

## International Students in B.C.'s Education Systems

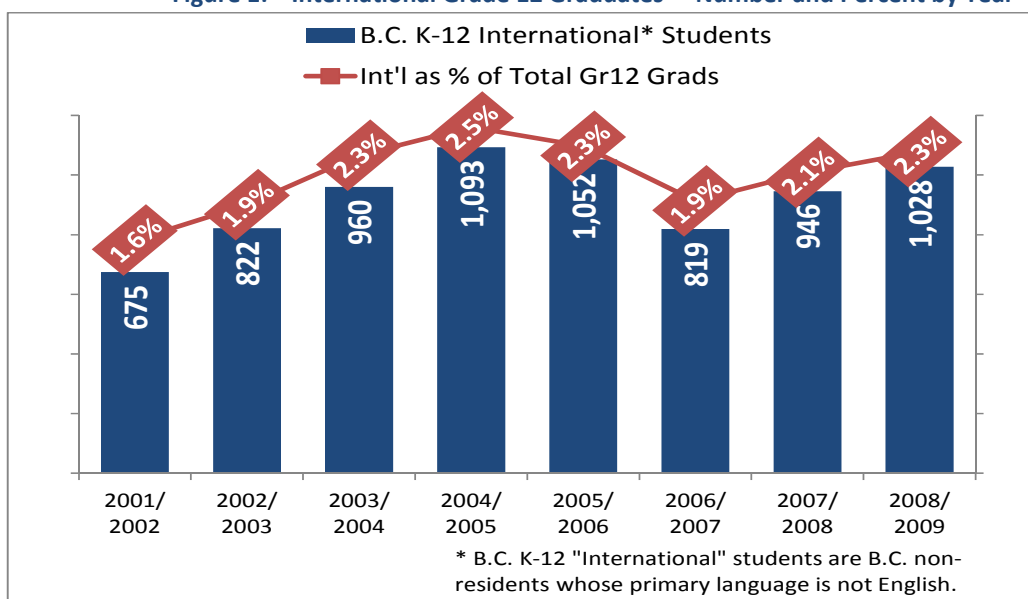
The Student Transitions Project (STP) has completed an analysis of international students enrolled in the B.C. secondary and public post-secondary education systems. This newsletter highlights some of the key research findings. Readers seeking more information are advised to contact their institutional or government STP representative for detailed provincial-level results.

### How many international students graduated from grade 12 at B.C. secondary schools?

The B.C. Ministry of Education (B.C. K-12) system data does not directly identify international students in the STP. Therefore, the STP used a proxy to identify international students in this research study: non-residents of B.C. whose primary language spoken at home is not English and who graduated from the B.C. K-12 system. According to this definition, the number of international B.C. grade 12 graduates is roughly 1,000 per year over the last eight years, ranging from 675 in 2001/02, reaching a high of 1,093 in 2004/05 and currently at 1,028 in 2008/09 (see **Figure 1**). The proportion of international students from the total population of 43,000 to 45,000 B.C. grade 12 graduates has increased from 1.6% in 2001/02 to 2.3% in 2008/09.



