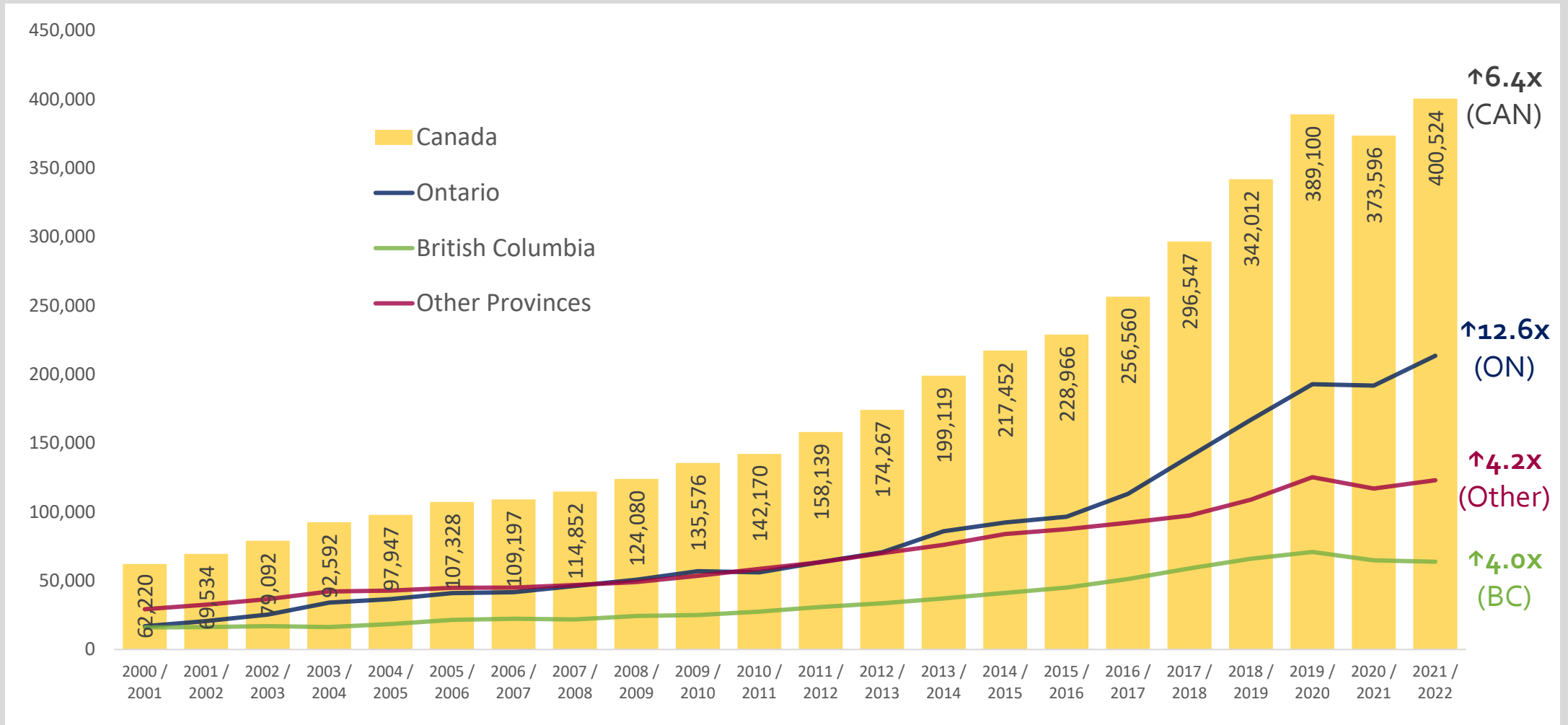


Source: CBIE, based on Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) data.  
2% of students did not identify an intended destination.



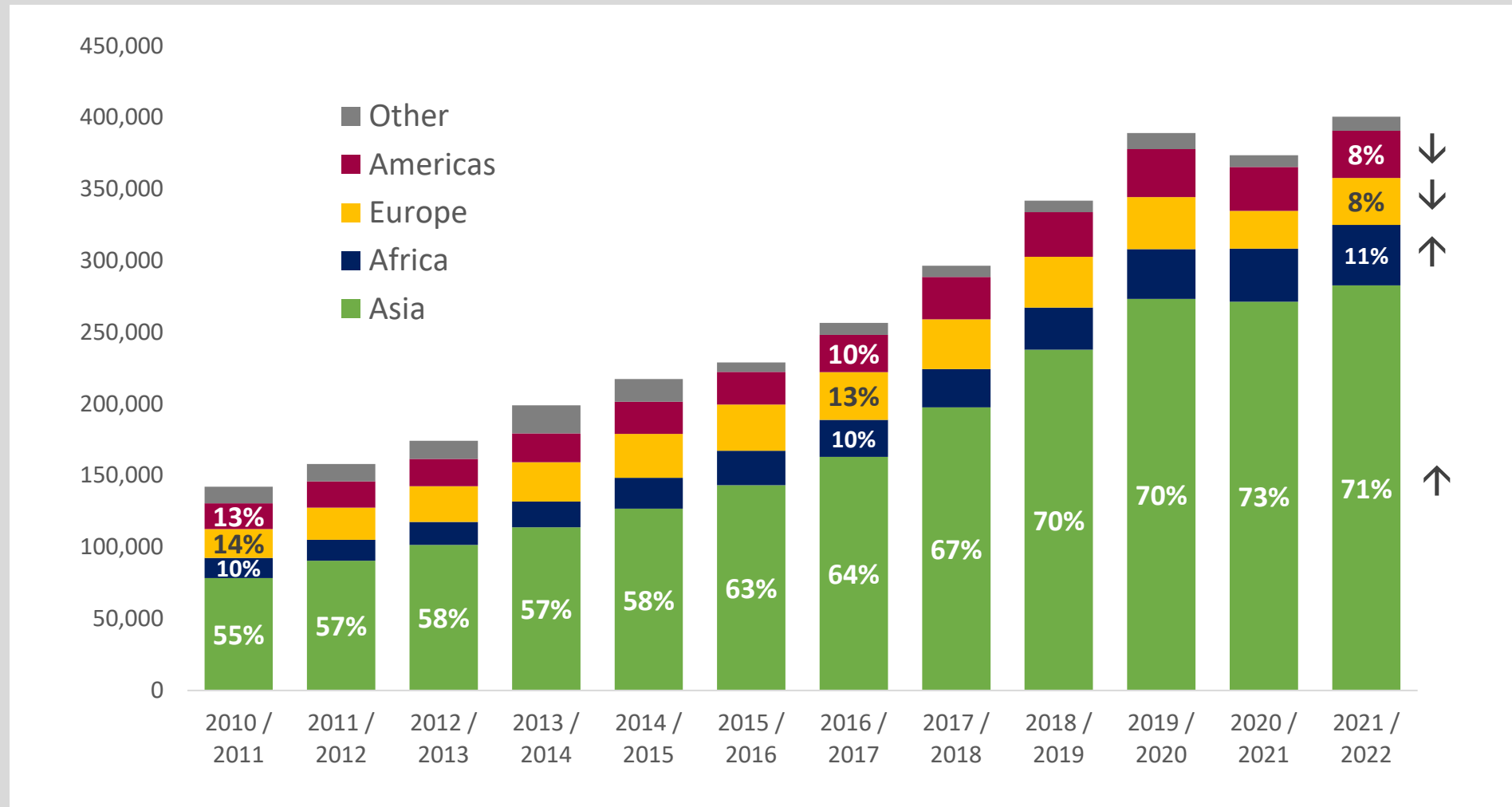
Data Source: Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), 2023.

# What are the international enrolment trends in **Canada**, by region of Canada? (2000/2001 to 2021/22)? (PSIS, Fall Snapshot, publicly funded institutions)



Source: Statistics Canada, PSIS, Postsecondary enrolments, by registration status, institution type, status of student in Canada and gender, Table: 37-10-0018-01

