



Citizenship and  
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et  
Immigration Canada



# Citizenship and Immigration Canada

## International Student Program Update

BCCIE Summer Seminar

June 2015



Canada



## Purpose and Outline

To provide an update on Canada's International Student Program and other information on immigration issues related to education in Canada:

- International student trends
- CIC's current operational context
- Policy and program updates





## International Education in Canada: Current Context

- Improving Canada's standing as a destination of choice for international students is a priority for the Government of Canada
- International students contribute over \$8B annually to the Canadian economy and their study/work experience make them ideal immigrants
- Increasingly coordinated recruitment efforts together with immigration policy changes over the years have helped to enhance Canada's attractiveness as a study destination
- Volumes have doubled over the past decade and almost 200,000 international students entered Canada in 2013 – a record number
- International Education Strategy launched in 2014 with goal of further doubling number of international students in Canada by 2022





## Role of CIC's International Student Program

- CIC plays an important role in attracting international students to Canada
- CIC's International Student Program provides responsive policies that facilitate study and work opportunities for international students
  - Study permits are issued, on a demand-driven basis, to foreign nationals that have been accepted by a Canadian educational institution to study
  - Study permits allow eligible students to work on and off-campus during their studies
  - Work is also facilitated for co-op students, spouses as well as graduates
- CIC also responsible for ensuring program integrity and preventing fraud in the immigration system





# International Student Trends

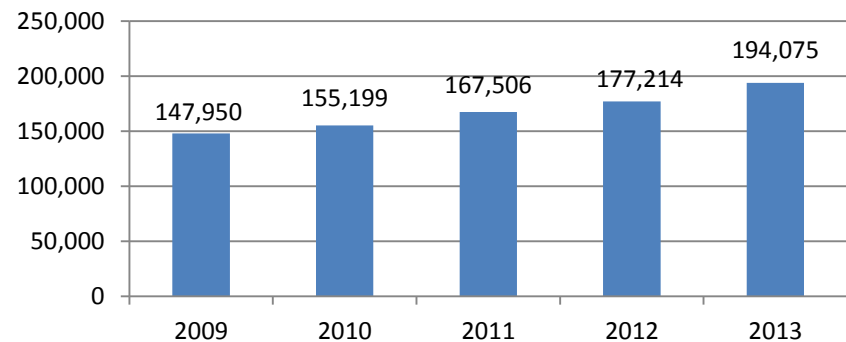




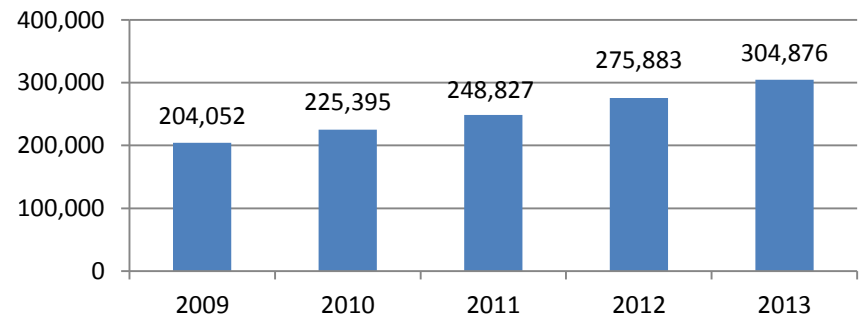
# International Students

- Numbers of study permits signed increasing in recent years
  - 194,075 international students had study permits signed in 2013
- Total number of students residing in Canada also increasing
  - 304,876 international students with a valid permit on December 31, 2013

**International Students by sign year, 2009-2013**



**International Students with a valid permit on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009-2013**



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures 2013.