**Figure 1: "International Grade 12 Graduates" - Number and Percent by Year**



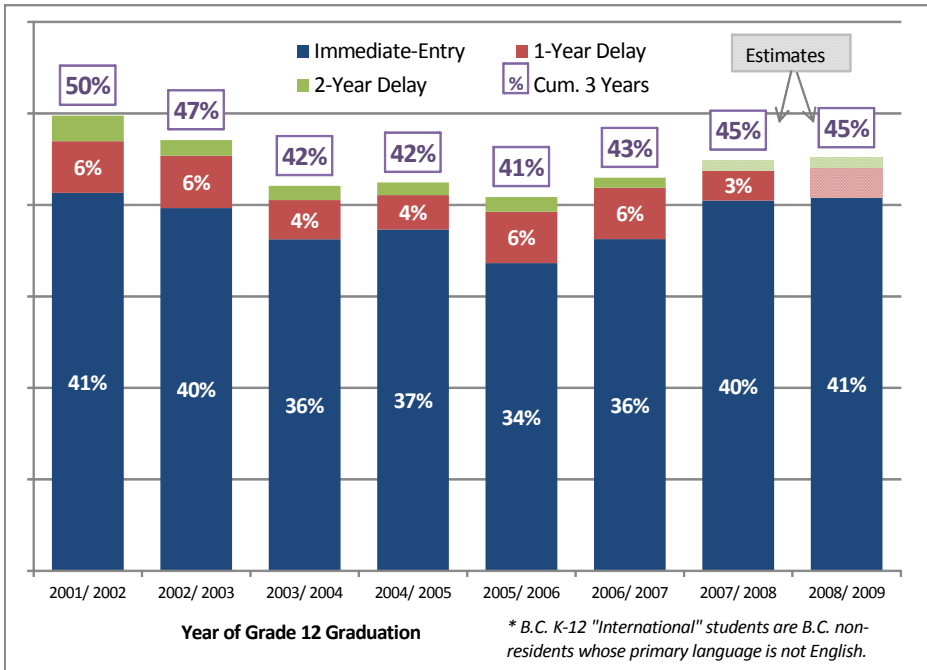
### Quick Facts Found in this Newsletter:

Quick Facts Found in this Newsletter:	Page
• <b>1,000</b> international students are estimated to have graduated from B.C. high schools each year.	1
• <b>38%</b> of international grade 12 graduates in B.C. continue their education in B.C. public post-secondary institutions within one year.	1
• <b>10,000</b> new international students enrol in B.C. public post-secondary institutions each year.	2
• <b>28,000</b> international students in total were registered in B.C. public post-secondary institutions in 2009/10.	2
• <b>59%</b> is the enrollment growth rate of international students in B.C. public post-secondary institutions from 2002/03 to 2009/10.	2
• <b>11%</b> of international students enrolled in B.C. public post-secondary institutions had previously attended and graduated from a B.C. high school.	3

### What proportion of B.C. international grade 12 graduates then enter the B.C. public post-secondary system?

The proportion of international grade 12 graduates who enrolled immediately in B.C. public post-secondary education has averaged 38% over the past eight years, dipping as low as 34% for 2005/06 graduates and reaching as high as 41% for 2008/09 graduates (see **Figure 2**). After two more years, allowing for delayed-entry transitions, the cumulative three-year transition rate of international grade 12 graduates increases to 40% to 50%, and even higher (55% to 60%) for those who primarily speak Chinese, Mandarin or Cantonese. By comparison, roughly 51% to 52% of all grade 12 graduates enrolled immediately in B.C. public post-secondary education each year, with a cumulative three-year transition rate of 67% to 68%. International grade 12 students therefore transition into BC public postsecondary education at roughly two-thirds the rate of domestic students.

Figure 2: Transition Rates of International B.C. Grade 12 Graduates



**Definitions:**

An international student is defined differently in each of three different data sources provided to the STP.

The **BC K-12** system does not identify international students, so the STP uses a proxy – non-residents of B.C. whose primary language spoken at home is not English. This estimate may lead to some inaccuracies because some international students who primarily speak English at home will be counted as domestic students, while French-speaking domestic students from other Canadian provinces would be incorrectly identified as international students.

The **Central Data Warehouse (CDW)** institutions (all public post-secondary institutions excluding research-intensive universities) define international students on the basis of the fees the students pay. Students who pay international fees are classified as international students. This means that international exchange students who pay domestic fees are counted as domestic students in this study.

The **B.C. Research-Intensive Universities** identify international students according to the student visa status. The following visa status values are provided to the STP: Diplomat, Minister, Other, Student Visa, Visitor and International Exchange. International exchange students were largely excluded from this study because these students are not normally expected to stay long in the post-secondary system, nor are they expected to complete a post-secondary credential in B.C.