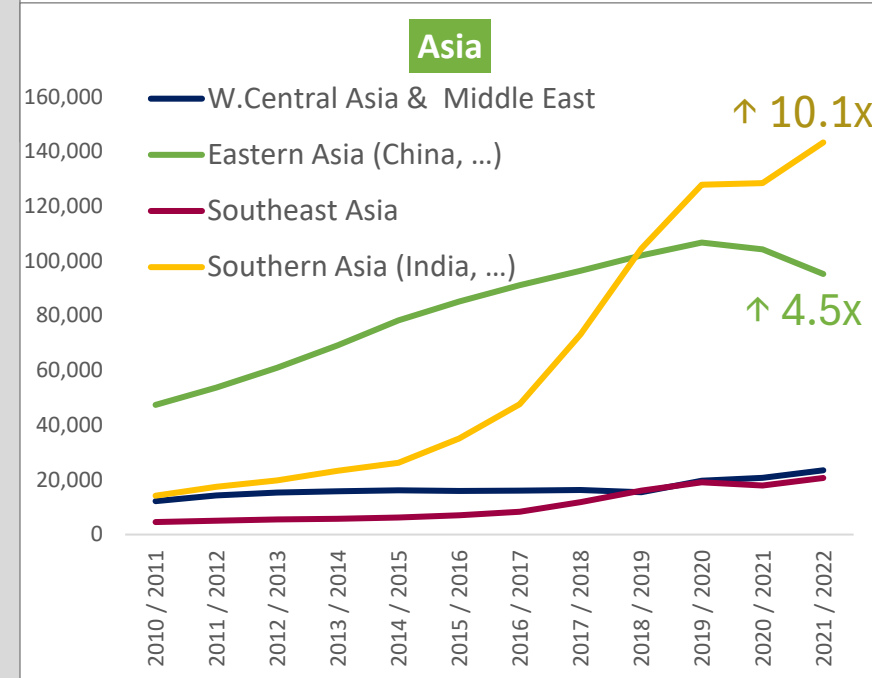
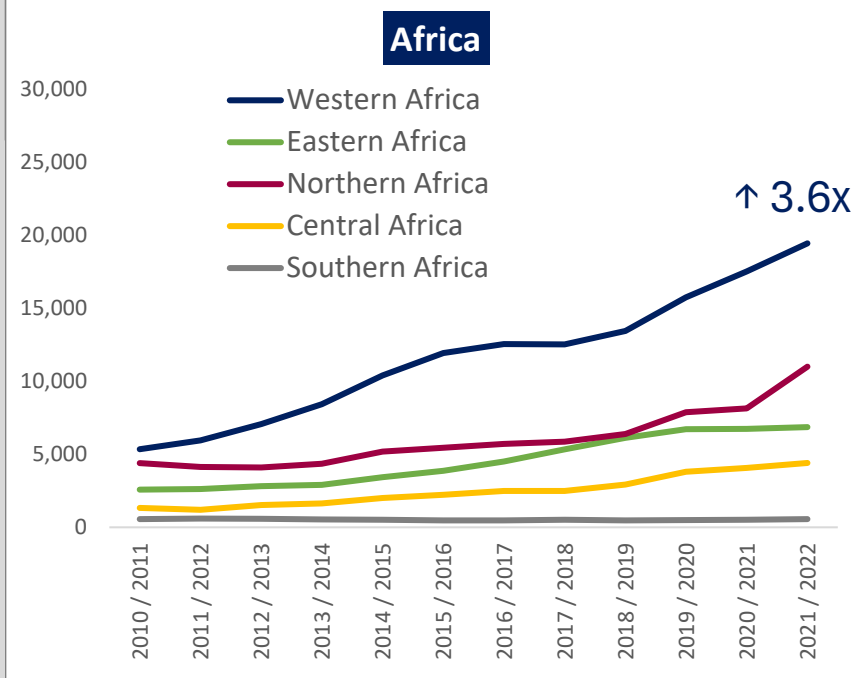
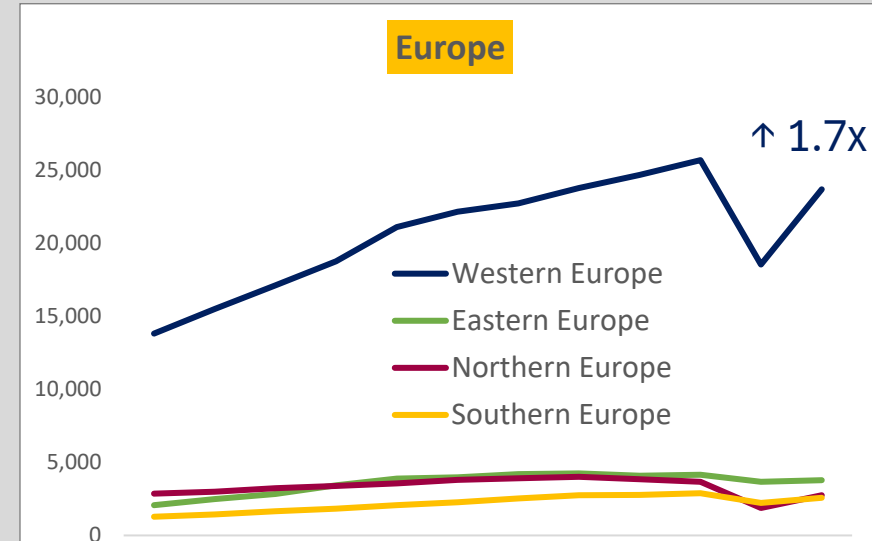
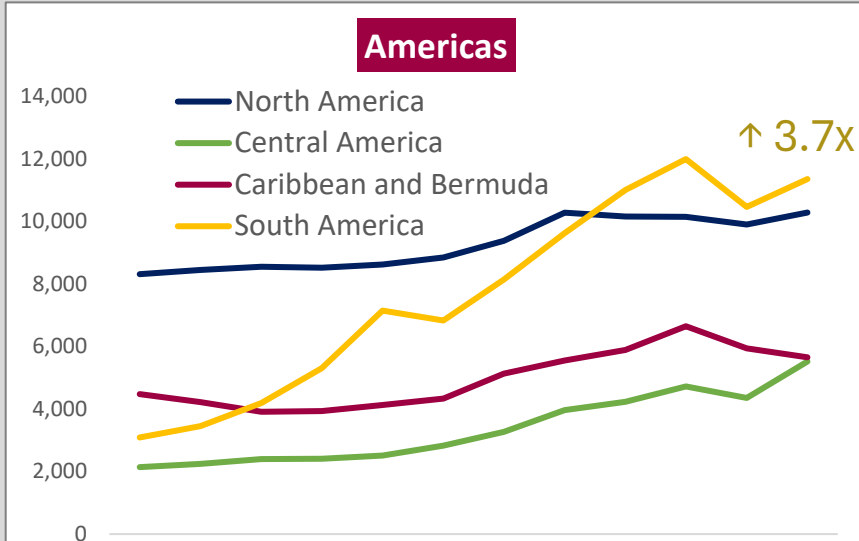
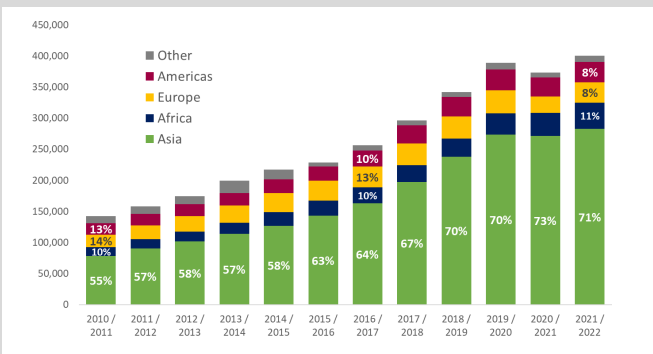
# What are the international enrolment trends in **Canada**, by citizenship (world region)? (2010/2011 to 2021/22)? (PSIS, Fall Snapshot, publicly funded)



Source: Statistics Canada, PSIS, Postsecondary enrolments, by registration status, institution type, status of student in Canada and gender, Table: 37-10-0018-01

