

2014 Survey of BC International Students

Results: Overall

Response Rates, Age and Gender

1	Response Frequencies and Rates:	SYSTEM	
	Eligible for Survey	37,200	100.0%
	Respondents	9,214	24.8%

2	Age at time of Survey	SYSTEM	
	Median Age	23	

3	Gender	SYSTEM	
	Male	4,478	48.6%
	Female	4,729	51.4%

Type of Institution and Background

4	Institution Type	SYSTEM	
	Research-intensive University	4,829	53.5%
	Teaching-intensive University	1,901	21.1%
	College or Institute	2,293	25.4%
	Total Respondents	9,023	100.0%

5	Been in BC for...	SYSTEM	
	Less than 3 months	1,100	12.0%
	3 to 6 months	1,800	19.6%
	7 to 12 months	1,015	11.0%
	13 to 24 months	1,998	21.7%
	25 to 36 months	1,272	13.8%
	More than 36 months	2,013	21.9%
	Total Respondents	9,198	100.0%

6	Been at current institution for...	SYSTEM	
	Less than 3 months	1,390	15.1%
	3 to 6 months	2,281	24.8%
	7 to 12 months	1,239	13.5%
	13 to 24 months	2,099	22.8%
	25 to 36 months	1,083	11.8%
	More than 36 months	1,097	11.9%
	Total Respondents	9,189	100.0%

7	English is first language	SYSTEM	
	Yes	1,438	15.6%
	No	7,770	84.4%
	Total Respondents	9,208	100.0%

8	Live on campus	SYSTEM	
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Yes	1,776	19.3%
No	7,411	80.7%
Total Respondents	9,187	100.0%

9	Visited BC before deciding to study here	SYSTEM	
	Yes	1,887	20.5%
	No	7,323	79.5%
	Total Respondents	9,210	100.0%

10	Graduated from secondary school	SYSTEM	
	Yes	7,668	85.4%
	No	1,316	14.6%
	Total Respondents	8,984	100.0%

11	Location of graduation from secondary school	SYSTEM	
	British Columbia	670	8.8%*
	Other Canadian province	128	1.7%*
	Outside Canada	6,858	89.6%*
	Total Respondents	7,656	100.0%

* of respondents who graduated from secondary school

12	Main sources of information about post secondary education in BC used, before applying	SYSTEM	
	Website http://studyinbc.com	495	5.4%*
	Website www.learnlivebc.ca	103	1.1%*
	Website www.welcomebc.ca	260	2.9%*
	Websites of BC post secondary institutions	2,474	27.2%*
	Other internet sites, resources or apps (see 13)	3,163	34.8%*
	Workshops or school fairs in my home country	1,186	13.0%*
	Agent	2,770	30.4%*
	Other student at institution	2,263	24.9%*
	Employee at institution	916	10.1%*
	Friends or family	3,530	38.8%*
	School counsellor/teacher in home country	2,160	23.7%*
	Other	1,334	14.7%*
Total Respondents	9,098	100.0%	

* Percent of respondents who identified this source as one of their 3 choices

13	Other internet sites, resources or apps used for BC post secondary information before applying	SYSTEM	
	Facebook	1,277	14.0%*
	Twitter	164	1.8%*
	Pinterest	20	0.2%*
	Flickr	15	0.2%*
	Wikipedia	1,193	13.1%*
	Google+	779	8.6%*
	Youtube	791	8.7%*
	Weibo	331	3.6%*
	Renren	172	1.9%*
	WeChat	347	3.8%*
	VK	25	0.3%*
	LinkedIn	220	2.4%*
	Other	1,220	13.4%*

Total who identified "Other internet sites" in 12	3,086	33.9%
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* Percent of respondents who identified this source

14	Institution was first choice for current studies	SYSTEM	
	Yes	6,081	66.5%
	No	3,061	33.5%
	Total Respondents	9,142	100.0%

When Deciding to Study in British Columbia...

