

Mind the Gap: Securing Inclusive Pathways for International Students

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Sheridan

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather has been and still is the traditional territory of several Indigenous nations, including the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Wendat, the Métis, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Since time immemorial, numerous Indigenous nations and Indigenous peoples have lived and passed through this territory.

We recognize this territory is covered by the Dish with One Spoon treaty and the Two Row Wampum treaty which emphasizes the importance of joint stewardship, peace, and respectful relationships.

Sheridan College affirms it is our collective responsibility to honour and respect those who have gone before us, those who are here, and those who have yet to come. We are grateful for the opportunity to be working and living on this land.



About Sheridan



- 21,000+ students
- 120+ programs
- 106 countries
- Three campuses



Centre for Student Success

- Accessible Learning
- Centre for Indigenous Learning and Support
- First Year Experience
- International Services
- Student Advisement
- Athletics and Recreation
- Health Services
- Wellness & Counselling
- Off Campus Housing and Basic Needs
- Student Leadership
- Student Rights & Responsibilities
- Peer Mentor Program

Regulated International Student Immigration Advisors (RISIA)

- Educate and advise students on IRCC regulations (study permit, work permits, visas, ETAs, spousal/ dependent applications, public policies)
- Assist navigating applications
- Create communications on policy changes, IRCC requirements or potential visa compliance issues

Health and Wellness

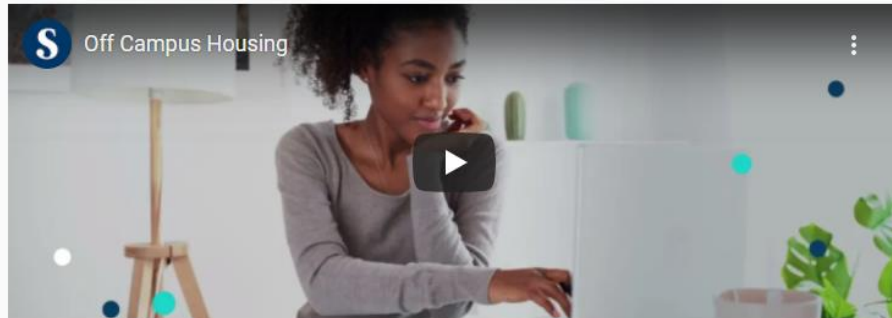
- **Keep.meSAFE**
 - Free and confidential multilingual, culturally sensitive, and gender inclusive support 24/7
- **Nurse Practitioner**
 - Diagnose, prescribe testing, etc., without a medical directive
- **Guard,me Insurance**
- **Health Promotion**
 - Pardesi Project – SOCH mental health
 - <https://www.sochmentalhealth.com/pardesi-project/>



Housing

Looking for Housing

Before you get started, here are a few resources to help you with your housing search:



- [Student Housing Guide](#)
- [Budget Calculator](#)
- [5 Tips for Finding Housing](#)
- [Housing Search Checklist](#)



First-Time Renter



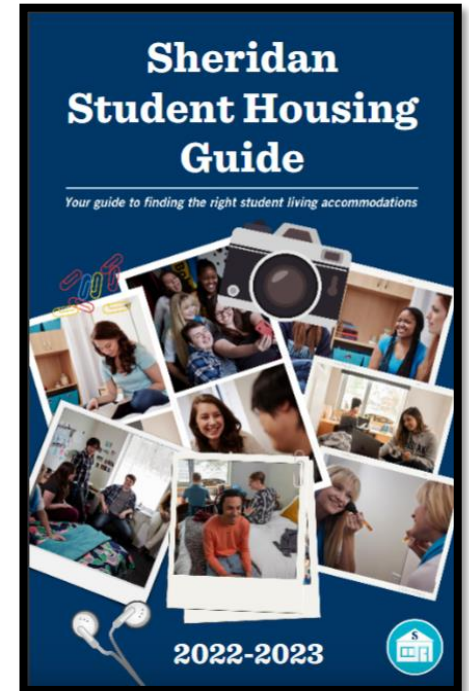
Types of Accommodation



Location and Transportation



Roommate Agreement



Sheridan

Off Campus Housing



- Partnerships: Places4students, HomeStay, and HomeShare
- Partnerships are prioritizing safety and affordability
- Pre arrival Housing Information sessions and Start of term sessions
 - Housing readiness workshops (3x/term), pre-arrival communication (8 weeks in advance of students arriving to Sheridan/Canada)
- Hired: Off-Campus Housing and Community Connections Coordinator
 - direct one on one & group support in navigating and overcoming housing barriers
- Access to emergency and transitional housing



