

From Campus to Career

Strengthening Employment Opportunities for International
College Students in Ontario and British Columbia

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Key questions

- 1 What challenges and opportunities do international college students face when looking for work?
- 2 What informal and formal supports do international students use to look for work?
- 3 What are ON and BC colleges doing to help students' study-to-work transitions and how can their efforts be improved?

Approach



**Survey of 1000
current international
students and recent
graduates
(with Leger)**

What supports do
international college
students and graduates
use to look for work?



**Interviews with 40
public college staff
and leaders**

How can colleges
innovate to help students
and graduates find
meaningful work?



**Interviews with 40
current students and
recent graduates**

How are students and
graduates using formal
and informal supports
and how can they be
improved?

Employment challenges

- Lack of relevant contacts
- Interviewing skills
- Resumes/CVs
- Lack of available jobs, poor working conditions/wages
- Discrimination in hiring
- Language barriers
- Lack of work experience



Impact of WIL and career services

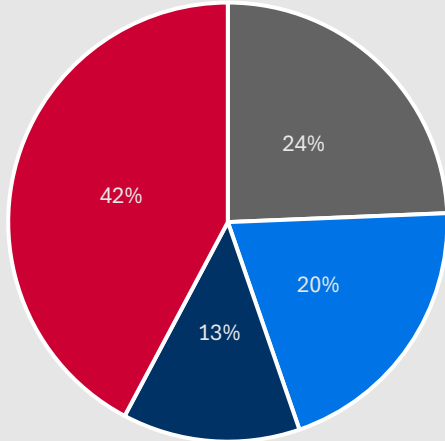
- Career services and WIL are linked to better employment outcomes
 - Higher employment rates
 - Higher job satisfaction
 - Alignment with career goals and field of study

“International students [who are] in a program that does not have a work-integrated learning component are at a significant disadvantage when they go into the labour market because they don’t have that forced opportunity to learn: What is a resume? How do I participate in an interview?”

- College staff



Barriers to access



- No formal support
- Career services only
- Work Integrated Learning only
- Career services and Work Integrated Learning

Source: The Conference Board of Canada; N=1002

- One in four international students/graduates have not accessed WIL or career services
- Structural barriers
 - Sex
 - Age
 - Cultural background
- Practical barriers
 - Lack of access to information
 - Financial and settlement stress
 - Lack of time
 - Limited transportation options



The power of peer and instructor support

- Almost 40% of international college students and graduates surveyed have received career support from their instructors
- Over a third use family members, friends, and classmates as a source of career support

Want to learn more?



Issue Briefing

Aimed at
college program
administrators at
Canadian PSIs

Expected early 2025



Summary for Executives

Aimed at
senior leadership at
Canadian PSIs

Expected early 2025



Get in touch!

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Where insights
meet impact