

# INTERNATIONALIZATION

**International Outbound Programs:  
Challenges, Solutions, and Tools to Build a  
Successful Plan for Domestic Students**

**GLOBAL STUDENTS. GLOBAL COVERAGE.**

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“The internationalization of education...**shapes institutional values, influences external relations and partnerships, and impacts upon the entire educational enterprise.**”

— Canadian Bureau of International Education

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# Why it's **important** to send students **abroad**

- Expand academic and business experiences
- Key to career success: employment opportunities
- Create personal connections
- Learn to adapt and problem solve
- Broaden worldview

# Why it's **important** to send students **abroad**

- Life experience
- Gain independence
- New habits and skills
- Understand different countries' history, geography, arts, and culture

# About Stephanie Hiltz

ACCOUNT & PROJECT  
MANAGER, STUDYINSURED



- Started travelling in a university study abroad program to Melbourne, Australia
- Lived and worked in London, England and Seoul, South Korea
- Travelled 35+ countries in the past 12 years



# My Experience

- Family and friend influences
- Took advantage of the ISXO available at the University of Toronto
- Changed everything about my life

# The Stats

## What makes GLOBAL EDUCATION important?

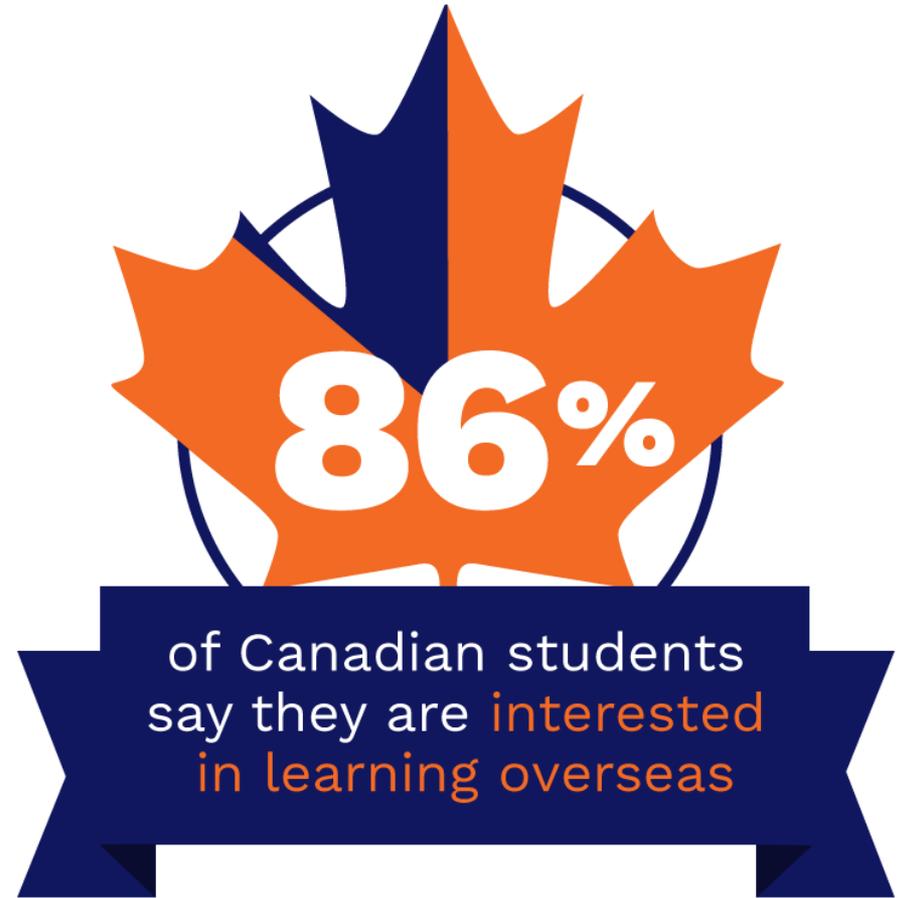
1

Develop skills and knowledge for successful participation in the global marketplace

2

Cultivate intercultural understanding, communication and collaboration

# The Stats



# The Stats



## ONTARIO

already supports several programs that provide study-abroad opportunities for domestic students

# The Stats

Those who have studied abroad  
have done so in

**119 countries**



**71%** said the experience  
influenced their career paths

# The Stats



**7/10**

survey respondents said that not having the financial means to go abroad was their biggest obstacle

# The Stats

80%

of employers hiring graduates with international and intercultural experience say **this experience enhanced their competitiveness as candidates**

