

International Students: A Question of Balance

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Association of NS Teachers & Canadian Association of University Teachers

- ▶ ANSUT

- ▶ Represents more than 1400 faculty & academic staff in 8 Nova Scotia Universities.

- ▶ CAUT

- ▶ CAUT represents over 72,000 faculty & academic staff working in 125 universities and colleges across Canada.

CAUT Policy Statement on International Students

Approved by CAUT Council, May, 2017

- ▶ “The recruitment of international students to Canadian institutions fosters the international exchange and development of knowledge, promotes cultural diversity and understanding, enriches the educational experience of students and academic staff, and facilitates international cooperation and development.”
- ▶ <https://www.caut.ca/about-us/caut-policy/lists/caut-policy-statements/policy-statement-on-international-students>.

For-Profit Businesses vs. Universities

- ▶ “The recruitment of international students should not be motivated by financial gain.... Canadian institutions should not enter into agreements with for-profit corporations to recruit and enroll international students into their private for-profit colleges.”

Health Coverage & Scholarships/Financial Assistance

- ▶ “Where they exist, provincial health care charges for international students should be abolished. [It’s \$799/year at CBU.] Coverage of international students under public medicare and hospitalization plans should be equivalent to that for domestic students.
- ▶ Scholarships and other financial assistance for international students should be sufficient to ensure that qualified students are not denied access to Canadian institutions for financial reasons, and to meet the emergency needs of students and their families”

Qualified Staff

- ▶ Institutions should employ specialized, trained staff to provide support services, commensurate with the number and diversity of students recruited, to meet the needs of international students, and to comply with the legal duty to provide services free from discrimination.

Faculty support

- ▶ Where appropriate, institutions should provide academic staff with resources and professional development opportunities to facilitate teaching, supervision, evaluation methods, provision of library services, etc. that may assist in accommodating special needs of international students. Such accommodations may in no way be imposed on academic staff, or detract from their academic freedom rights to determine pedagogical methods and standards.

A more local context

- ▶ Cape Breton & CBU
- ▶ Dwindling population, especially in the 18-25 age range.
- ▶ Saudi students: Their arrival & departure
- ▶ Declaration of financial exigency and threat of faculty layoffs
- ▶ The current situation: an increase from ~ 3000 students to ~5400 in less than 2 years. Rumours of further increases.
- ▶ The recent increase has come exclusively (or almost exclusively) from International Students, especially from India.

Over Capacity: The Need for a Balanced Plan

- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Employment
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Classroom space
- ▶ Class size
- ▶ Distribution of international students by degree program
- ▶ Desirable mixture between international and national students across disciplines.
- ▶ Sustainable enrollment