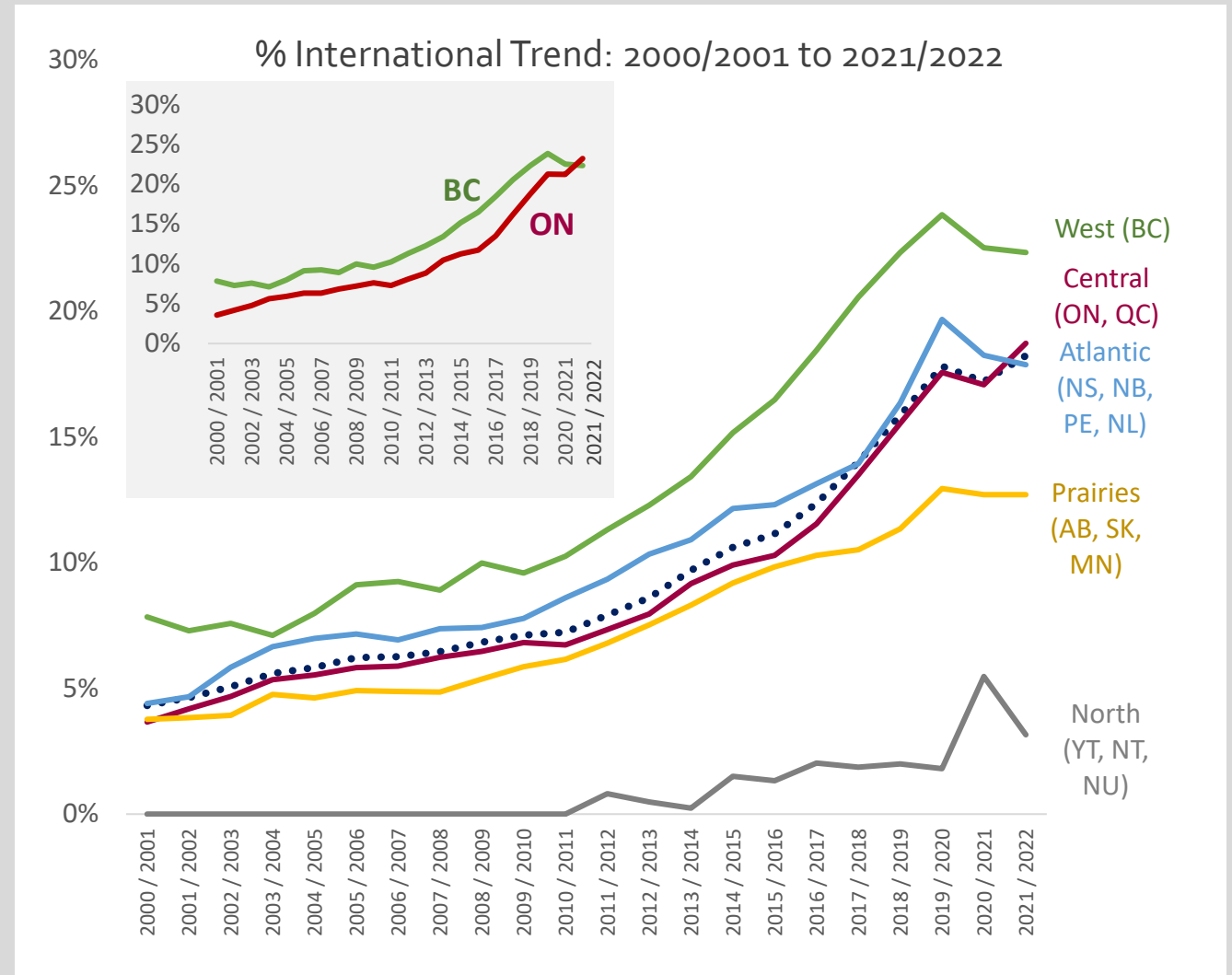
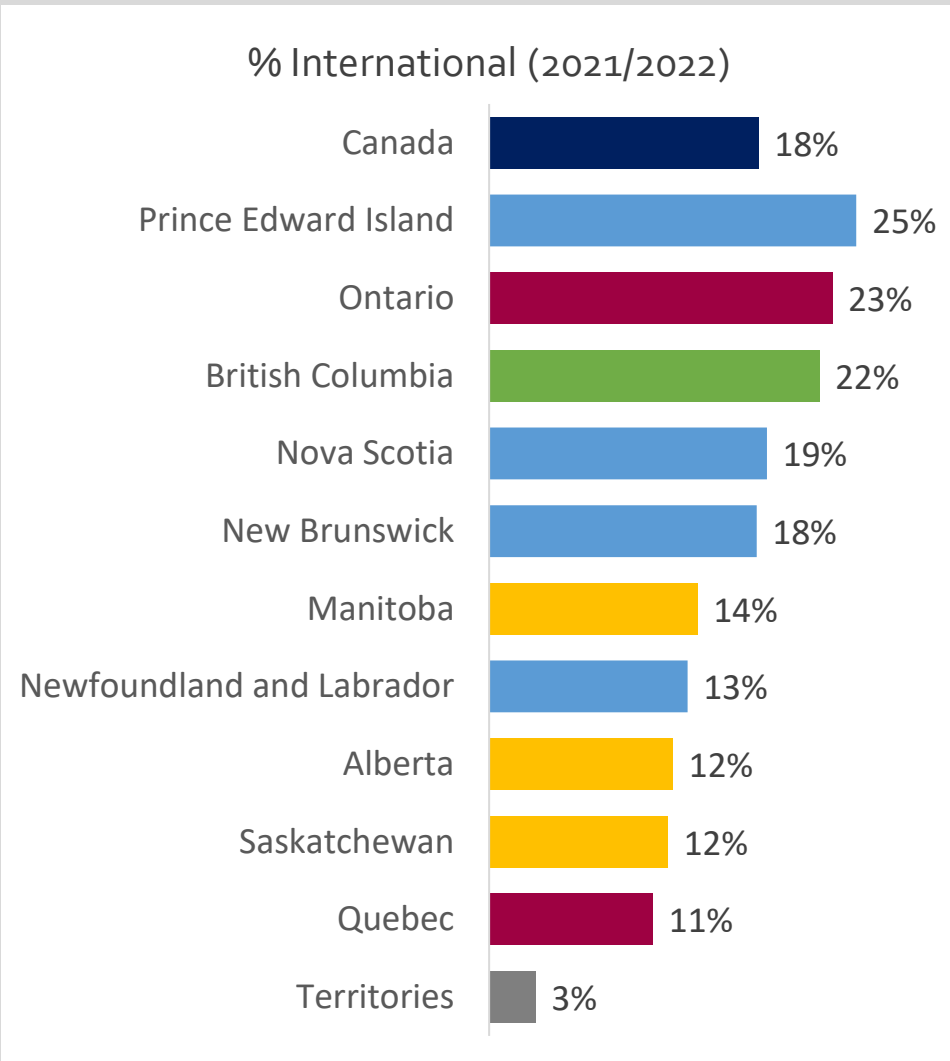


# International enrolment trends in Canada, by citizenship sub-region (2010/2011 to 2021/22) (PSIS, Fall Snapshot)



Source: Statistics Canada, PSIS, Postsecondary enrolments, by registration status, institution type, status of student in Canada and gender, Table: 37-10-0018-01

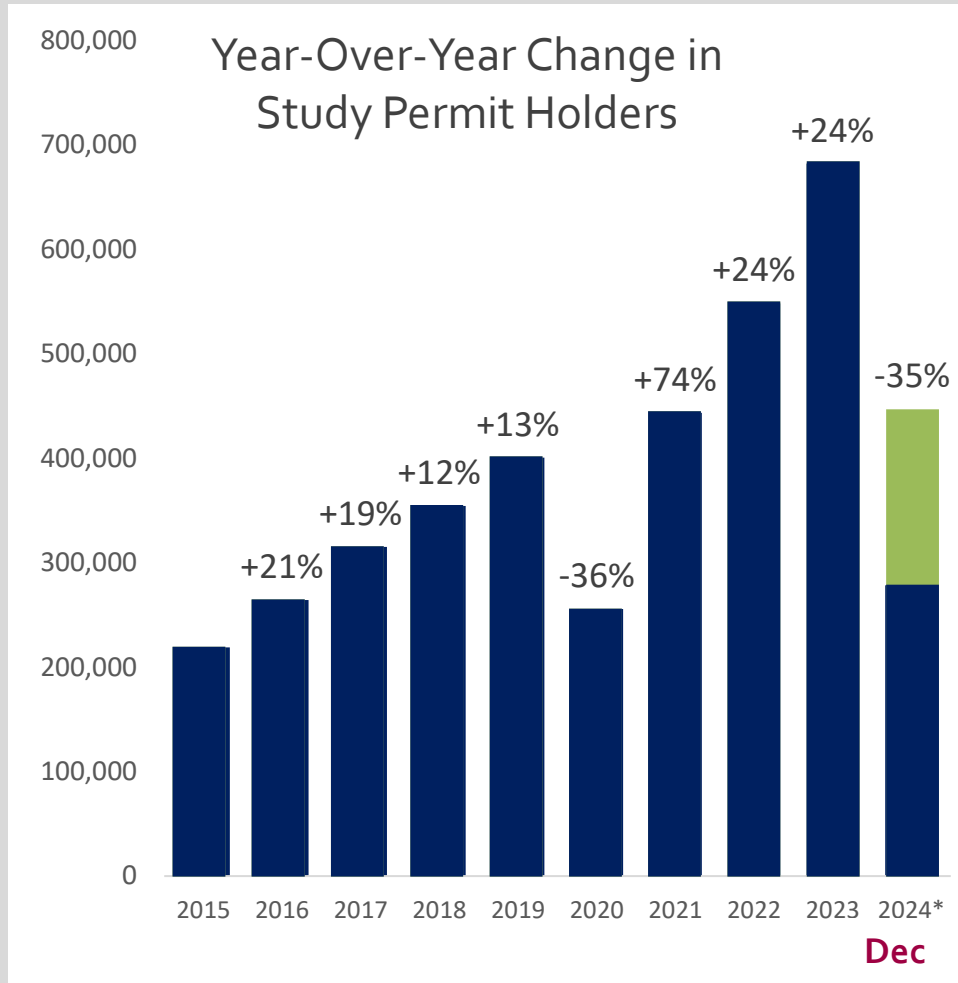
# What proportion of total post-secondary enrolment in each province is international? (PSIS, Fall Snapshot)



