



STRONGER TOGETHER

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

RUCBC
THE RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES' COUNCIL
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

BCAU
BC ASSOCIATION
of Institutes + universities

 **BC COLLEGES**
ACCESSIBLE. AFFORDABLE. APPLIED.



Collaboration and co-operation are fundamental

Introduction

Higher education is increasing in importance worldwide, driven by the rapid acceleration of knowledge-based economies and the concurrent demand for deep and highly mobilized talent pools to fuel national competitiveness. In addition to building prosperity, higher education supports individuals in reaching their personal goals and economic success, as well as realizing social mobility and inclusion.

Governments' expectations of their higher education systems include increased accountability, efficiency, and quality, all in the service of supporting inclusion, sustainability, and innovation.

Students are at the centre of achieving these goals. In British Columbia, our post-secondary institutions have proudly worked together as a complementary and integrated system to deliver a comprehensive suite of learning and developmental opportunities. Collaboration and co-operation among institutions are fundamental to the success of our post-secondary system, recognized as one of the best in the world in terms of quality and value. By working together across the entire system, British Columbia delivers a broad, streamlined set of services to students at a lower cost, and more efficiently than in other jurisdictions or by individual institutions.

This document illustrates some of the many ways in which our post-secondary institutions are stronger together in their focus on student success. Supported by forward-thinking public investment over several decades, these initiatives include:

- **BC Transfer System**, which enables students to transfer credits from one institution to another
- **BCcampus**, which supports improving student learning and access to learning by supporting open education, Indigenization of the curriculum and digital learning environments
- **BCNET**, which provides innovative technology solutions to support world-class research and education
- **BCCIE**, which supports international education in and for BC to enhance BC's international reputation for quality education

Working closely with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training, as well as other system partners, post-secondary institutions are leading and participating in innovative and co-operative initiatives. These partnerships are what make BC's post-secondary institutions among the most collaborative and efficient in the world, providing greater opportunities for our students, faculty, staff and wider communities.

The BC Transfer System

A student in British Columbia can start their educational journey at one institution and seamlessly transfer to another without the need to redo equivalent courses. The BC Transfer System, administered by the British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT), supports student mobility and facilitates system-wide co-operation by maintaining transfer agreements that ensure students who take equivalent courses and/or blocks of courses at one institution will be granted credit at another.

Through a well-established and technology-supported process, member institutions – which include public and private universities, colleges and institutes – assess and articulate educational pathways in accordance with shared standards of educational quality and outcomes. In addition to facilitating admission, articulation and transfer arrangements among BC Transfer System member institutions, the BCCAT conducts research on student pathways, credit mobility and success.



EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS AND PARTNERSHIPS SUPPORT STUDENTS' EDUCATIONAL GOALS

The following are just some of the many established educational pathways, including block transfers and partnerships between universities and colleges.

Coast Mountain College block transfer	to Royal Roads University Bachelor of Commerce
BCIT block transfer	to Royal Roads University Bachelor of Science in Environmental Management
College of the Rockies pathway	to Thompson Rivers University Bachelor of Business Administration
Okanagan College block transfer	to UNBC Environmental Studies
Engineering bridge programs	to UBC and UVic
The UBC-Langara	Aboriginal Transfer Partnership
Simon Fraser University	Langara College partnership
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology	UBC Bachelor of Nsyilxcn Language Fluency degree partnership
Northern Collaborative Nursing Program	UNBC
UVic nursing partnerships	with four colleges
SFU, Northern Lights College and school districts 59, 60, 81	Alaska Highway Consortium on Teacher Education
North Island College and University of Victoria	dual admission
Simon Fraser University	Douglas College degree program



BC Transfer System Facts & Figures

ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

240,000

guaranteed BC
course equivalencies

301,000

total equivalencies
(both BC and external)

1,400

block transfer
agreements

MOBILITY RATES AND TRANSFER CREDIT

- Approximately **16%** of all students in academic programs at BC public post-secondary institutions transfer to another BC public post-secondary institution each year (about 55,000 students annually)
- Transfer students make up over **one-third** of the annual admissions at BC's research universities
- On average, **1,200-1,400** associate degree (or equivalent) students from public post-secondary institutions are admitted to BC's research universities each year
- Transfer students carry an average of **48.6 credits**, equivalent to more than 1.5 years of full-time study
- Almost **one-quarter** of transfer students enter BC's research universities from private post-secondary institutions that are members of the BC Transfer System
- BC public post-secondary institutions recognize more than **400,000** credits for transfer each year
- Over **70%** of transfer students admitted to BC research universities complete a baccalaureate degree within five years, with a grade point average comparable to those who entered university directly from high school



BCcampus

Created in 2002 to support online learning, BCcampus provides teaching, learning, educational technology and open education support and guidance to the province's post-secondary institutions. Through collaborative leadership, BCcampus brings together innovative resources and effective expertise to create awareness, understanding and adoption of promising teaching practices and high-quality curricular resources. Ultimately, the goal is to bring a community of people from universities, colleges and institutes together to improve student learning and access to learning.

