

Trends Impacting Higher Education in Canada, Educating the Global Citizen, Internationalization, the Implications and Opportunity for Universities

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Trends Impacting Canadian Universities

- Diversifying the student enrolment population and the internationalization of education
- Differentiating institutions of HE (e.g., Ontario)
- Escalating costs particularly for research intensive universities
- Disruptive innovation of modern technology: impact on communications and transportation affects what, where, and how students learn
- Increasing accountability around universities' role in driving innovation and preparing the next workforce (experiential education)
- Alignment of university outcomes with government priorities through performance-based funding
- Student mobility across universities and colleges

Significance of Internationalization of Higher Education

- Facilitated by modern technology
- Increasing importance of integration of global dimension into purpose, functions and delivery of higher education
- Importance of preparing graduates/scholars who are internationally knowledgeable and inter-culturally competent
- Work/study abroad a key element of internationalization of higher education
- Development of globally educated citizens is a shared goal of educators and post-secondary institutions

Challenge for Global Citizen Education

- Fundamental tension between two discourses, i.e., social justice paradigm and market outputs, informing global citizenship
- GCE as a marketing tool to attract students and faculty
- Impact of definition of “global citizen” on policies and programs (e.g., global perspectives on global issues, global ethics, appreciation of diversity and inclusivity)

Broader Implications for Universities

- Differentiation – how do technology universities incorporate ethical component of GCE? Importance of analysis and reflection
- Definition of global citizen, world ethic impacts curriculum
- Responsibility for actions on a global scale vs. “think globally, act locally”
- Faculty members’ preparedness
- Student interests and values re. social justice
- Incorporation of globally oriented vision into university rankings
- York University: alignment of internationalization with institutional values (social justice, inclusivity and diversity)

Thank you

