

International Student Information Ecosystem

Desk & Qualitative Study Introduction

Knowledge Management; Immigrant Solutions International Students; Strategy, Policy & Research 2024



Project Context

Project Name: Information Ecosystem Mapping for International Students

Objective: Explore systemic challenges in navigating critical information

Key Issues:

- I. Changing immigration regulations
- II. Lack of awareness of rights (employment, housing, etc.)
- III. Little space for context-specific service provision
- IV. Overwhelming information volume
- V. Patterns of misinformation

Impact: Disruption of decision-making and post-graduation outcomes

Project Context

Project Name: Information Ecosystem Mapping for International Students

Key Research Goals:

- I. Explore the information ecosystem
- II. Identify information gaps and misinformation
- III. Analyze decision-making influences

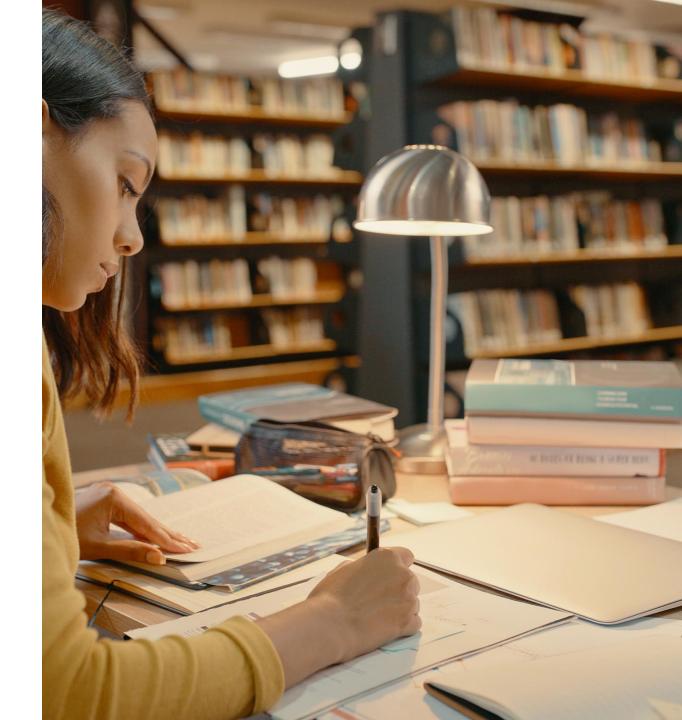
Ultimate Goal: Support convening conversations in the sector regarding International Student informational access.

Our Approach:

- Desk Review
- Qualitative Study

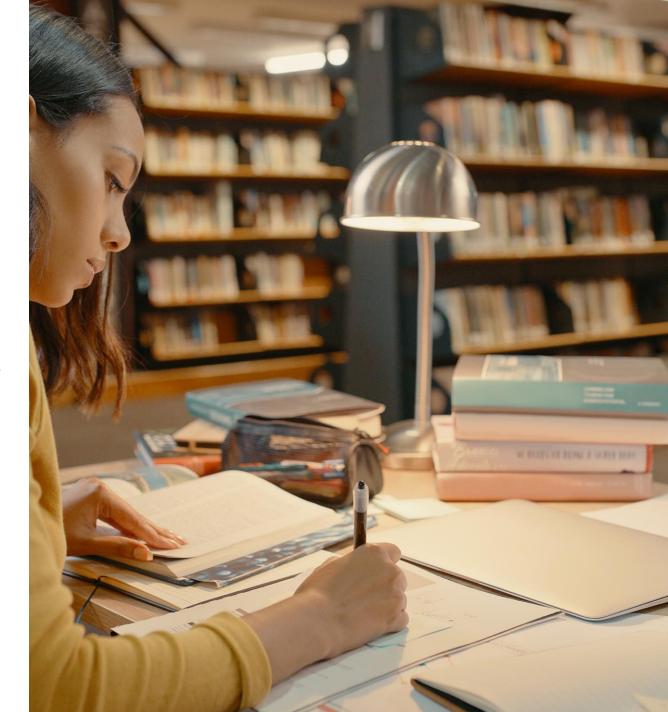
Preliminary Findings

- 1. Diverse and Evolving Information Needs
 - Wide variety of subjects (i.e. immigration, employment, healthcare, housing, etc.)
 - Demand for information evolves as students progress through different stages: pre-arrival, during studies, and post-graduation
- 2. Quality & Accessibility of Information
 - Fragmented & conflicting information
 - Many platforms offer guidance but lack contextual clarity
- 3. Significant Information Gaps
 - Employment rights, housing protections, health care access
 - Legal rights & exploitation



Preliminary Findings

- 4. Role of Intermediaries
 - Agents and recruiters play crucial role during pre-arrival phase
 - Advice ranges from highly useful to misleading or harmful
- 5. Impact of Policy Changes and Misinformation
 - Frequent/rapid shifts in immigration policies
 - Education as a pathway to PR lead to scams (i.e. fraudulent Labour Market Impact Assessments
 – LMIAs, etc.)
- 6. Trust in Information Sources
 - Levels of trust vary widely, and many students trust peers/community groups over official sources
 - There is a need to build trust



Next Steps

- 1. Further examine origins and impacts of misinformation
 - o Particularly during pre-arrival phase and during policy transitions
- 2. Deep dive into role of intermediaries
 - How do agents and recruiters influence student decisions at various stages?
- 3. Gain perspectives from International Students and information providers directly
 - Upcoming qualitative study
- 4. Support convening conversations
 - o Bring information providers from the sector together to discuss findings & next steps

Ultimate Goal

Convening conversations with information providers to work towards generating solutions for a more timely, accurate, and accountable information ecosystem for International Students in Canada.



Need more information?

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