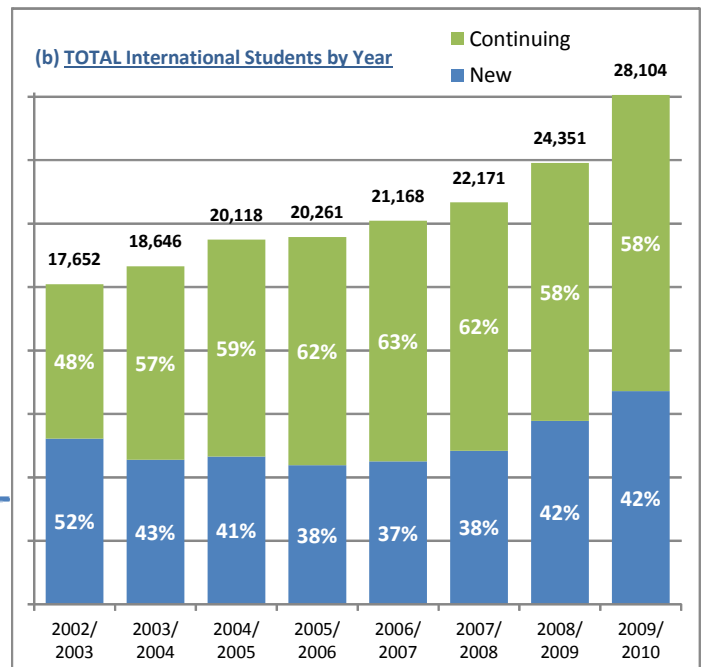
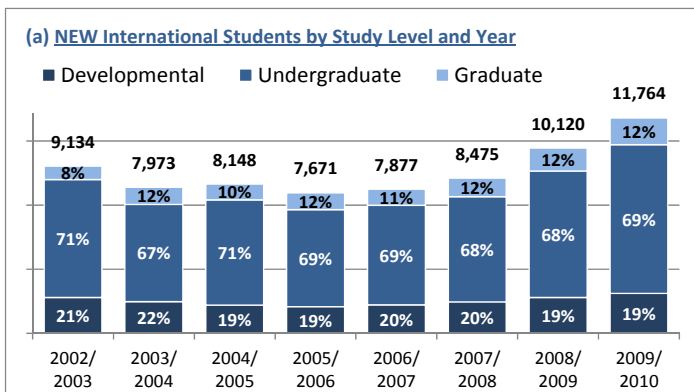
**What is the total number of international students enrolled in B.C. public post-secondary institutions, by study level?**

In 2009/10, there were roughly 28,000 international students<sup>1</sup> enrolled in B.C. public post-secondary institutions, representing approximately 7% of all students<sup>2</sup> enrolled in B.C. public post-secondary institutions. This is about 10,500 (59%) more than the total international student enrollment seven years earlier in 2002/03 (see [Figure 3b](#)).

In 2009/10, there were 11,764 **new** international students enrolled in B.C. public post-secondary institutions. Each year, roughly 40% of all registered international students are new students to the B.C. public post-secondary system. Among these new students each year, the majority (nearly 70%) enrolled in undergraduate education; 19% in developmental programs and 12% in graduate programs. The number of new international students enrolling in graduate programs has shown the largest increase, doubling from over 700 students in 2002/03 to nearly 1,500 in 2009/10 (see [Figure 3a](#)).

1. International exchange students and offshore international students excluded.
2. "All" B.C. public post-secondary students excludes continuing education registrants at B.C. research universities.

Figure 3: International Students Enrolled in B.C. Public Post-Secondary Institutions

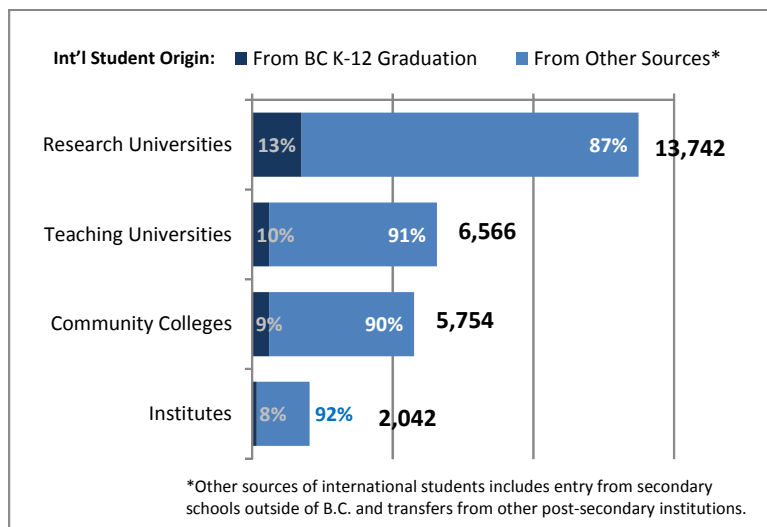


**Among international post-secondary registrants, what is the split between those with B.C. secondary school experience and those without?**