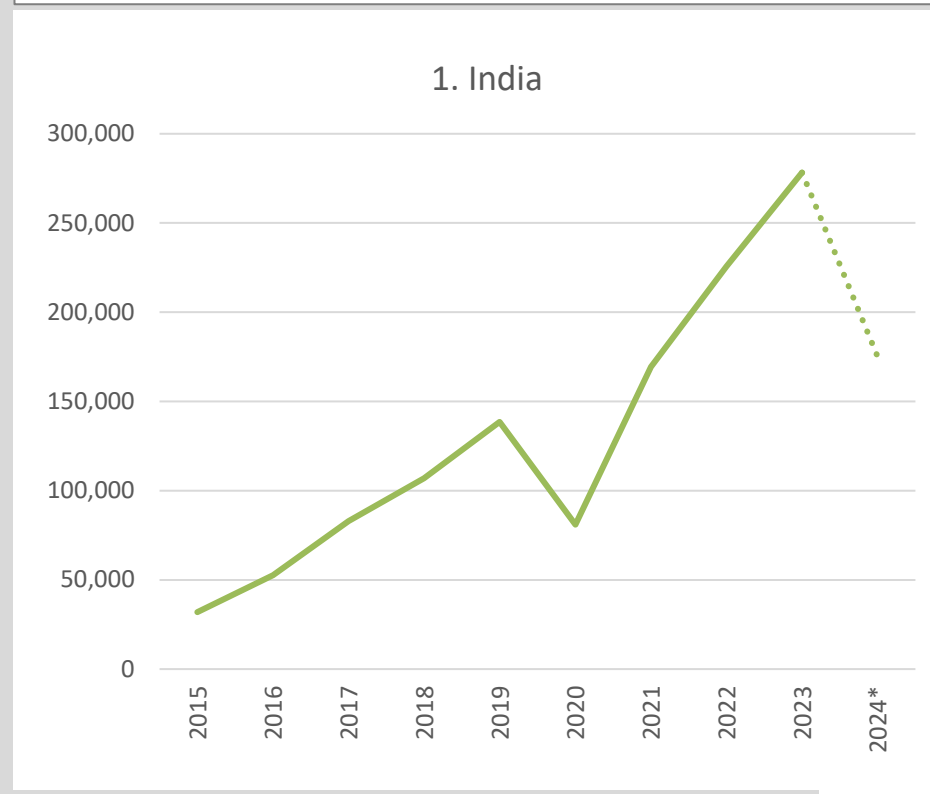
Source: Statistics Canada, PSIS, Postsecondary enrolments, by registration status, institution type, status of student in Canada and gender, Table: 37-10-0018-01

# What is the trend in study permit holders in Canada? (2015 to 2024)

Relatively recent data as an indicator of international enrolment demand.



**# Study Permits, by Country: (STP Estimate to Dec 2024)**



**Top 10 Countries**

1. India (-37%)
2. China (-19%)
3. Nigeria (-33%)
4. Philippines (-35%)
5. Iran (-34%)
6. Nepal (-40%)
7. Algeria (-7%)
8. Ghana (+14%)
9. Vietnam (-24%)
10. Korea (-36%)

Reset

Source: IRCC, Canada study permits by country of citizenship and year in which permit(s) became effective, January 2015 to July 2024, with STP projections to December 2024, derived from 2024 partial year and historical trends.

# International Students: Why & Why Not?



*Source: PowerPoint Stock Images*

# Why do international students study in B.C.?



**BCCAT**



*PowerPoint Stock Images*

High quality  
education

Quality of  
life, cultural  
diversity and  
great people

Education  
choices,  
flexibility,  
transfer  
system

Experience  
living and  
working in  
Canada after  
graduation

# Why does BC/Canada recruit international students?



*PowerPoint Stock Images*

Part of Canada's immigration strategy to attract new immigrants

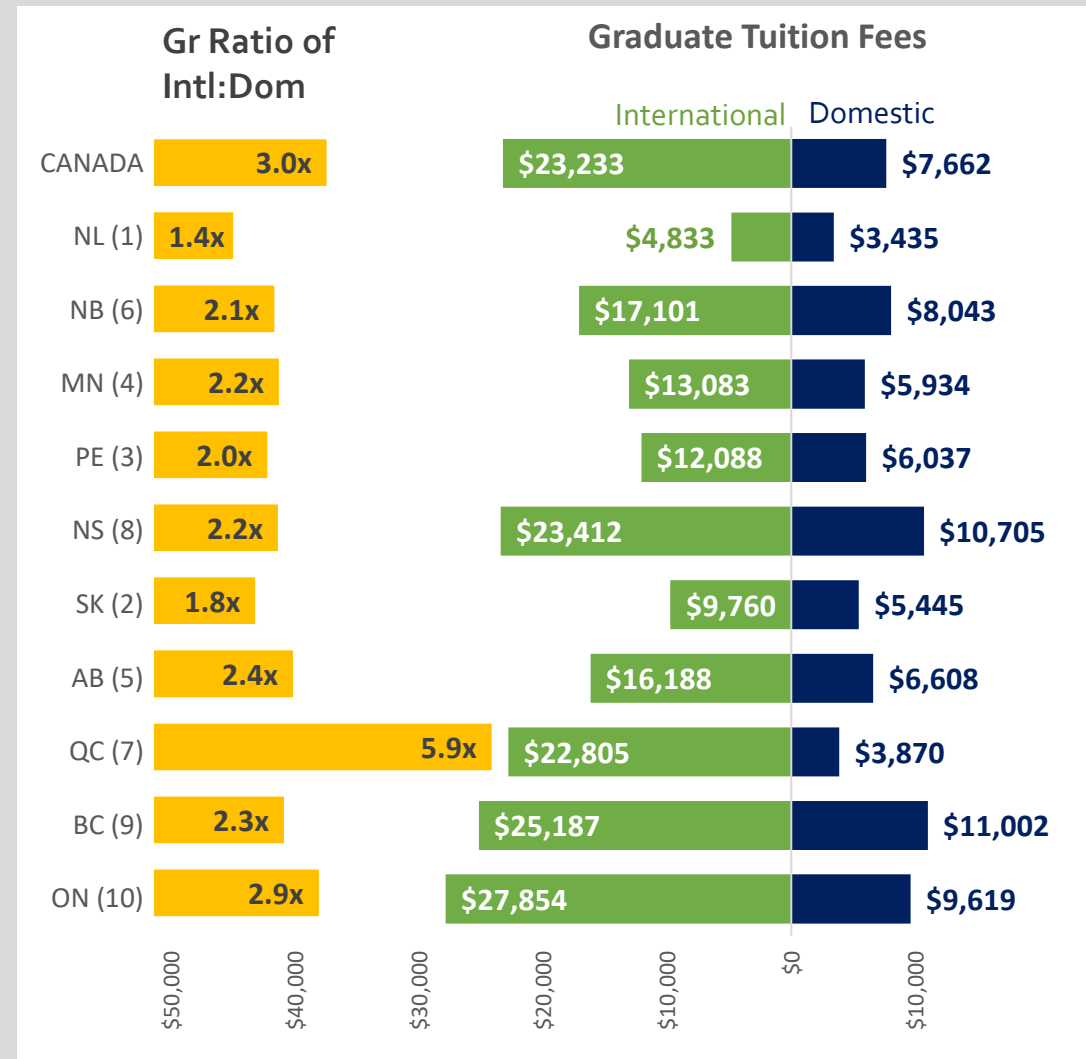
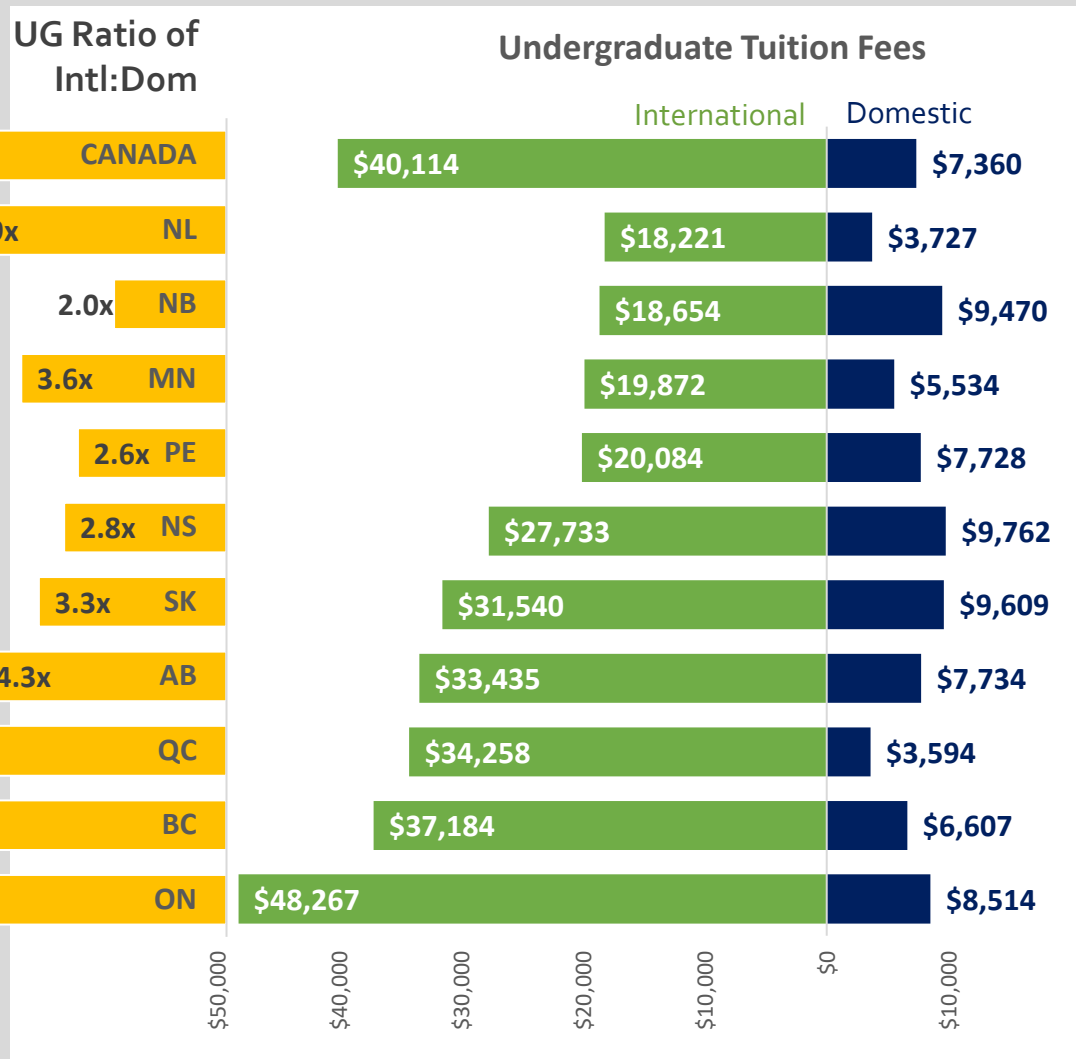
Exposes domestic students to cultural diversity

Helps meet labour market demand for skilled workers

Attracts foreign researchers; foster innovation and create jobs.