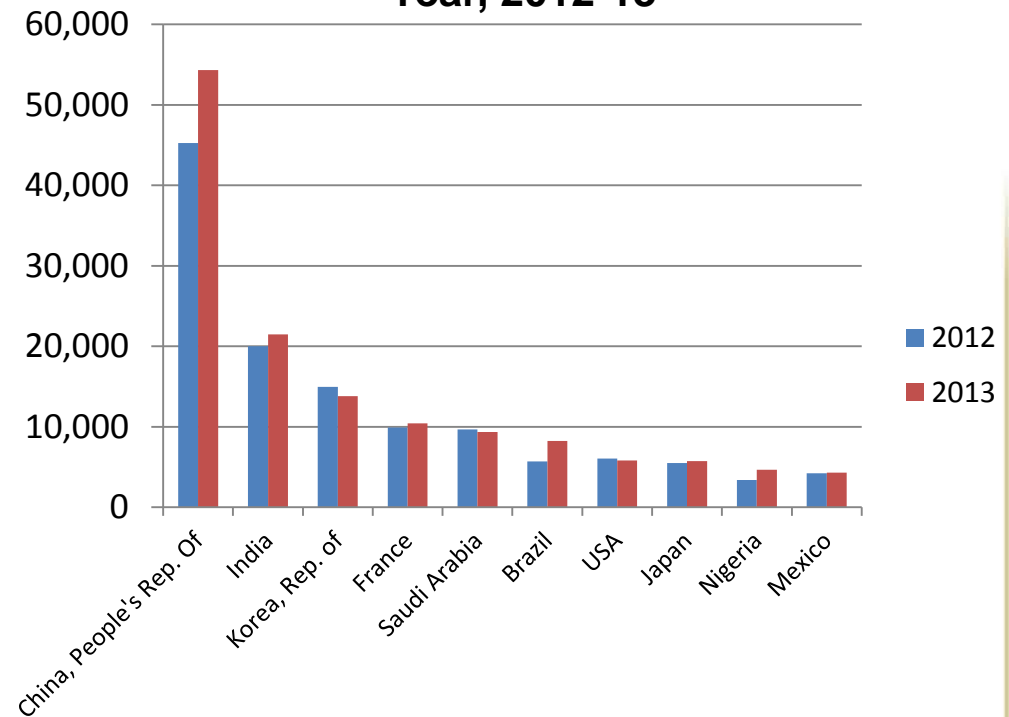




## Students by Top 10 Source Countries and sign year, 2012-13

- Students from China (54,313) and India (21,482) represented 39% of total study permits signed in 2013, followed by Rep. Korea (13,816), France (10,434) and Saudi Arabia (9,348)
- Top 10 source countries represented 71% of signed study permits in 2013

**International Students by Top 10 Countries of Citizenship and Sign Year, 2012-13**



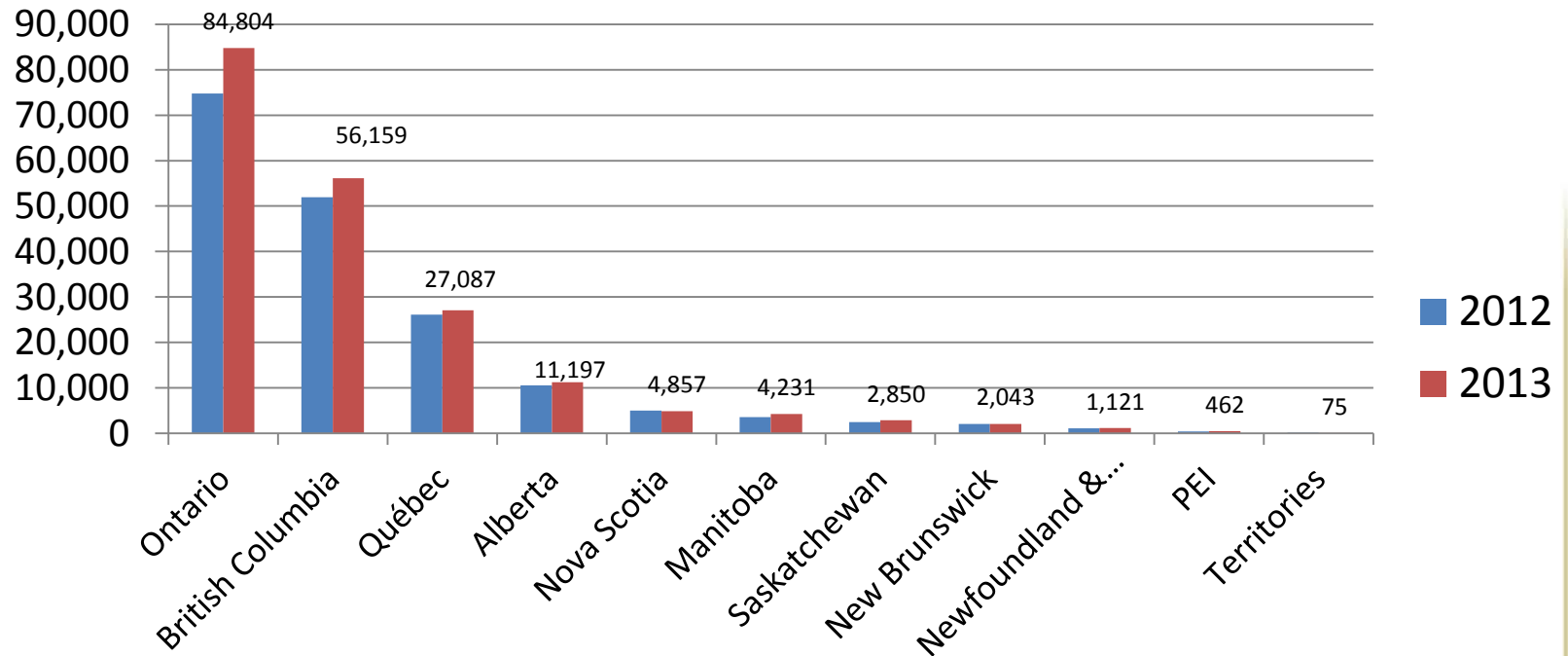
Source: Citizenship & Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures 2013.