A total of 28,104 international students were registered in B.C. public post-secondary institutions in 2009/10, of whom 11% were graduates from grade 12 in the B.C. K-12 system.

This proportion tends to vary across post-secondary institution types (see Figure 4) and specific institutions (see Figure 5).

**Figure 4: 2009/10 International Students Registered in B.C. Public Post-Secondary Institutions, by Primary Institution Type**



**Figure 5: 2009/10 Post-Secondary Registrants, Including % International and % B.C. Grade 12 Graduates**

Post-Secondary Institution	(a)	(b)	(b/a)	(c)	(c/b)
	Total ALL Registrants	Int'l Registrants	% Int'l Registrants	Int'l Stu From BC K-12	% Int'l From BC K-12
<b>RESEARCH-INTENSIVE UNIV</b>	<b>111,981</b>	<b>13,742</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>1,752</b>	<b>13%</b>
Simon Fraser University	31,372	4,315	14%	659	15%
University of B.C.	49,778	6,331	13%	552	9%
University of B.C., Okanagan	6,301	370	6%	62	17%
University of Northern B.C.	3,902	258	7%	7	3%
University of Victoria	20,628	2,468	12%	472	19%
<b>TEACHING-INTENSIVE UNIV</b>	<b>95,938</b>	<b>6,566</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>9%</b>
Capilano University	13,316	777	6%	73	9%
Emily Carr University of Art + Design	4,024	271	7%	31	11%
Kwantlen Polytechnic University	17,848	1,146	6%	175	15%
Royal Roads University	3,207	48	1%	5	10%
Thompson Rivers University	13,703	1,556	11%	80	5%
Thompson Rivers Univ., Open Learning	10,680	402	4%	87	22%
University of the Fraser Valley	14,895	805	5%	82	10%
Vancouver Island University	18,265	1,561	9%	65	4%
<b>COMMUNITY COLLEGE</b>	<b>163,379</b>	<b>5,754</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>10%</b>
Camosun College	18,639	681	4%	116	17%
College of New Caledonia	9,291	205	2%	4	2%
College of the Rockies	12,201	169	1%	8	5%
Douglas College	24,062	940	4%	107	11%
Langara College	19,230	1,673	9%	257	15%
North Island College	9,580	81	1%	12	15%
Northern Lights College	9,260	122	1%	0	0%
Northwest Community College	7,228	3	0%	0	0%
Okanagan College	20,819	971	5%	55	6%
Selkirk College	11,017	312	3%	0	0%
Vancouver Community College	22,052	597	3%	44	7%
<b>INSTITUTE</b>	<b>70,096</b>	<b>2,042</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>8%</b>
B.C. Institute of Technology	40,302	1,896	5%	151	8%
Justice Institute of B.C.	28,675	146	1%	7	5%
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology	1,119		0%	0	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>441,394</b>	<b>28,104</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>3,111</b>	<b>11%</b>

**Figure 5 Notes:**

(a) International Exchange Students and offshore international students are excluded.

(b) Non-credit continuing education and contract training enrollments at institutions other than research universities are included.

(c) Students enrolled in more than one type of institution are counted only once at the institution where they first enrolled in the academic year. This is the "primary" institution. As a result, these STP total enrollment counts by institution type under-report (by up to 10%) the counts provided in Central Data Warehouse (CDW) reports in which students are counted at each institution where they enrolled in the academic year.

## Do international students stay longer in B.C. public post-secondary education if they also did some secondary schooling in B.C.?