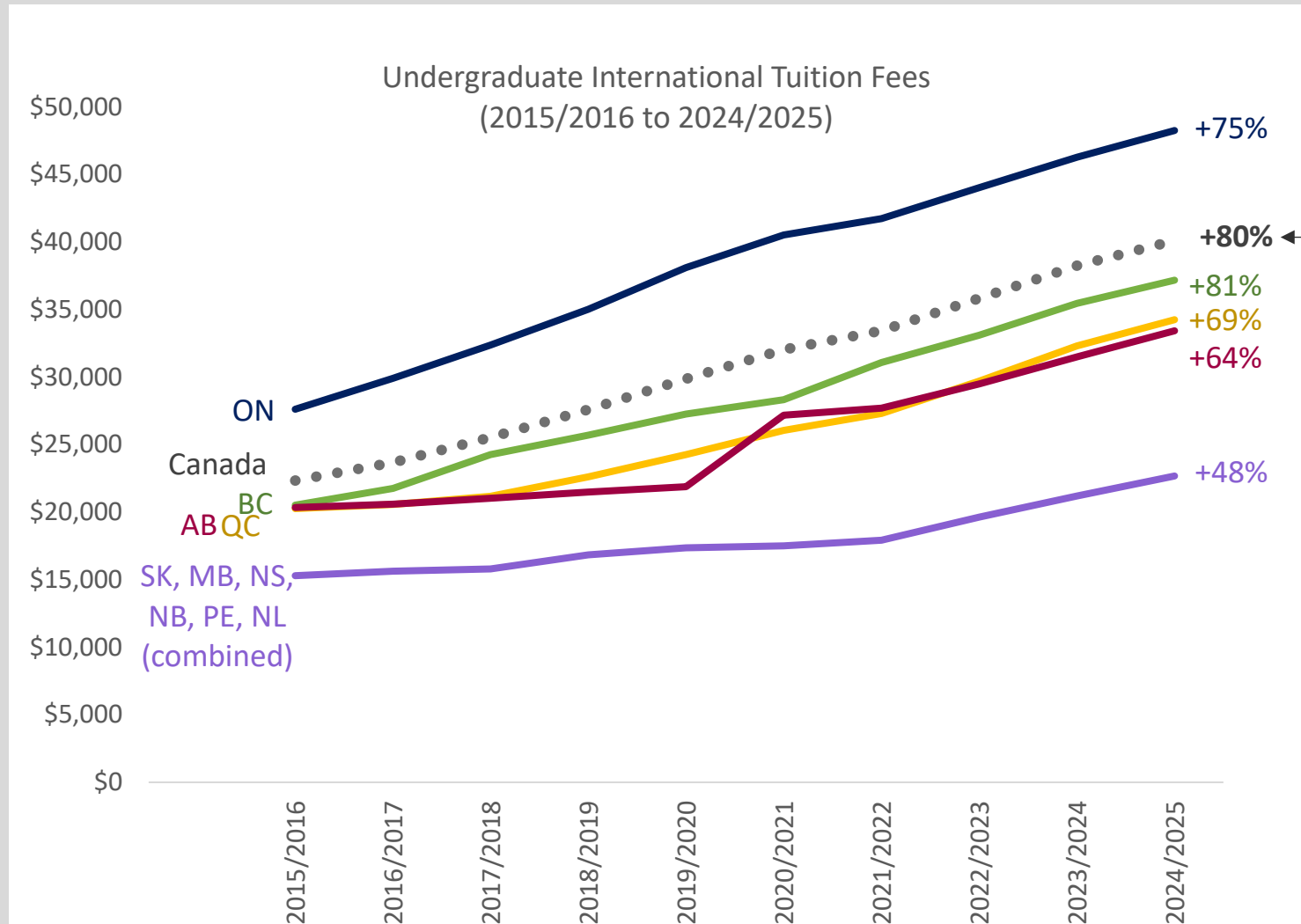
Tuition fees provide a revenue source to offset reductions in provincial operating grants.

# How much do international (vs. domestic) students pay in tuition fees to study in Canada? (2024/2025)



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 37-10-0045-01 Canadian and international tuition fees by level of study (current dollars)  
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3710004501>

# What are the trends in international tuition fees?

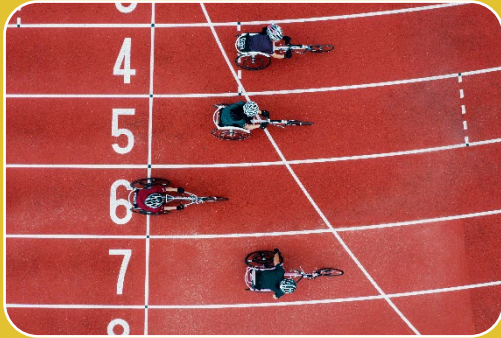


### 10-Year Change in Tuition Fees in Canada

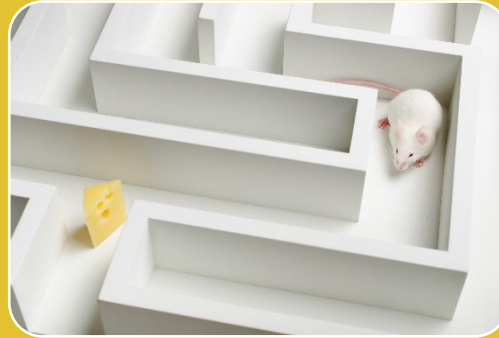
International:	
Undergraduate	+ 80%
Graduate	+ 60%
Canadian Domestic:	
Undergraduate	+ 19%
Graduate	+ 17%



# What are the unintended consequences of international students?



Increasingly competitive market to attract international students



Growth in education agents, international recruiters and misinformation



Rapid growth in international students might compromise education quality



*PowerPoint Stock Images*

Housing availability and affordability

**Post-Graduation  
Work Permits:**

**Eligibility Changes  
Affecting  
International  
Students**



*Source: PowerPoint Stock Image*

# What is the Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) Program?

The PGWP allows students who graduated from a designated institution an opportunity to stay and work in Canada after graduation, ranging from 8 months to 3 years.



## Ratio of 2018 Study Permits to 2020 PGWPs in Canada, for Selected Countries

85%	India
49%	China
65%	Philippines
??%	Iran
21%	USA
37%	Vietnam
22%	South Korea
7%	Japan
21%	Mexico
83%	Nigeria
47%	All Countries

## What proportion of international students apply for a PGWP?

- **47%** based on the ratio of 2018 study permits to 2020 PGWPs in Canada.\*
- **70%** plan to apply for a PGWP after graduation, according to 2023 CBIE survey.^
- **Application** rates vary by country. **Approval** rates are typically **95% to 98%**.
- See **application** rates for top 10 countries of interest to B.C.

\* <https://www.applyboard.com/blog/applyinsights-popularity-of-post-graduation-work-permit-program>

^ <https://cbie.ca/infographic/>

New field of study limitations take effect on November 1st.  
(See next slide) →

# What are the new PGWP limitations, effective Nov. 1, 2024?

The following post-secondary graduates will be **eligible** for a PGWP:

- Graduates from university Bachelor's, Masters and Doctorate degrees (in any field of study).
- Graduates from any other university program (in an eligible field of study).
- Graduates from any college program, (in an eligible field of study).
- All eligible graduates must demonstrate English or French language proficiency.

STP Interpretations & Assumptions:

Oct. 17,  
2024

- Institutes are treated as colleges.
- Bachelors and Masters graduates from Colleges/Institutes are eligible, but only in an eligible field of study.

What are the **eligible fields of study**?