Food Programs and Basic Needs

- Address food insecurity through culturally appropriate foods
- Partnership with Sai Dham Food Bank
- SSU Food First Program
- Clothing and winter gear



Other Support Services

- Pre-Departure Orientations
- Partnerships: Community Organizations, IRCC, Service Canada
- Specialized Programming
- Airport Welcome Program

FREE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AIRPORT WELCOME DESK

Toronto Pearson International Airport

Winter 2023 Dates

📅 Dec 26 to Jan 08

🕒 8 am to 10 pm

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Brampton Charter for Improving International Student Experience

The system is broken ...

Nova Scotia

Cape Breton University responds to concerns over international student enrolment



CANADA

No-shows, dropouts and asylum requests — these 10 schools have Canada's highest rates of 'non-compliance' among international students

Evergreen College in Brampton, renamed Eastview College in 2021, and the Academy of Learning College in Toronto topped the list, both scoring 95 per cent.

Toronto

Foreign students say they 'have no choice' but to work more than their permits allow



Students speak out after Jobandeep Singh Sandhu was told he would be deported

Talia Ricci - CBC News - Posted: Jun 10, 2019 4:00 AM ET | Last Updated: June 10, 2019



Abhishek Hastri was recently interviewed in a documentary about challenge when they come to Canada. (Talia Ricci/CBC)

Is Canada's international student system ethical? Or exploitive?

BY THE BIG STORY
Posted Sep 9, 2021 5:15 am PDT



blogTO

City Becky Robertson Posted 3 months ago Report Inaccuracy

International student populations are skyrocketing in Ontario and here's where

International students are being exploited in Peel and they're dying, say advocates



By Alexandra Heck Reporter
Sat., Sept. 11, 2021 | 3 min. read | Set Brampton as My Local news

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EDUCATION / SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021

The Shadowy Business of International Education

Foreign students are lied to and exploited on every front. They're also propping up higher education as we know it

BY NICHOLAS HUNE-BROWN
ILLUSTRATION BY CORNELIA LI

Updated 15:09, Aug. 19, 2021 | Published 14:22, Aug. 18, 2021

Making Brampton the Best Practice Leader for the International Student Experience

Sheridan

Terms of Reference:

Improving International Post-Secondary Student Experience Roundtable

Date: 11/05/2021

1) Description:

In response to ongoing yet growing concerns about post-secondary international students' academic and lived experiences in the city of Brampton and region of Peel, key partners will convene a roundtable of senior leaders, as part of a coherent strategy of community engagement.

The Improving International Post-Secondary Student Experience Advisory Roundtable (the Roundtable) is an advisory Roundtable that will provide a breadth of knowledge and guidance with respect to socially inclusive and equity related practices in relation to the experience of international post-secondary students in the City of Brampton. The focus will be on the specific systemic issues, and their causes as well as possible solutions. The Roundtable will draw on both industry and subject-matter expertise, and the lived experiences of the membership, stakeholders, residents, and international students themselves, to inform its work.

The Roundtable will be hosted by the City of Brampton and The Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning ("Sheridan"). The goal of the Roundtable is to sponsor a summit in Winter 2022 on the issue of international student supports.

Co-chairs

- Gurpreet Malhotra, CEO, Indus Community Services
- Bill Boyes, Fire Chief, City of Brampton

Members at large

- Baldev Mutta, Chief Executive Officer, Punjabi Community Health Services
- Dr. Janet Morrison, President & Vice-Chancellor, Sheridan College
- Rowena Santos, Councillor, City of Brampton
- Janice Sheehy, Commissioner, Region of Peel
- Dr. Kate Bingham, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Region of Peel
- Chief Nishan Duraiappah, Peel Regional Police
- Dr. Rardi van Heest, Vice President Medical Affairs, Research & Academics, William Osler Health System
- Sharanjeet Kaur, Former Director, Executive Projects and Operations, William Osler Health System (currently Executive Director, TMU Medical School)
- Todd Letts, CEO, Brampton Board of Trade
- Jaspreet Kaur Bal, Ontario Vice President, World Sikh Organization
- Sinthusha Panchalingam, Clinical Director, Canadian Mental Health Association, Peel Dufferin
- Jaspreet Singh, Founder, International Students' Association
- Dr. Amira El Masri, Director, Centre for Global Education and Internationalization, Sheridan College