Open Education

Since 2012, Open Educational Resources created through BCcampus have saved BC students more than \$22 million. BCcampus facilitates the collaborative development of curriculum that can be used by all BC educators, including entire programs, with no textbook costs. BCcampus provides learning and research support for Open Education and brings individuals from institutions together to create resources that can be used across the entire system and beyond. Often working with provincial articulation bodies, this work involves system-wide advisory groups, secondments from all institution types to work on system-wide projects, and collaboration with groups including the BC Federation of Students.

Indigenization Guides

In 2018, BCcampus released six [Indigenization Guides](#) to share best practices in how BC post-secondary institutions can Indigenize their institutions. These professional learning guides were developed by collaborative teams from BC universities, colleges and institutes under the guidance of a steering committee of Indigenous education leaders. BCcampus has seen uptake of these guides both in BC and globally, and the organization offers support for implementing the guides from and in community with Indigenous educators and scholars.

Adapting to COVID-19

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, BCcampus brought together an advisory group from universities, colleges and institutes to develop [Adapting to COVID-19](#), an online resource for students, staff and faculty, to access mental health and COVID-19-related information. The site covers topics including mental health support, financial relief options and pivoting to online learning and teaching.



B.C. Open Textbook collection stats as of March 2021

\$24 mil.

in cumulative
student savings

198,109

BC students use
open textbooks

4,525

known
BC adoptions

677

known BC
faculty adopting

348

textbooks in
the collection

A few stats from BCcampus-hosted events in 2020/21

466

attendees joined
the Pulling Together
Indigenization Guide
sessions

356

participants learned
about research
opportunities in
open education

1,808

attendees joined
the Facilitating
Learning Online
sessions

1,582

people found
support and guidance
during the pivot
to online learning/teaching
through Adapting
to COVID-19 sessions



BCNET

BCNET is a not-for-profit, shared services organization that provides innovative technology solutions to support world-class research and education. Through member-led collaborations focused on technology innovation and discovery, BCNET helps its member organizations drive down costs, maximize efficiencies, expand services offerings and enhance service quality. BCNET collaborates with IT, finance, and procurement professionals as well as researchers at its 25 public, post-secondary member institutions.

BCNET began in 1986 as a proposal put forward by UBC to create a dedicated high-speed network connection between BC's three large research universities. With funding from the Universities Council, BCNET officially opened in 1988 as Canada's first regional network, providing British Columbia's first Internet connection. Since then, the organization and its members have worked to evolve the advanced network infrastructure and develop services to support the changing face of research and higher education.

In 2010, BCNET broadened its mandate to encompass shared IT services and welcomed all public post-secondary institutions. Today, all 25 public post-secondary institutions in BC are connected by a high-speed advanced network and have access to a wide array of shared services. This culture continues to provide a community to explore and discuss top technology challenges and solutions that are critical to the success of BC's institutions.

BCNET METRICS | FISCAL YEAR 2019 - 2020

\$88 mil.

Aggregate spend,
BCNET services
& agreements

\$71 mil.

Aggregate spend,
BCNET agreements

\$37.9 mil.

Aggregate spend,
RUCBC members

31

Number of
BCNET services
in cybersecurity,
network, shared
systems, and
technology and
enterprise systems

61

Number of
BCNET agreements
in administrative services,
IT infrastructure,
IT professional services,
operational supplies
and software



Partnerships and collaborations save costs across the system

BCNET SCOTIABANK AGREEMENT

The Scotiabank agreement offers a simplified, flexible and globally accepted credit card solution that improves the user experience, while reducing the time and cost of transactional processing. Seventeen public post-secondary institutions use the Scotiabank program, including UBC, UVic and SFU. Sector-wide volumes are calculated as part of the overall rebate formula, enhancing each participating member's rebate. While UBC holds its own Scotiabank agreement, it co-operates to connect UBC's total spend volume to the BCNET agreement, increasing the overall rebate for BC's colleges, universities and institutes.

BCNET ADOBE ENTERPRISE TERM LICENCING AGREEMENT (ETLA)

BCNET has established an Enterprise Term Licensing Agreement (ETLA) and Value Incentive Program that offers institutions the entire Adobe collection of creative apps for desktop. The agreement offers discounted volume pricing in a co-operative agreement, providing significant savings compared to each institution purchasing licensing agreements on their own. Nineteen public post-secondary institutions are using the ETLA program, including UBC, UVic and SFU. The ETLA requires the sector to aggregate 30,000 licenses, and the participation of UBC, SFU and UVic account for 55% of the total volume, improving the overall licensing counts and resulting in lower costs per license/named user for all participating institutions.

BCNET RICOH MULTI-FUNCTION DEVICES

The Ricoh agreement offers multi-functional devices and fleet management services to support the transformation of an institution's core document-driven processes. Eighteen institutions, including UVic and SFU, use the program, with UVic and SFU contributing 50% of the fleet. Without these volumes, all participating colleges, universities and institutes would pay a significantly higher rate.