- Programs linked to certain occupations in long-term shortage, divided into 5 broad categories. → (see next slide)

Source: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/work/after-graduation/eligibility/study-requirements.html#what>

# What are the eligible fields of study for a PGWP?



## Agriculture and Agri-Food

- Agriculture
- Animal, livestock, dairy
- Agroecology
- Sustainable agriculture
- Equestrian studies
- Animal services
- Horticulture
- Greenhouse operations
- Landscaping, groundskeeping
- Plant nursery, operations
- Animal sciences, general
- Agronomy and crop science
- Meat cutting
- Golf course operations and grounds management



## Healthcare

- Education
- Work And Family Studies
- Biological And Biomedical Sciences
- Multidisciplinary/ Interdisciplinary Studies
- Kinesiology
- Science Technologies/ Technicians, General
- Psychology
- Human Services, General
- Social Sciences
- Health Services/Allied Health/ Health Sciences, General



## Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)

- Natural Resources and Conservation
- Architecture
- Digital and multimedia
- Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services
- Engineering
- Engineering Technology, General
- Biological and Biomedical Sciences
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Multidisciplinary/Interdisciplinary
- Physical Sciences
- Security and Protective Services
- Geography, Urban Studies
- Graphic design
- Health Services/Allied Health/ Health Sciences, General
- Business, Management, Marketing



## Trade

- Engineering Technology (Heating, ventilation, air conditioning, refrigeration)
- Construction Trades (masonry, carpentry, electrical, line worker, glazier, painting, plumbing)
- Mechanics and Repairers, General (electronics, appliance installation/repair, HVAC technician, heavy equipment)
- Precision Production Trades, General (machinist, welding, metal fabricator, woodworking)
- Transportation and Materials Moving (construction/heavy equipment/earthmoving equipment operation)



## Transport

- Mechanics and Repairers (heavy equipment, industrial mechanics, airframe, aircraft, avionics, marine technology)
- Transportation And Materials Moving (aeronautics, airline crew, ground and marine transportation, materials moving, driver operator and instructor)
- Business, Management, Marketing And Related Support Services (logistics, supply chain management, transportation management)

*This is a sample of program descriptions at the 2, 4 or 6-digit CIP level, summarized from the full list of PGWP-eligible CIPs at the 6-digit CIP level from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/work/after-graduation/eligibility/study-requirements.html#field-of-study>*

# Impact of Changes to PGWP?

What proportion of B.C.'s international graduates will NOT be ELIGIBLE for a PGWP, due to new field of study limitations?

## Universities (RIU, TIUs):

**24%** of graduates

**29%** of registrants

**NOT Eligible  
for PGWP**



## Colleges, Institutes:

**84%** of graduates

**82%** of registrants

**NOT Eligible  
for PGWP**

See Appendix for details.

# Conclusion



*Source: PowerPoint Stock Image*

# Conclusion

- A growing share of B.C.'s post-secondary registrants are international students (22%). Will this trend continue or has the decline been set in motion?
- B.C. is the second most popular destination province for international students who chose to study in Canada (at any level), with 52% choosing Ontario and 20% choosing B.C. How will visa permit reductions affect each province's share of int'l students?
- A significant portion (59%) of B.C.'s international students come from just 2 countries: India (43%) and China (16%). Will these students choose to study elsewhere?
- Many international students who study in Canada apply for a post-graduation work permit (47% to 70%), including 85% of students from India and 49% from China. Is this likely to continue?
- Changes to PGWP eligibility requirements mean that 24% of university graduates and 85% of college graduates will no longer be eligible for a PGWP. Will international students choose to study in Canada if they are not eligible to work after graduation?
- **The future of international students studying in B.C. and Canada might not be the same as it has been in the past.**



Any questions, comments or suggestions?



End of Presentation

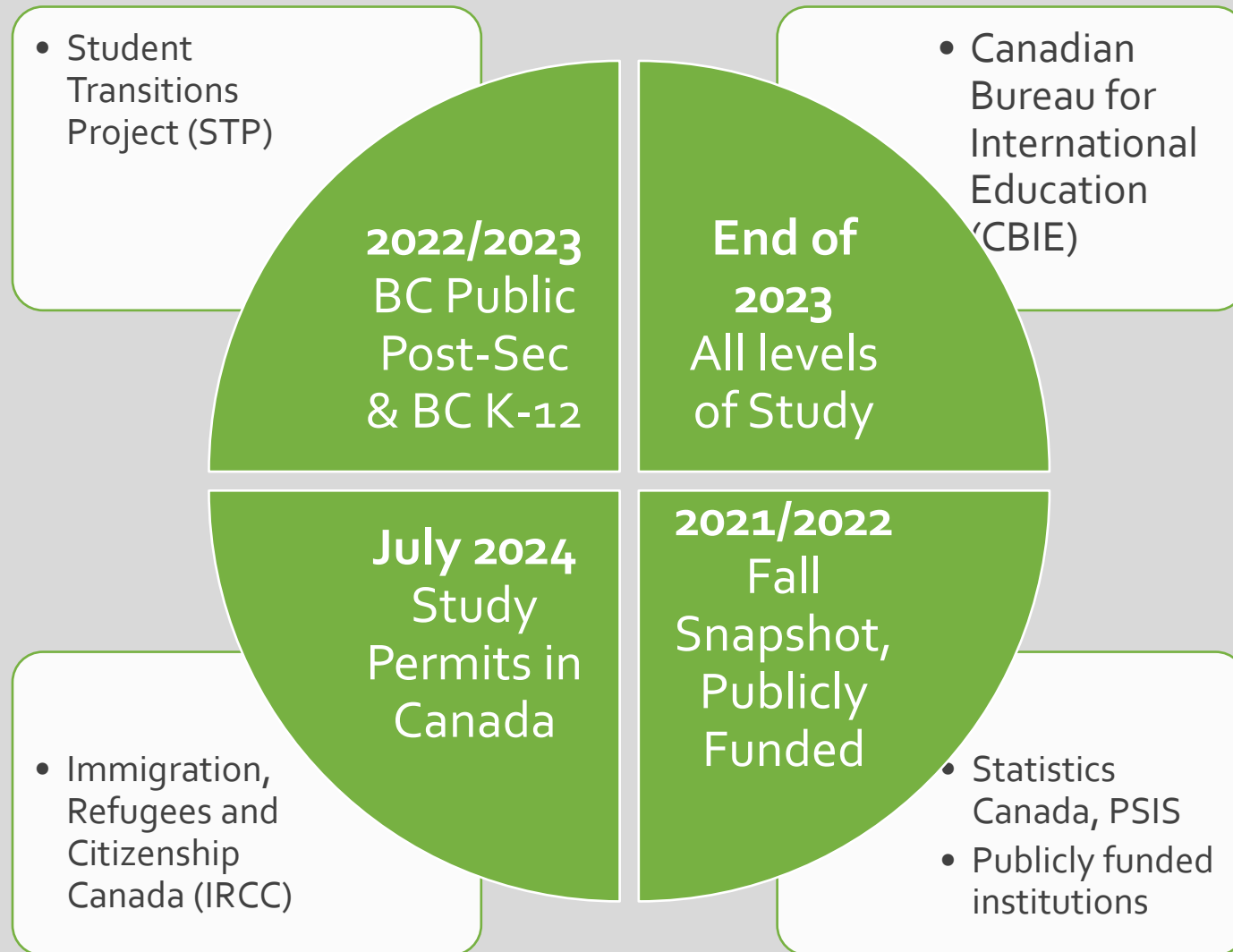
End of Presentation

# Appendix



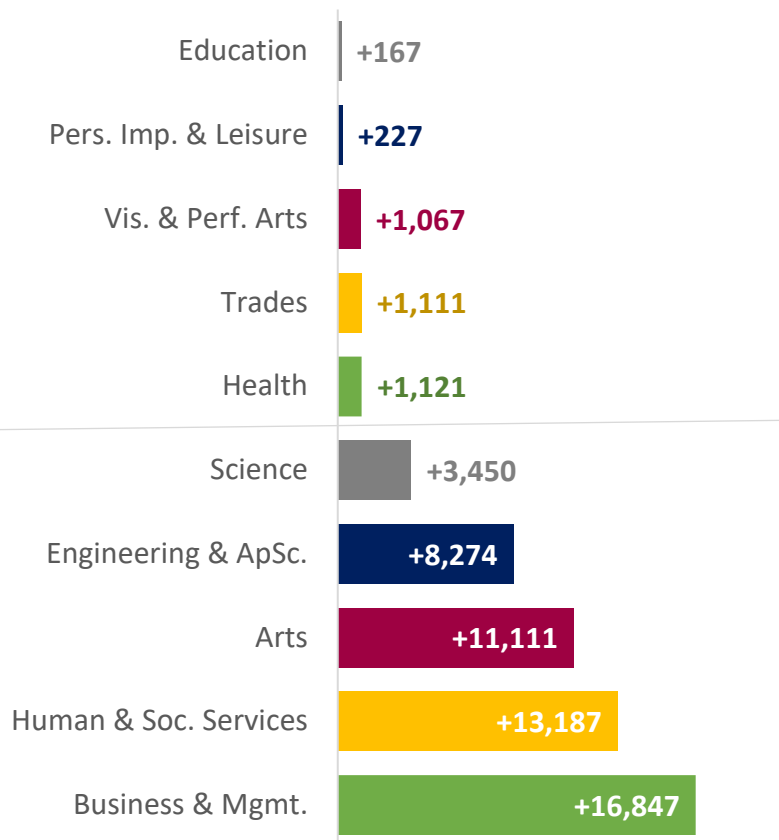
Source: Pixabay.com

# What are the challenges in counting international students? Different sources, different time periods, different numbers!