Secretariat

- Rajan Sandhu, VP Strategic Alignment and General Counsel, Sheridan College
- Christine Szustaczek, VP External Relations, Sheridan College
- Nauman Khan, AVP Government Relations, Sheridan College
- Harinder Malhi, Director of Government & Community Relations, Sheridan College
- Keera Smiechowicz, Executive Assistant, Sheridan College
- Jaskaran Sandhu, Principal, State Strategy

A Four-Step Process

Over a period of six months, our roundtable met five times



**Define the
Problem**



**Build on what
we know**



**Identify
solutions**



**Plan a summit
and draft a
charter**

International Student Summit

July 25 & 26, 2022



Quick Stats



Diverse and active participation

259
Delegates
in-person
+
600
online each day

61 panelists
17 moderators
27 notetakers

Students from
10 nationalities
& at all stages of the journey

NGOs, school boards,
media, entrepreneurs,
citizens, advocacy groups,
community agencies

26 colleges*
11 universities*
5 private colleges*

*students, administrators,
professors



**Engaging forum
for discussion**

18
sessions
+ working lunches
+ networking
opportunities

Discussions about
finances, housing,
employment, health and
wellbeing, academics,
culture, racism

Panels with
ALL levels
of government

Media stories in
Brampton Guardian,
OMNI Television,
RedFM,
Toronto Star

20
testimonials from
our Speakers' corner

Presentations on international charters (UK, Australia, New Zealand) and multi-stakeholder partnerships to provide a seamless student experience (EduNova, World University Refugee Services, United Way)

What We Heard



False expectations

Pressure from family

Financial stress

Harmful stereotypes

Hesitancy to seek help

Exploitation

Racism and isolation

Gaps and silos

Systemic barriers

Lack of culturally sensitive support



Positive Outcomes

- + A better understanding of the complexity
- + A higher level of awareness
- + Appreciation for the role & contribution of others
- + New ideas and partnerships
- + Affirmation of the usefulness of a community charter

Developing the Brampton Community Charter

Summit Lessons to Inform the Charter

Priorities and Values

Students should be welcomed, valued, and understood, and their health and well-being prioritized

Providing Support

Keep micro, meso and macro levels of need and support in mind when addressing student issues

Establishing Trust

Build trust with the international student community

Listening

Listen to student experiences and address the root of the problem

Collaboration

Collaboration with community partners and MPs, MPPs and City Councillors is important

Student Experience

International students' resilience, and narratives need to be brought forward

Involvement

Involve current students and recent international student graduates in planning and encourage engagement with the community

Inclusion

We need to build our local cultural competence and include international students as key stakeholder in EDI initiatives

Ethical Practices

Regulation, training and monitoring will enhance ethical practices in international student recruitment and retention

Charter

01

Guiding Principles



02

Goals & Actions



03

Accountability
Measures



Guiding Principles

Appreciate that international student experiences are complex, multifaceted, distinctive, and as heterogeneous as the students themselves.

Respect that international students contribute diverse perspectives that enrich the learning experience for all students and are not competing with domestic students for postsecondary spaces.

Recognize the distinct stressors, atypical obstacles and macro and micro level factors that influence the lives of international students.

Acknowledge the need to view the international student experience holistically beginning from when a student considers studying in Canada to beyond graduation.

Define the international student experience to encompass physical, mental, social, cultural, financial, and academic well-being, which includes immigration, employment, housing, health, racism, food security, language and belonging.

Respond through multi-stakeholder engagement to fill the gaps and bridge the silos that challenge a smooth and seamless international student experience.

Goals

1. Ethical recruitment standards
2. Academic and wrap-around supports in the education system
3. Safe and affordable housing
4. Legal and reliable work
5. Well-defined and transparent pathways to citizenship for international students

Next Steps



Brampton Charter for Improving the International Student Experience



Charter
Overview



Guiding
Principles



Goals &
Actions



Accountability
Measures



Feedback



Background

Thank you

Sheridan