



GUIDELINES RESPECTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT BRITISH COLUMBIA PUBLIC POST SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

The Government of British Columbia recognizes that students from other countries contribute to the cultural, personal, and economic foundations for improved international relations and economic development.

Institutional boards establish tuition fees for programs offered at public post-secondary institutions.

The Ministry of Advanced Education encourages public post-secondary institutions to enrol international students based on the following guidelines:

1. Institutions set tuition fees for international students at a level that covers direct costs and overhead.
2. International students not displace a Canadian citizen or permanent resident* from British Columbia or from other parts of Canada from a space funded through institutional block grants.
3. International student numbers be excluded from the institutions' full-time equivalent (FTE) target established through the block grant.
4. International students registering for a semester or longer at a public institution provide evidence of sufficient health care insurance coverage for the duration of their stay.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Government of Canada, has established policies under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and the *Citizenship Act* pertaining to and defining exceptions applicable to foreign students wishing to study in Canada. To be treated as a domestic student for the purpose of funding and reporting, an individual will fall within one of the following categories:

- i. A live-in caregiver with a valid work permit.
- ii. An individual who is in Canada to carry out official duties as a diplomatic or consular officer; or as a representative or official of a country other than Canada, or of the United Nations or any of its agencies, or of any intergovernmental organization in which Canada participates; or as a dependent* or a member of the staff of any such diplomat, consular officer, representative, or official and is able to substantiate with an identity card issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, which gives his/her position, date of issuance, and date of validity.
- iii. Any person who is in Canada, who has been determined under the *Immigration and Refugee Act* to be a Convention Refugee and can present a letter from Citizenship and Immigration Canada confirming this.

- iv. A person under an international exchange, scholarship, or fellowship agreement where there has been joint approval by the receiving institution.
- v. A legal dependent* of a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident* of Canada providing that the dependent status is fully documented and has been established a minimum of one year prior to the student's application for exemption.
- vi. By special class application to the institution, an individual with a full-time long term work permit (at least one year or longer) and his/her dependents, may be eligible for treatment as a domestic student; persons on a working holiday work permit or refugee claimants who have yet to be determined Convention refugees are eligible or considered to be domestic students.
- vii. At the discretion of the institution, an individual who is in Canada, who has applied for Permanent Resident Status and who can provide evidence of proof of application to Citizenship and Immigration Canada with a fee paid receipt may be eligible. This might include: the spouse of a Canadian Resident or Permanent Resident, dependent child of the spouse of a Canadian Resident or Permanent Resident, or dependent child of a Canadian Resident or Permanent Resident.

*The interpretation of the terms "permanent resident" and "dependent" will be the same as defined by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Ministry of Advanced Education

Updated: October, 2002