The BC Council for International Education (BCCIE)

The BC Council for International Education (BCCIE) supports the internationalization efforts of BC's public and independent K-12 schools, public and private colleges and universities, and language schools. It promotes international education in and for BC, to enhance the province's international reputation for quality education, and to support the international education activities of the provincial government. BCCIE delivers on this direction through activities that focus on:

- **Partnerships and market development:** This involves developing and maintaining strategic partnerships and networks in new and existing international markets to help schools and institutions diversify their sources of international students. BCCIE positions BC as the destination of choice for international learners and creates opportunities for domestic students to develop global competencies through education experiences abroad.
- **Capacity building and leadership:** BCCIE promotes a culture of quality and excellence in international education and builds the knowledge, expertise and capacity of BC's international education sector.
- **Communications and global engagement:** BCCIE communicates and engages with stakeholders in the sector to share information about opportunities and best practices and to foster positive relationships and collaboration.



Examples of partnerships and collaborations

WEBINAR: EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF LOCAL/GLOBAL EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

In collaboration with UBC, this webinar presented findings and recommended programmatic changes to support universities' international strategies as they plan and adapt their courses in the context of increased virtual education. The webinar shared findings from a study on 15 years of Professor Henry Yu's Asian-Canadian history courses in the context of current study abroad and experiential learning models. Participants learned how the teaching team and university partners adapted to challenges and opportunities over the years—and specifically during the abrupt teaching and learning changes elicited by COVID-19.

ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION (APAIE 2022) CONFERENCE

BCCIE collaborated with SFU to secure the university's spot as lead host for APAIE 2022, which will be held March 21-31, 2022. BCCIE will act as the conference's local secretariat. BC's education sector will be involved in planning and implementing the conference and UBC, RRU, TRU, UNBC and UVic will be local and regional co-hosts.

UNBC/UMAP

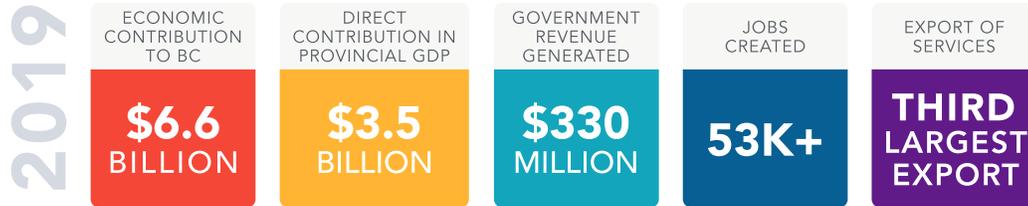
As Canada's national secretariat, BCCIE helps connect Canadian institutions with the University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific (UMAP) Consortium. UMAP promotes student exchanges among 570 colleges and universities in 35 countries in Asia and on the Pacific Rim. In 2019, BCCIE worked with UNBC to facilitate its partnership with UMAP, making UNBC the tenth Canadian institution to join Consortium.

[Read more.](#)

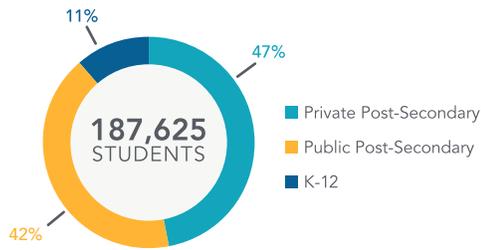
STUDY NORTH

BCCIE launched [Study North](#), an international recruitment and branding venture that forged new relationships and pathways between the four northern institutions of UNBC, New Caledonia, Northern Lights and Coast Mountain College.

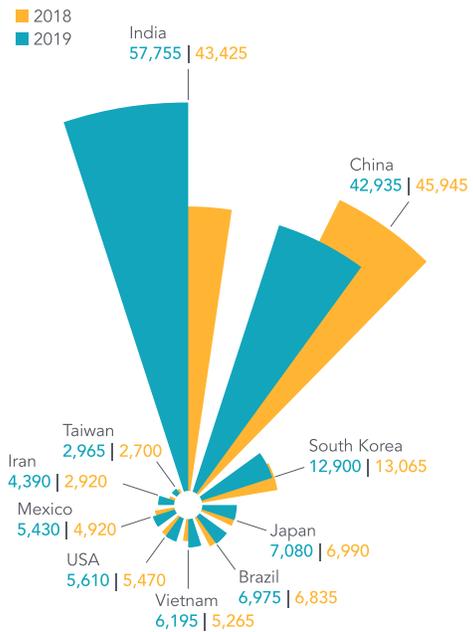
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION IS A KEY DRIVER OF BC'S ECONOMY



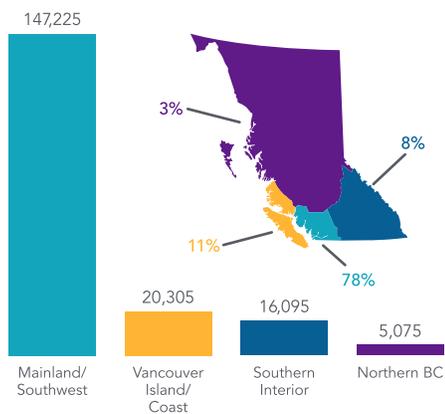
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN BC IN 2019



TOP 10 SOURCE MARKETS



STUDENTS BY REGION



 The number of international students in BC increased by **9%** between **2018** and **2019**