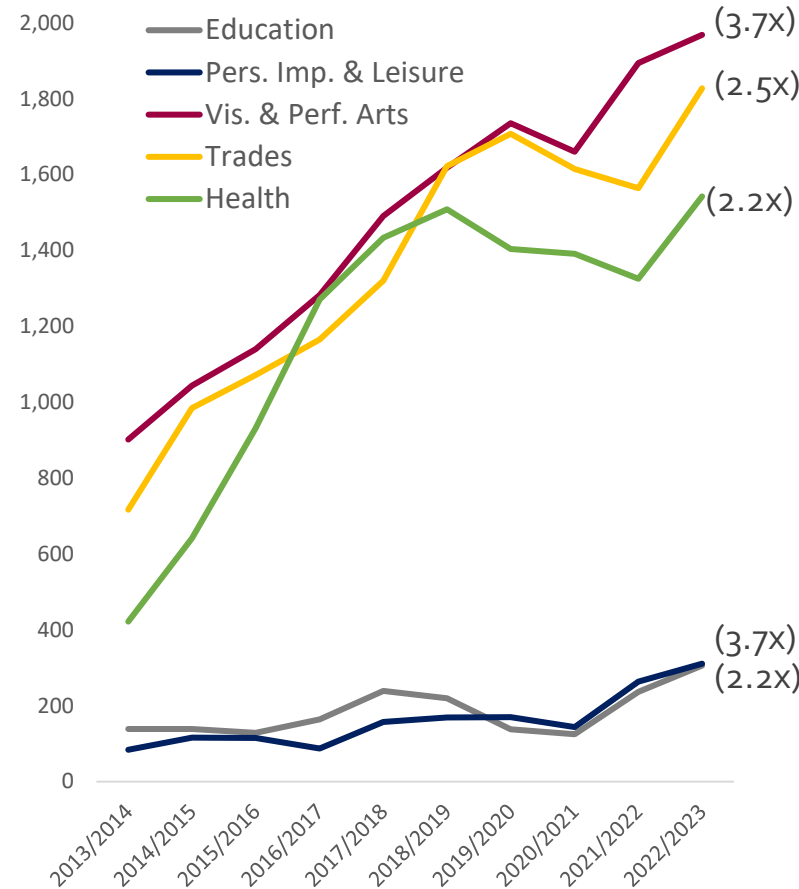


# What is the 10-year trend in undergraduate international enrolment, by program?

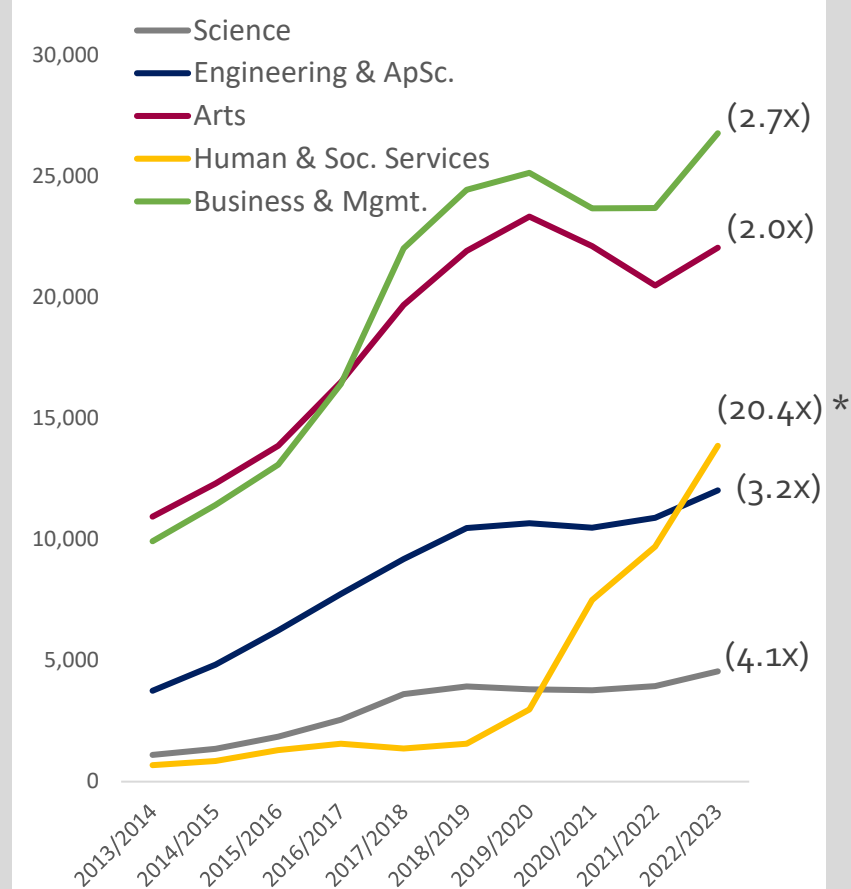
### Undergraduate Programs



### Small Undergraduate Programs



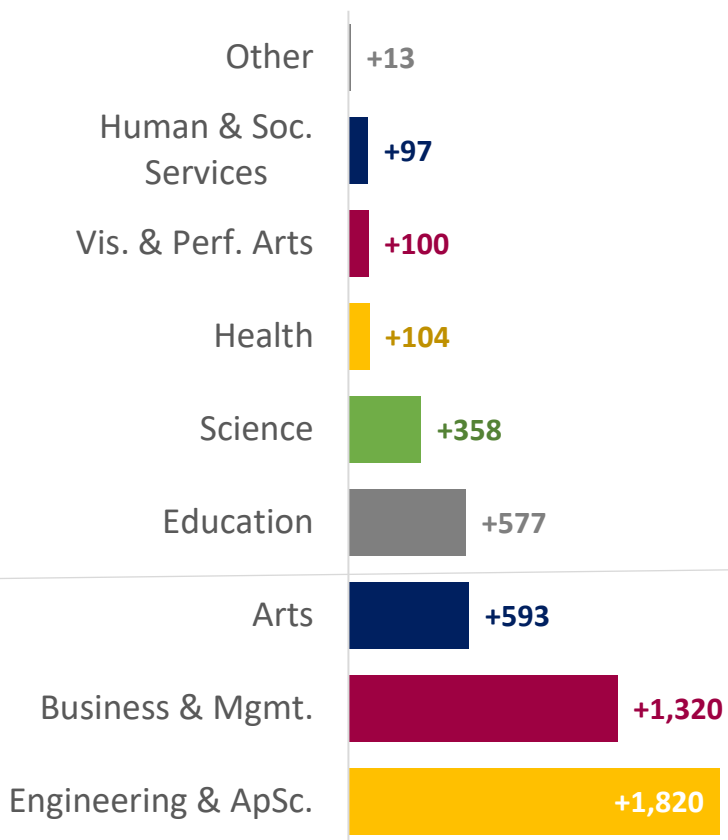
### Large Undergraduate Programs



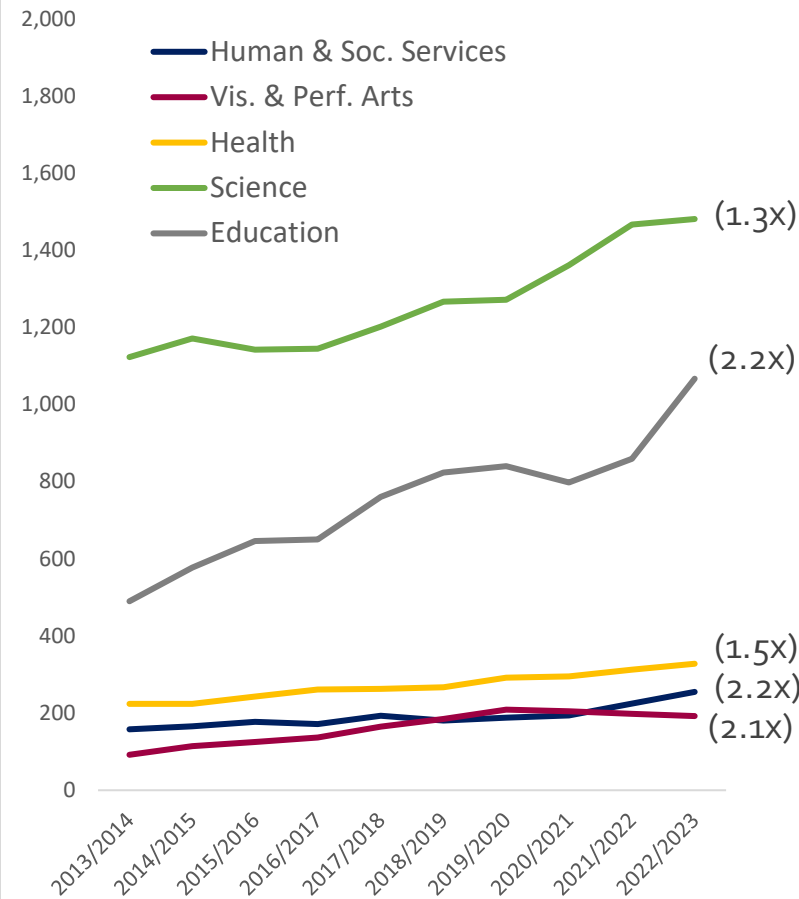
\* Note: Human & Social Services is dominated by recent growth in JIBC students enrolled in CIP 43.010 (Security and loss prevention services).