15	How important was: quality of education	SYSTEM	
	Very important	7,387	80.9%
	Somewhat important	1,563	17.1%
	Not very important	144	1.6%
	Not at all important	38	0.4%
	Total Respondents	9,132	100.0%

16	How important was: quality of BC transfer system	SYSTEM	
	Very important	3,287	39.3%
	Somewhat important	2,782	33.2%
	Not very important	1,492	17.8%
	Not at all important	807	9.6%
	Total Respondents	8,368	100.0%

17	How important was: recognition of credits from abroad	SYSTEM	
	Very important	3,669	43.4%
	Somewhat important	2,712	32.1%
	Not very important	1,298	15.4%
	Not at all important	777	9.2%
	Total Respondents	8,456	100.0%

18	How important was: program of study	SYSTEM	
	Very important	7,010	76.7%
	Somewhat important	1,814	19.9%
	Not very important	253	2.8%
	Not at all important	57	0.6%
	Total Respondents	9,134	100.0%

19	How important was: reputation of institution	SYSTEM	
	Very important	5,314	58.7%
	Somewhat important	3,034	33.5%
	Not very important	575	6.3%
	Not at all important	133	1.5%
	Total Respondents	9,056	100.0%

20	How important was: cost of tuition	SYSTEM	
	Very important	5,245	59.4%
	Somewhat important	2,485	28.1%
	Not very important	755	8.5%
	Not at all important	352	4.0%
	Total Respondents	8,837	100.0%

Total Respondents	8,837	100.0%
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21	How important was: cost of living	SYSTEM	
	Very important	4,694	52.3%
	Somewhat important	3,150	35.1%
	Not very important	917	10.2%
	Not at all important	220	2.4%
	Total Respondents	8,981	100.0%

22	How important was: safety and security	SYSTEM	
	Very important	6,223	68.3%
	Somewhat important	2,081	22.8%
	Not very important	623	6.8%
	Not at all important	183	2.0%
	Total Respondents	9,110	100.0%

23	How important was: future employment goal	SYSTEM	
	Very important	6,107	67.6%
	Somewhat important	2,109	23.4%
	Not very important	635	7.0%
	Not at all important	181	2.0%
	Total Respondents	9,032	100.0%

24	How important was: ability to work while studying	SYSTEM	
	Very important	4,199	47.2%
	Somewhat important	2,506	28.2%
	Not very important	1,534	17.3%
	Not at all important	653	7.3%
	Total Respondents	8,892	100.0%

25	How important was: experiencing a different culture	SYSTEM	
	Very important	4,911	53.8%
	Somewhat important	3,024	33.1%
	Not very important	936	10.3%
	Not at all important	252	2.8%
	Total Respondents	9,123	100.0%

26	How important was: location within BC	SYSTEM	
	Very important	4,257	46.8%
	Somewhat important	3,038	33.4%
	Not very important	1,379	15.2%
	Not at all important	415	4.6%
	Total Respondents	9,089	100.0%

27	How important was: opportunity to immigrate to Canada	SYSTEM	
	Very important	3,883	43.8%
	Somewhat important	2,414	27.2%
	Not very important	1,719	19.4%
	Not at all important	845	9.5%
	Total Respondents	8,861	100.0%

After Being Accepted at Institution...

28	How useful as source of information: http://studyinbc.com	SYSTEM	
		Very useful	596
Somewhat useful	1,570	35.5%	
Not very useful	995	22.5%	
Not at all useful	1,267	28.6%	
Total Respondents		4,428	100.0%

29	How useful as source of information was: www.learnlivbc.ca	SYSTEM	
		Very useful	418
Somewhat useful	1,419	34.1%	
Not very useful	1,075	25.8%	
Not at all useful	1,254	30.1%	
Total Respondents		4,166	100.0%

30	How useful as source of information was: www.welcomebc.ca	SYSTEM	
		Very useful	589
Somewhat useful	1,657	37.2%	
Not very useful	1,055	23.7%	
Not at all useful	1,148	25.8%	
Total Respondents		4,449	100.0%

31	How useful as source of information was: institution's website	SYSTEM	
		Very useful	5,405
Somewhat useful	2,923	32.9%	
Not very useful	418	4.7%	
Not at all useful	147	1.7%	
Total Respondents		8,893	100.0%

32	How useful as source of information was: agent	SYSTEM	
		Very useful	1,564
Somewhat useful	2,160	35.9%	
Not very useful	1,131	18.8%	
Not at all useful	1,163	19.3%	
Total Respondents		6,018	100.0%

33	How useful as source of information was: another student from institution	SYSTEM	
		Very useful	3,286
Somewhat useful	2,808	39.1%	
Not very useful	644	9.0%	
Not at all useful	442	6.2%	
Total Respondents		7,180	100.0%

