A World of Learning: Canada's Performance and Potential in International Education 2013

Report Highlights

- Canadian institutions and federal and provincial/territorial governments are ramping up in international education. A number of provinces have developed policy statements and strategies while other provinces expect to do so in the coming year.

- Global demand for international higher education is expected to increase from 4.1 million in 2010 to 7.2 million by 2025. In 2011, Canada enrolled about 5% of internationally mobile students, making it the 7th most popular host country.

- Canada is an increasingly popular destination for international students. Since 2001 the number of international students in Canada has increased by 94% to over 265,000 students in 2012 at all levels. Of these students, about 145,000 or 55% are studying at universities.

- Far more students seem to be making Canada their first choice. Only 20% of students surveyed in 2013 said they had applied to study in another country, down from 45% in 2012.

- The top five source countries remained unchanged between 2011 and 2012; China, India, Korea, Saudi Arabia and the US combined, continue to make up more than half of Canada's international students.

- China remained the top source country in 2012, with 20% more students than in 2011. The Chinese student population makes up over 30% of the entire international student population and is greater than the percentage of India, Korea and Saudi Arabia combined.

- South Asia is the region with the highest growth, with a 217% increase in students between 2008 and 2012, primarily driven by the large growth in the number of Indian students in the last four years.

- In 2010 international students in Canada spent more than $7.7 billion on tuition, accommodation and discretionary expenses and generated more than $445 million in government revenue. They were responsible for creating 81,000 jobs.

- Levels of international student satisfaction remain high; our surveys in both 2012 and 2013 found that approximately nine out of 10 respondents (91%) were either *satisfied* or *very*

satisfied with their experience in Canada. Ninety-six percent of students indicated they would *definitely* or *probably* recommend Canada as a study destination.

- Student plans to stay in Canada after graduation are gaining momentum, with almost half (46%) of surveyed students indicating that they plan to apply for permanent residency, compared with 21% of students in the 2012 survey.

- While the majority (78%) of students said that they would like more chances to experience Canadian culture and family life, slightly over half (55%) indicated that their friends primarily consist of other international students. About one-third (34%) of students are friends with a mix of Canadian and international students, and approximately 7% are friends primarily with Canadian students.

- Survey and interview data, in conjunction with other country research, suggest that international student experiences of discrimination is a global and societal issue affecting all major receiving countries to some degree. Many Canadian institutions are addressing this issue by developing integration programs. A series of best practice recommendations are offered in the report that underscore the importance of these efforts and offer suggestions on how they may be enhanced.