All new international students admitted to B.C. public post-secondary institutions over a five-year period (from 2002/03 to 2006/07) were tracked as far as Fall 2010<sup>3</sup>. By comparing all international registrants to those international post-secondary students who completed grade 12 in the B.C. K-12 system, the study found, on average, that international B.C. K-12 graduates:

- spent a longer elapsed period of time in the B.C. public post-secondary system (including stop-out terms) from time of entry to time of last registration (9.3 terms versus 6.4 terms),



- had more stop-out terms over the five-year period (1.6 versus 0.9),
- attended a greater number of post-secondary institutions (1.5 versus 1.2),
- attained higher credential completion rates over the five years (45% versus 40%),
- completed proportionately fewer developmental credentials (7% versus 21%), and
- completed proportionately more bachelor's degrees (58% versus 34% of all credentials awarded).

3. By tracking all 78,303 new international (excluding exchange) students (from 2002/03 to 2009/10), the STP has found that only 238 (or 0.4% of) of new students changed their status from international to domestic by the Fall 2010, over a period of one to eight years.

### Questions?

Preliminary analysis of the following questions about international students in the B.C. secondary and post-secondary education systems has been completed.

- How many international students graduated from grade 12 at B.C. secondary schools?
- What proportion then enters B.C. post-secondary?
- How does this vary by region?
- How does this vary by post-secondary field of study?
- What program areas are (new) international students enrolling in?
- How does this vary by post-secondary institution type?
- What is the study level of the international students in post-secondary? (Developmental, Undergraduate, Graduate)
- What is the gender breakdown of international students in the B.C.'s education systems?
- Among international students enrolled in B.C. public post-secondary institutions, what is the split between those with B.C. secondary school experience and those without?
- Do international students stay longer in BC public post-secondary if they also did some secondary schooling in BC?
- Do international students enrol in multiple public post-sec institutions during their time in B.C.? (i.e. do they transfer?)
- What is the average length of enrolment at BC public post-secondary institutions for international students?
- What are the graduation and dropout rates for international students?

In order that the data may be further explored, this analysis has been provided to institutions in a provincial-level summary report, *STP Analysis of International Students: A Portrait of International Students Enrolled in B.C. Education Systems*.

**Special Thanks:**

The STP would like to thank the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Advanced Education and the B.C. public post-secondary institutions for collaborating in this research effort. Without their co-operation and data contributions, this research could not have been accomplished.

The following B.C. public post-secondary institutions are included in this study and grouped by institution designation in 2009/10:

Community Colleges– Camosun College, College of New Caledonia, College of the Rockies, Douglas College, Langara College, North Island College, Northern Lights College, Northwest Community College, Okanagan College, Selkirk College, Vancouver Community College.

Institutes– British Columbia Institute of Technology, Justice Institute of British Columbia, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology

Teaching-Intensive Universities – Capilano University, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Royal Roads University, Thompson Rivers University, Vancouver Island University, University of the Fraser Valley.

Research-Intensive Universities – Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia and University of British Columbia, Okanagan, University of Northern British Columbia, University of Victoria.

**Where to find more information:**

A wealth of additional information is also available to post-secondary institutions seeking more detailed information on student transitions specific to their region or institution.

STP Highlights newsletters and reports are available on the public Student Transitions Project web site at: [http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student\\_transitions](http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/student_transitions)

**Newsletter Prepared by Joanne Heslop, Manager, Student Transitions Project**



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**Student Transitions Project (STP):**

The Student Transitions Project is British Columbia's collaborative research project that measures student success from the K-12 to post-secondary systems. This effective system-wide partnership, involving B.C.'s education and advanced education ministries and post-secondary institutions, is tracking student success by reporting on student transition rates to post-secondary education, student mobility among post-secondary institutions, and post-secondary completion and retention rates. STP is managed by a steering committee with representation from the two education ministries, public institutions and the B.C. Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT).

**STP Steering Committee Members:**

- Devron Gaber*, STP Chair, Associate Director, BCCAT.
- Bob Cowin*, Director, Institutional Research, Douglas College.
- Brent Munro*, Manager, Data and Reporting, Achievement Division, Ministry of Education.
- Patty Beatty-Guenter*, Director, Research & Analysis, Ministry of Advanced Education
- Walter Sudmant*, Director, Planning and Institutional Research, University of British Columbia.