# Students by Province/Territory of Destination and sign year

## International Students by Destination and Sign Year 2012-13



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures 2013.



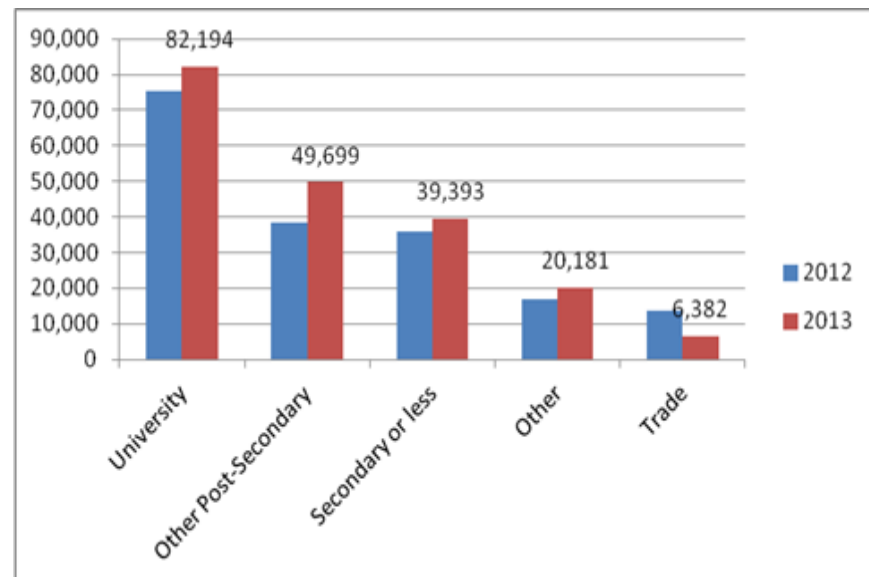




## Study Permits Signed by Level of Study

- Largest share of international students was destined to universities
  - 82,194 study permits at university level were signed in 2013 (42%)
- 49,699 study permits in the “Other PSE” category were signed in 2013\*(26%)
- 39,393 study permits at the K-12 level were signed in 2013 (20%)

International Student by Level of Study and year in which Permit(s) became effective 2012-13



Source: Citizenship & Immigration Canada, RDM April 14, 2015





# CIC's current operational context



## Study Permit Approvals: Overseas

- 76% overall approval rate for new study permit applications in 2013
- 87% of new study permits were processed within the service standard (60 day service standard for new study permits)

COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	2013 APPROVAL RATES
CHINA	87%
INDIA	60%
SOUTH KOREA	92%
FRANCE	97%
SAUDI ARABIA	93%
BRAZIL	92%
USA	88%
JAPAN	96%
NIGERIA	45%
MEXICO	92%

Source: CICEDW as of May 14, 2015





## Client Service and Modernization

- **Expansion of Visa Application Centres (VAC) network**
  - Increased accessibility of visa support services and biometric enrolment in local languages, including in locations where there is no CIC visa office
  - Large expansion of Visa Application Centre network, from 60 in 2012 to over 130 in 94 countries in 2015
- **Increased multiple-entry visas (MEV) issuance, valid for up to 10 years**
  - As of February 2014, MEV is now the default
- **Coming soon**
  - Electronic Travel Authorization enrolment for all visa exempt foreign nationals who travel by air beginning August 1, 2015
  - Expansion of biometric screening to visa-required travellers before entering Canada





# New Tools for International Students

## New as of June 2014:

- Study Permit Application Process:
  - A list of all designated learning institutions in Canada:
    - <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/study-institutions-list.asp>
  - An updated letter of acceptance template:
    - <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/pub/acclt-e.pdf>
- Off-Campus Work:
  - A self-assessment tool is available for international students to determine their eligibility to work off campus:
    - <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/study-assess.asp>

## Coming Soon:

- Online application for visitors in Canada to apply for an initial study permit





# Policy and Program Updates





## Recent Reforms Strengthen the Program

- Amendments to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations* were introduced on June 1, 2014
- Key objectives of reforms were to address program integrity issues while ensuring Canada remains an attractive study destination:
  - Provinces and territories must designate Canadian educational institutions eligible to host international students based on minimum standards to ensure their quality
  - Study permit holders are subject to new conditions requiring them to attend a designated educational institution and to actively pursue their studies while in Canada
  - Study permit holders attending designated institutions may now work off-campus without a work permit and may begin working as soon as their studies commence





## Implementation of Reforms Successful

- Still early days, but implementation of reforms has generally been successful:
  - Every province and territory has developed processes to designate educational institutions
  - Over 800 post-secondary educational institutions have been designated by provinces and territories to-date
  - Sixteen educational institutions have lost their designation either as a result of a school closure or because they fail to meet minimum standards
  - List of Designated Learning Institutions posted on CIC's website
  - New Compliance Reporting Portal launched in April 2015 and allows Designated Learning Institutions to report to CIC on the enrolment status of international students







## Express Entry

- January 1, 2015: skilled foreign workers, including international students, have access to Express Entry – new electronic application management system which applies to Canada’s key economic immigration programs
- CIC ranks and sorts candidates within in the Express Entry pool to identify the candidates mostly likely to achieve high employment earnings based on their profile (age, education, language skills, Canadian work experience) and/or a job offer or provincial/territorial nomination
- Highest ranking candidates invited to apply for permanent residence
- All Express Entry rounds of invitations will be done at a frequency and in numbers that align to CIC's processing capacity and annual levels targets
- Express Entry candidates will benefit from processing times of six months or less





# International Students and Express Entry

## **International students are positioned for success under the Comprehensive Ranking System:**

- Official language proficiency, education and Canadian work experience are critical factors
- Students aged 20-29 receive maximum points for age
- Employers who demonstrate that they are not able to find qualified Canadians or permanent residents can receive positive Labour Market Impact Assessments for international students/graduates
- International students/graduates are more likely to have developed networks that can assist them in finding skilled employment
- Research has consistently demonstrated that Canadian employers place a premium on Canadian experience, which can be gained with a post-graduate work permit





## Closing

- Canada offers a competitive study and work package and new International Student Program reforms focus on ensuring genuine students international students get a quality education
- Canada's newly launched International Education Strategy focuses on increasing numbers of international students choosing to study in Canada
- Canada's immigration policy supports the transition of international students at Canadian post-secondary institutions to permanent residency through a number of permanent residence programs
- Over the last five to six years policy changes have been implemented to make Canada more attractive as a permanent destination, especially for skilled temporary residents with Canadian work/study experience
- International students who are eligible for permanent residence comprise an expanding group of highly qualified potential immigrants



END