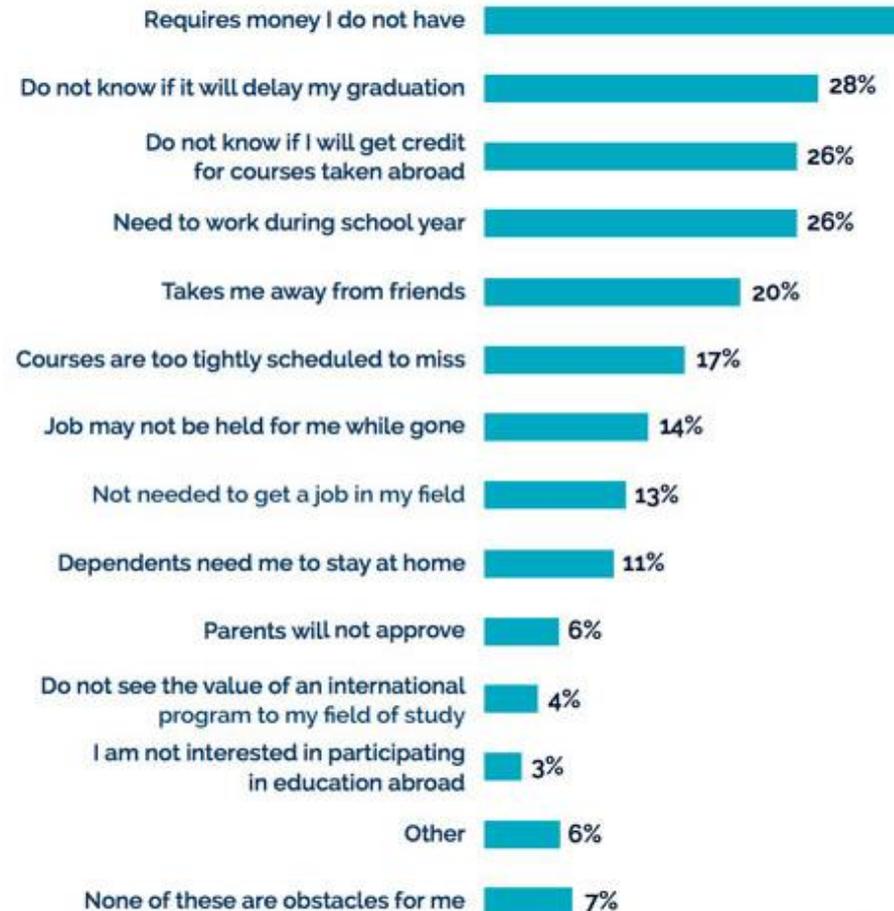
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2/3

of managers say **Canada is at risk of being left behind** in dynamic global economics unless young Canadians learn to think more globally

# The Stats

70%



# About

# Lisa Williamson

MBA, International Business



- Worked in International Education in the K-12 sector since 2003
- Completed MBA with a focus on International Business



# My Experience

- Planning exchanges from International department: soccer exchange and cultural exchange
- Individual student exchanges: my daughter/son
- Coordinate the teacher's programs

# My Thesis

## Stats From K-12 Sector

- A survey of 119 school boards/districts
- 53 school boards responded which represented a total of 526,810 students
- A collective total of 201 students travelled outside Canada in 2016-2017 school year to study abroad

# My Thesis

## Stats From K-12 Sector

- Less than 1% of total Canadian students travelled outside of Canada.
- Compared to Germany at a participation rate of 30% with a goal to reach 50% by 2020 (CBIE, 2012, p vii).
- Reported total number of staff who travelled abroad in 2016-2017 school year was 148

## Challenges/Barriers Identified

- Competing with other priorities
- Unwillingness of teachers in schools to take additional duties
- Lack of knowledge about importance of internationalization
- Safety concerns travelling abroad

# Challenges/Barriers Identified

- Buy-in from parents and teachers
- Lack of financial resources
- Provincial education systems not recognizing credits obtained abroad

# Challenges/Barriers Identified

- Lack of government policy and funding
- Provincial education systems not recognizing credits obtained abroad
- Lack of knowledge of opportunities available

# Four Key Recommendations

1. Support needed for creating compelling strategic internationalization plans
2. Key decision makers in K-12 need to advocate for internationalization
3. More funding for extra staff positions and (re)structuring international departments
4. Help educate the public on the importance of internationalization for K-12

# About Shaun Sephton

DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL  
EDUCATION, RICHMOND SCHOOL  
DISTRICT 38



- Director of International Education at Richmond School District No. 38
- Member of district executive leadership team
- Spent over 2 decades in various public sector international education leadership roles in B.C., as well as public and private sector roles overseas

# Mobility Programs: WHAT?

- Encourage interculturalism through meaningful experiences
- Domestic students, teachers, administrators
- School-based/generated initiatives
- RIE-generated initiatives
- Third-party: eg. Consulate General of Japan
- Long and short-term study abroad programs, workshops, seminars, conferences, TTOC

# Mobility Programs: WHY?

- Interculturalism
- Idealism
- Instrumentalism
- Globalization:  
competencies, skills, mindset
- Theory and practice
- Outgoing vs incoming:  
beyond revenue generation

# Mobility Programs: HOW?

- Stakeholders
- Guidelines: simple and clear, but not rigid
- Centralized grant application process
- Revenue source
- Promotion

# Expanding Mobility Programs

- Schools can develop programs that cover student expenses, such as flights, tuitions, conference fees, medical insurance, TTOC costs, etc.
- These overseas opportunities may come from schools or from personal connections

# Things to Consider

- Planning, organization, efficiency
- Buy-in and generating interest
- No need to aim for a home run at the beginning
- District policy regarding overseas trips:
  - District employees
  - Time of year
  - Parental consent
- Equity
- Build on established relationships

# Funding

- Study Abroad offices or Financial Aid
- Scholarships/funding – Program-specific scholarship opportunities or bursaries

# Support

- International departments – trained staff to assist students
- Student societies
- Homestay families
- Agents

# Human Resources

- RIE-centralized
- Manageable within our current organizational configuration
- No additional staff required
- School-based coordinators

# How You Can Start Today

- Vision
- Dedicated budget
- Buy-in
- Relationships
- Process
- Capacity

# Panel Discussion Questions



# Panel Discussion Questions

- What are the challenges your school is facing right now?
- Do you know how interested your students are in studying abroad?
- What do families think about their kids studying abroad?
- Is the return on students studying abroad greater than the expenses incurred?
- What kind of support do you need to push this program forward with your school?
- Are Canadian students “left behind” as other countries have much higher rates of studying abroad?