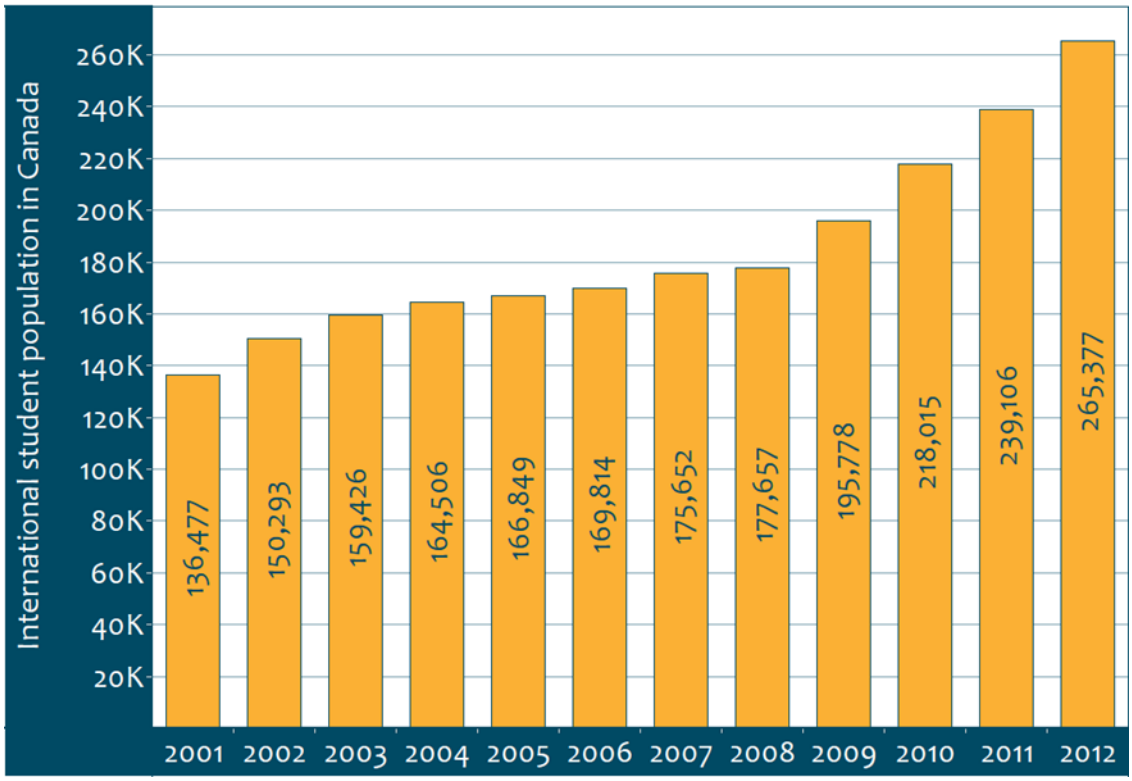
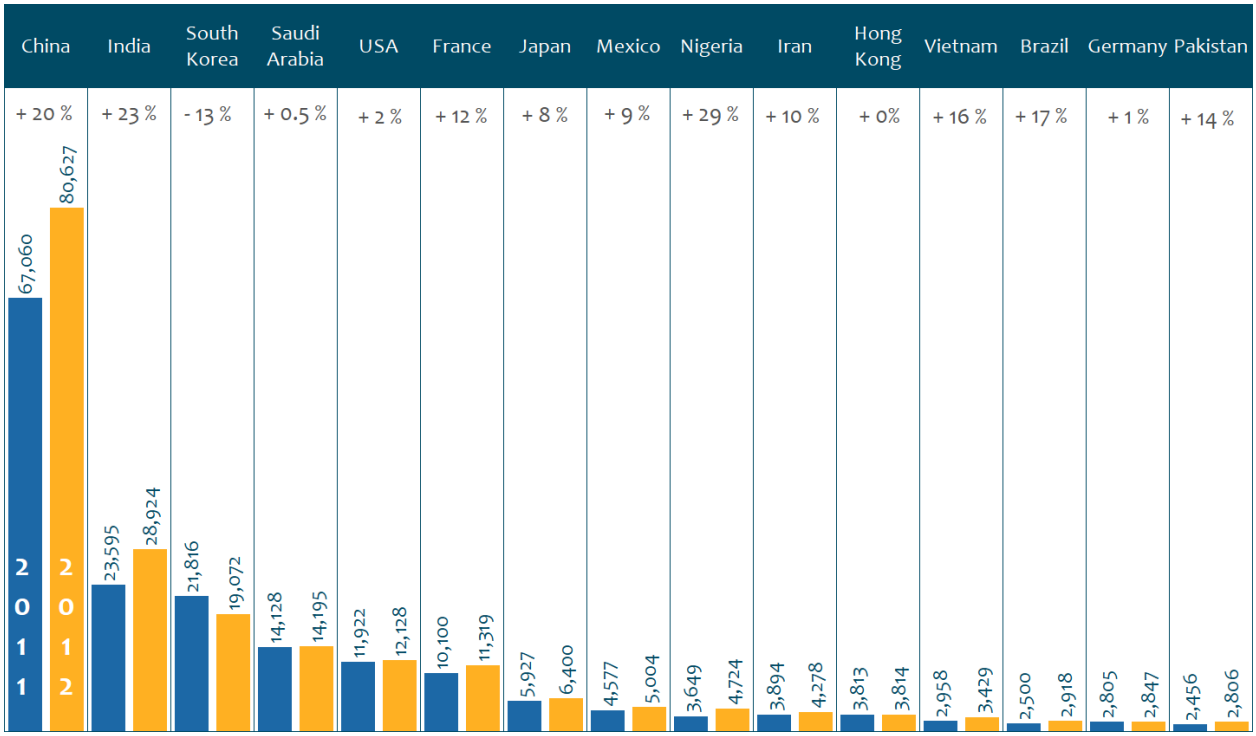
- Canada's study abroad participation rate of less than 3% is significantly lower than that of other countries. The first step to improvement is the development of a common definition and data collection at the national level.

- Canadian institutions offer a wide variety of pathway programs that facilitate international education between levels or types of study. These include programs to transition between levels or types of study within Canada, or between education abroad to education in Canada. Domestic students also benefit from pathway programs that promote participation in educational experiences overseas.

- Public-Private Partnerships (P3's) involving Canadian post-secondary education institutions and private enterprises to develop offshore campuses and programs are a relatively new development. The report provides an overview of P3's, case studies, best practices and lessons learned.

- The report looks at the potential impact of MOOCs on international education.

International students in Canada by year, 2001 to 2012, all levels of study



International students in Canada, top 15 sending countries, 2011 and 2012