34	How useful as source of information were: friends or family	SYSTEM	
		Very useful	3,211
Somewhat useful	2,866	38.6%	
Not very useful	868	11.7%	
Not at all useful	471	6.4%	
Total Respondents		7,416	100.0%

35	How helpful was your institution in preparation for studies	SYSTEM	
		Very helpful	2,490
Helpful	4,788	52.5%	
Not very helpful	1,521	16.7%	
Not at all helpful	320	3.5%	
Total Respondents		9,119	100.0%

Finding Information Before Beginning Studies

36	Before studies, ease of finding information: visa requirements	SYSTEM	
		Very easy	1,597
Easy	4,817	54.2%	
Difficult	2,077	23.4%	
Very difficult	394	4.4%	
Total Respondents		8,885	100.0%

37	Before studies, ease of finding information: English requirements	SYSTEM	
		Very easy	2,124
Easy	4,508	53.0%	
Difficult	1,606	18.9%	
Very difficult	268	3.2%	
Total Respondents		8,506	100.0%

38	Before studies, ease of finding information: Program availability	SYSTEM	
		Very easy	1,812
Easy	4,733	53.6%	
Difficult	1,981	22.4%	
Very difficult	309	3.5%	
Total Respondents		8,835	100.0%

39	Before studies, ease of finding information: Admission deadlines	SYSTEM	
		Very easy	2,217
Easy	4,903	55.1%	
Difficult	1,526	17.2%	
Very difficult	250	2.8%	
Total Respondents		8,896	100.0%

40	Before studies, ease of finding information: Program and course information	SYSTEM	
		Very easy	1,604
Easy	4,937	54.7%	
Difficult	2,145	23.8%	
Very difficult	340	3.8%	
Total Respondents		9,026	100.0%

41	Before studies, ease of finding information: Financial assistance & scholarships	SYSTEM	
		Very easy	629
Easy	2,707	33.9%	
Difficult	3,183	39.8%	
Very difficult	1,474	18.4%	
Total Respondents		7,993	100.0%

42	Before studies, ease of finding information: options for living arrangements	SYSTEM	
		Very easy	792
Easy	3,619	43.2%	
Difficult	3,012	36.0%	
Very difficult	947	11.3%	
Total Respondents		8,370	100.0%

43	Attended online orientation for international students	SYSTEM	
		Yes	1,903
No	6,948	78.5%	
Total Respondents		8,851	100.0%

44	Helpfulness of online orientation	SYSTEM	
	Very helpful	275	14.8%
	Helpful	1,118	60.2%
	Not very helpful	416	22.4%
	Not at all helpful	49	2.6%
	Total Respondents	1,858	100.0%

45	Attended in person orientation for international students	SYSTEM	
	Yes	5,292	61.9%
	No	3,255	38.1%
	Total Respondents	8,547	100.0%

46	Helpfulness of in person orientation	SYSTEM	
	Very helpful	1,317	25.1%
	Helpful	2,888	54.9%
	Not very helpful	917	17.4%
	Not at all helpful	135	2.6%
	Total Respondents	5,257	100.0%

47	Prefer additional information included in orientation?	SYSTEM	
	Yes	870	15.5%
	No	4,725	84.5%
	Total Respondents	5,595	100.0%

Adjusting to Living and Studying in British Columbia

48	Ease of adjustment to different teaching/learning styles	SYSTEM	
	Very easy	1,121	12.4%
	Easy	4,134	45.7%
	Difficult	3,248	35.9%
	Very difficult	546	6.0%
	Total Respondents	9,049	100.0%

49	Ease of dealing with teamwork in classes	SYSTEM	
	Very easy	1,154	13.0%
	Easy	4,445	50.0%
	Difficult	2,667	30.0%
	Very difficult	625	7.0%
	Total Respondents	8,891	100.0%

50	Ease of getting involved in extra curricular activities	SYSTEM	
	Very easy	817	9.7%
	Easy	3,447	40.8%
	Difficult	3,322	39.4%
	Very difficult	855	10.1%
	Total Respondents	8,441	100.0%

51	Ease of interacting with instructors and professors	SYSTEM	
	Very easy	1,801	19.9%
	Easy	5,003	55.3%
	Difficult	1,930	21.3%
	Very difficult	321	3.5%
	Total Respondents	9,055	100.0%

52	Ease of adjusting to academic expectations	SYSTEM	
	Very easy	995	11.1%
	Easy	3,937	44.0%
	Difficult	3,341	37.4%
	Very difficult	667	7.5%
	Total Respondents	8,940	100.0%

