



**Future
Skills
Centre**

Centre des
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RESEARCH

International Students' Transition to Work

Partners The Conference Board of Canada

Locations British Columbia, Ontario

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TOPICS IN THIS PROJECT

Career Services Inclusive Economy Pathways to Jobs

International college students tend to have poorer employment outcomes than their Canadian-born peers. Except for those in STEM fields, international college graduates earn 15 to 23 percent less after graduation. They face multiple labour market barriers, including challenges with networking, language, discrimination, and job interviews.

To understand how colleges can innovate to help improve the employment outcomes of international college students, we:

surveyed 1,002 final-year international college students and recent international college graduates;
interviewed 42 final-year international college students and recent graduates and 42 public college staff working in international student services, career services, and experiential learning.

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Key insights

We found that participation in career services was linked to several positive employment outcomes for international college students and graduates, including higher levels of job satisfaction and increased likelihood of having Canadian work experience.



Despite the clear benefits of career services, over a third of international college students we surveyed have not used them. Common barriers for international college students include difficulty accessing information on relevant programs and services.



Colleges can leverage peer support networks to create formal peer mentorship programs within career services. These programs can ensure that students receive consistent and accurate information while offering professional development and paid opportunities for international student mentors.



The Future Skills Centre acknowledges that the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee share a special relationship to the 'Dish With One Spoon Territory,' where our office is located, bound to share and protect the land. As a pan-Canadian initiative, FSC operates on the traditional territory of many Indigenous nations across Turtle Island, the name given to the North American continent by some Indigenous peoples. We are grateful for the opportunity to work in this territory and commit ourselves to learning about our shared history and doing our part towards reconciliation.