# What is the 10-year trend in graduate international enrolment, by program?

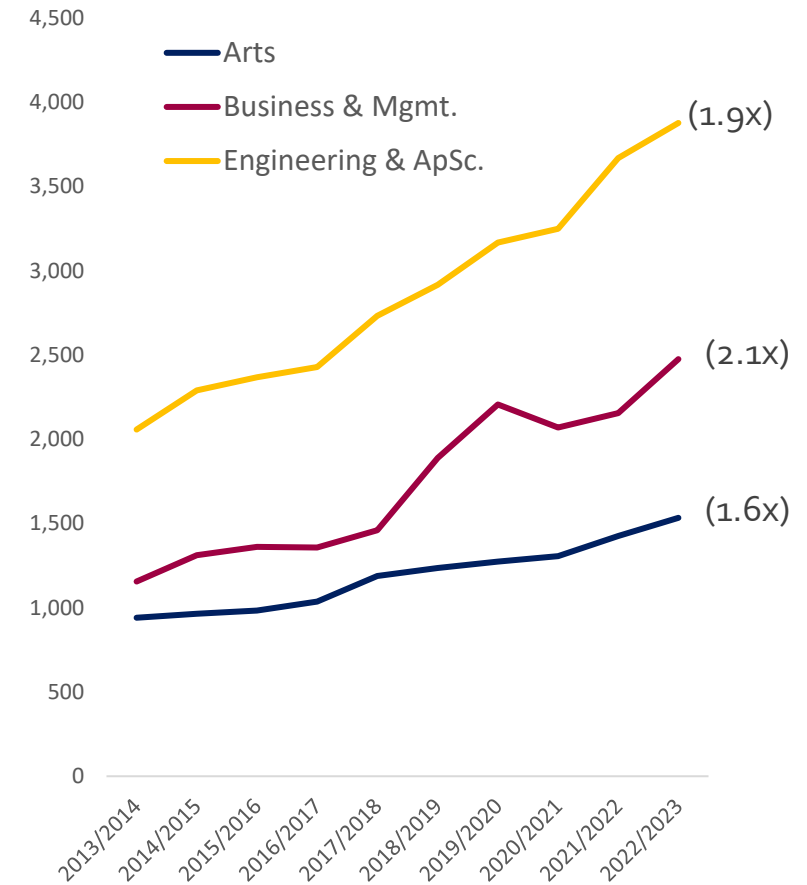
## Graduate



## Small Graduate Programs

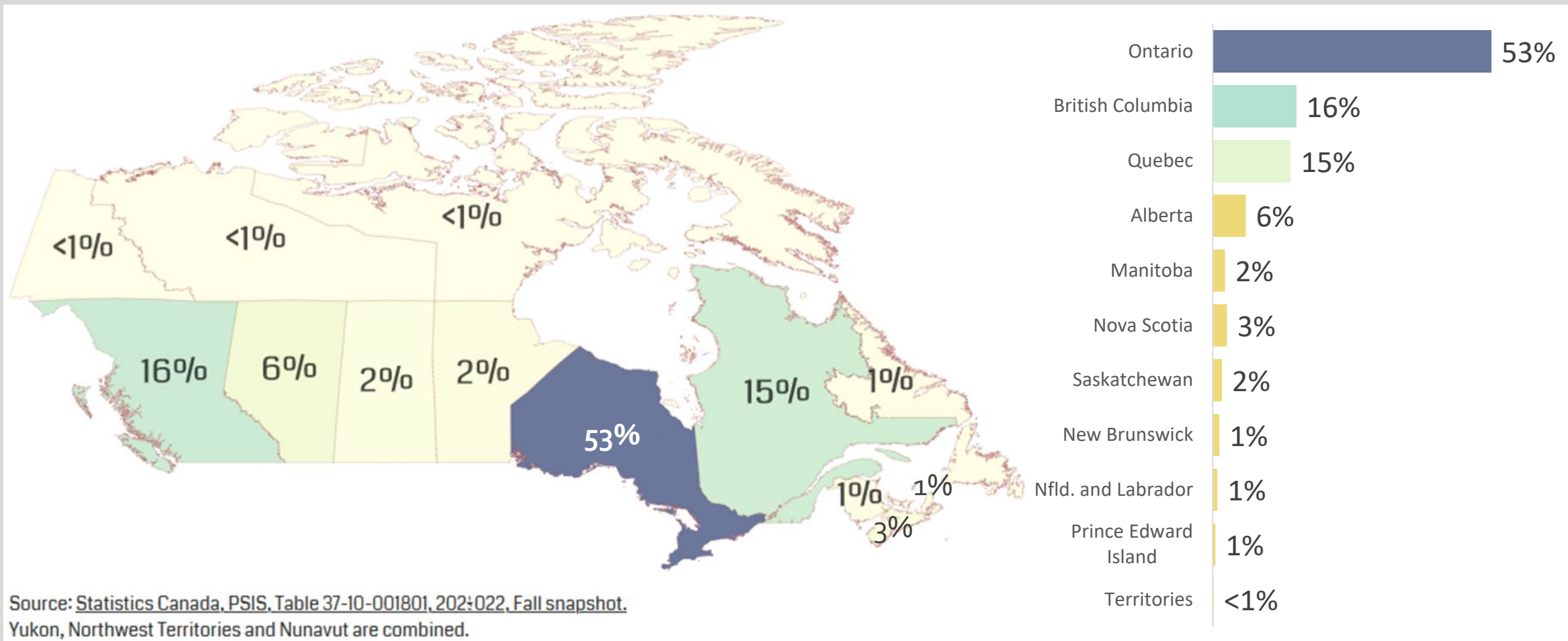


## Large Graduate Programs



# Where do international students study in Canada?

(Post-secondary enrolment, 2021/2022, PSIS, Fall snapshot, publicly funded institutions)

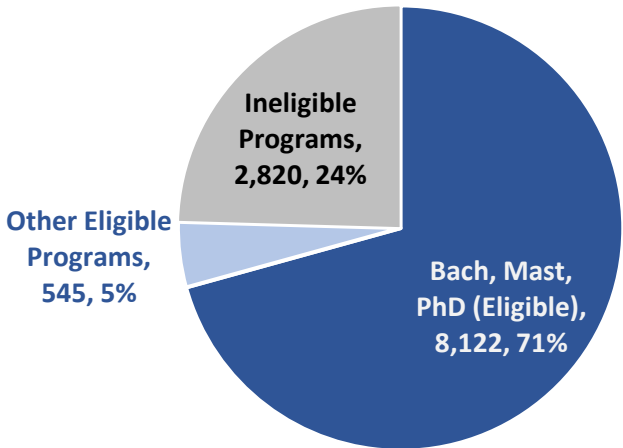


Data Source: Statistics Canada, PSIS, 2021/2022, Fall snapshot.

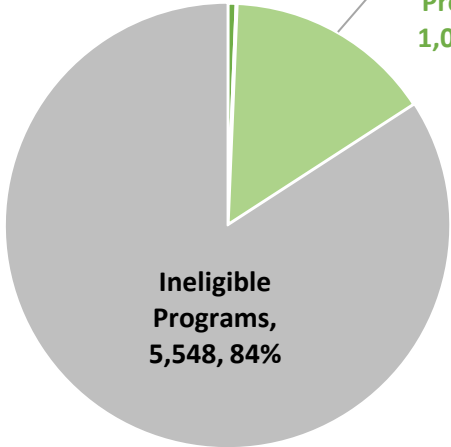
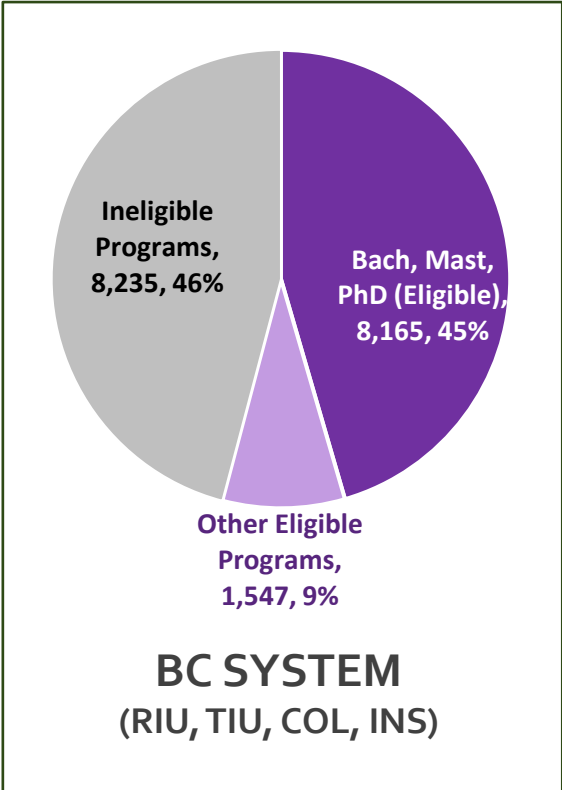
# How many credentials were awarded to international students in B.C. public universities versus colleges/institutes? What proportion completed PGWP-eligible programs?

Post-Sec graduates

18,080 Credentials Awarded to Int'l Students in 2021/2022



RIU, TIU



COL, INS



# What proportion of registered international students are enrolled in universities versus colleges/institutes? What proportion are enrolled in PGWP-Eligible Programs?

Post-Sec Registrants

Total 2022/2023 International Enrollment = 92,749