53	Ease of making friends with Canadian classmates	SYSTEM	
	Very easy	1,110	12.5%
	Easy	3,345	37.6%
	Difficult	3,077	34.6%
	Very difficult	1,372	15.4%
	Total Respondents	8,904	100.0%

54	Ease of making friends with Canadians outside of school	SYSTEM	
	Very easy	787	8.9%
	Easy	2,441	27.6%
	Difficult	3,549	40.1%
	Very difficult	2,081	23.5%
	Total Respondents	8,858	100.0%

55	Ease of adjusting to cost of living in BC	SYSTEM	
	Very easy	362	4.0%
	Easy	2,824	31.5%
	Difficult	4,141	46.2%
	Very difficult	1,632	18.2%
	Total Respondents	8,959	100.0%

56	Ease of adjusting to food	SYSTEM	
	Very easy	2,038	22.5%
	Easy	4,590	50.7%
	Difficult	1,779	19.7%
	Very difficult	646	7.1%
	Total Respondents	9,053	100.0%

57	Ease of adjusting to climate	SYSTEM	
	Very easy	1,904	21.0%
	Easy	4,578	50.5%
	Difficult	1,942	21.4%
	Very difficult	650	7.2%
	Total Respondents	9,074	100.0%

58	Most likely way to proceed with questions about studies	SYSTEM	
	Ask Canadian students	2,509	27.3%*
	Ask students from own country	3,942	42.9%*
	Ask other international students	3,019	32.9%*
	Ask staff at International Office	2,367	25.8%*
	Ask academic or program advisor	3,987	43.4%*
	Ask instructors or staff	4,883	53.2%*
	Ask Canadians in the community	193	2.1%*
	Ask home stay family	564	6.1%*
	Find the answer myself	4,285	46.6%*
	Other	295	3.2%*
	Total Respondents	9,187	100.0%

* Percent of respondents who identified this resource as one of their 3 choices

59	Best sources of non-academic support	SYSTEM	
		Canadian students	2,527
International students from own country	4,758	52.4%*	
Other international students	3,852	42.4%*	
Staff at International Office	1,774	19.5%*	
Counselling services at institution	1,436	15.8%*	
Instructors or staff	2,393	26.3%*	
Canadians in the community	1,027	11.3%*	
My home stay family	1,565	17.2%*	
My relatives	2,878	31.7%*	
Other	1,348	14.8%*	
Total Respondents	9,087	100.0%	

* Percent of respondents who identified this resource as one of their 3 choices

Satisfaction Levels and Opinions on Expenses

60	Satisfaction with experience obtaining study permit	SYSTEM	
		Very satisfied	2,316
Satisfied	5,166	58.7%	
Dissatisfied	945	10.7%	
Very dissatisfied	376	4.3%	
Total Respondents	8,803	100.0%	

61	Satisfaction with admission process	SYSTEM	
		Very satisfied	2,335
Satisfied	5,810	64.1%	
Dissatisfied	743	8.2%	
Very dissatisfied	179	2.0%	
Total Respondents	9,067	100.0%	

62	Satisfaction with registration process	SYSTEM	
		Very satisfied	2,217
Satisfied	5,615	61.8%	
Dissatisfied	978	10.8%	
Very dissatisfied	276	3.0%	
Total Respondents	9,086	100.0%	

63	Satisfaction with academic advising	SYSTEM	
		Very satisfied	1,753
Satisfied	5,261	60.3%	
Dissatisfied	1,346	15.4%	
Very dissatisfied	366	4.2%	
Total Respondents	8,726	100.0%	

64	Satisfaction with quality of instruction	SYSTEM	
		Very satisfied	2,198
Satisfied	5,689	63.0%	
Dissatisfied	940	10.4%	
Very dissatisfied	205	2.3%	
Total Respondents	9,032	100.0%	

65	Satisfaction with International Student Services	SYSTEM	
	Very satisfied	1,764	20.9%
	Satisfied	5,085	60.2%
	Dissatisfied	1,235	14.6%
	Very dissatisfied	369	4.4%
Total Respondents		8,453	100.0%

66	Satisfaction with classroom facilities and equipment	SYSTEM	
	Very satisfied	2,698	29.7%
	Satisfied	5,554	61.2%
	Dissatisfied	667	7.3%
	Very dissatisfied	159	1.8%
Total Respondents		9,078	100.0%

67	Satisfaction with recreational facilities on campus	SYSTEM	
	Very satisfied	1,937	22.9%
	Satisfied	4,848	57.2%
	Dissatisfied	1,320	15.6%
	Very dissatisfied	365	4.3%
Total Respondents		8,470	100.0%

68	Satisfaction with housing	SYSTEM	
	Very satisfied	2,381	26.7%
	Satisfied	5,247	58.9%
	Dissatisfied	994	11.2%
	Very dissatisfied	288	3.2%
Total Respondents		8,910	100.0%

69	Satisfaction with local social network	SYSTEM	
	Very satisfied	2,257	25.2%
	Satisfied	5,310	59.2%
	Dissatisfied	1,149	12.8%
	Very dissatisfied	251	2.8%
Total Respondents		8,967	100.0%

70	Overall satisfaction with institution	SYSTEM	
	Very satisfied	2,181	23.9%
	Satisfied	5,928	65.0%
	Dissatisfied	711	7.8%
	Very dissatisfied	294	3.2%
Total Respondents		9,114	100.0%

71	How expensive have you found housing?	SYSTEM	
	Less expensive than expected	264	2.9%
	About as expected	3,837	42.6%
	More expensive than expected	4,902	54.4%
	Total Respondents		9,003

72	How expensive have you found tuition?	SYSTEM	
	Less expensive than expected	344	3.9%
	About as expected	3,626	41.5%
	More expensive than expected	4,770	54.6%
	Total Respondents		8,740

73	How expensive have you found books and school supplies?	SYSTEM	
	Less expensive than expected	241	2.7%
	About as expected	2,172	24.0%

More expensive than expected	6,625	73.3%
Total Respondents	9,038	100.0%

74	How expensive have you found food?	SYSTEM	
	Less expensive than expected	400	4.4%
	About as expected	4,177	45.8%
	More expensive than expected	4,536	49.8%
	Total Respondents	9,113	100.0%

75	How expensive have you found transportation?	SYSTEM	
	Less expensive than expected	1,536	17.0%
	About as expected	4,557	50.5%
	More expensive than expected	2,925	32.4%
	Total Respondents	9,018	100.0%

76	How expensive have you found health care?	SYSTEM	
	Less expensive than expected	773	8.9%
	About as expected	3,508	40.5%
	More expensive than expected	4,380	50.6%
	Total Respondents	8,661	100.0%

77	How expensive have you found entertainment?	SYSTEM	
	Less expensive than expected	554	6.3%
	About as expected	4,635	52.4%
	More expensive than expected	3,654	41.3%
	Total Respondents	8,843	100.0%

Employment in British Columbia

78	Have worked or plan to work while studying in BC	SYSTEM	
	Yes	6,122	68.2%
	No	2,853	31.8%
	Total Respondents	8,975	100.0%

79	Main reason for getting a job	SYSTEM	
	To pay tuition fees	2,091	34.3%*
	For additional spending money	2,725	44.7%*
	To prepare for career/build resume	3,086	50.6%*
	To gain work experience	4,273	70.0%*
	To meet people	1,079	17.7%*
	To help with English skills	1,388	22.8%*
	Part of my academic program (e.g. co-op)	1,318	21.6%*
	To experience Canadian culture	1,307	21.4%*
	Total Respondents	6,101	100.0%

* Percent of respondents who identified this reason as one of their 3 choices

80	How easy to find a paying job during studies	SYSTEM	
	Very easy	159	2.9%
	Easy	1,165	21.3%
	Difficult	2,827	51.7%
	Very difficult	1,313	24.0%
	Total Respondents	5,464	100.0%

81	Where will you go immediately after you leave institution	SYSTEM	
	Stay in BC	4,460	58.9%
	Go to other Canadian province	648	8.6%
	Return to home country	1,827	24.1%
	Go to another country	634	8.4%

Total Respondents	7,569	100.0%
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82	What will you do immediately after you leave institution	SYSTEM	
	Work	4,780	55.9%
	School	1,049	12.3%
	Work and school	2,389	27.9%
	Neither work nor school	336	3.9%
	Total Respondents	8,554	100.0%

83	Any final comments?	SYSTEM	
	Yes	1,826	20.1%
	No	7,247	79.9%
	Total Respondents	9,073	100.0%