

Trusted Institutions Framework



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Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Canada

Trusted Institutions Framework

Context

- The recent Strategic Immigration Review, along with ongoing review of the International Students Program, have raised several concerns, including:
 - The vulnerability of international students
 - Unsustainable growth in application volumes, impacting education quality, community infrastructure, and IRCC processing capacity
 - Barriers to access for diverse students and to greater diversification of the international student population
- Among other measures, IRCC is developing a **Trusted Institutions Framework** to help address these issues.

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Objectives

- The proposed Trusted Institutions Framework could extend lighter-touch, expedited study permit processing for applicants to DLIs that are:
 1. Recruiting sustainably;
 2. Recruiting genuine students;
 3. Providing adequate student supports;
 4. Supporting equity and diversity, and
 5. Demonstrating strong student outcomes.

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Methodology

- IRCC is proposing to develop metrics to determine which DLIs could be eligible for Trusted Institutions.
- This would be based on data held by IRCC and the Government of Canada as well as data that DLIs could share annually with IRCC.
- IRCC would continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the Framework and improve it over time.
- IRCC would also explore new data sources and indicators.

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Proposed Indicators

IRCC could gather GoC data such as:

- Study permit approval rates
- Rate of adverse outcomes for study permit holders
- Diversity of international students' country of origin
- International student outcomes post-graduation:
 - PGWP to PR transition rates
 - Language levels of graduates who apply for Express Entry
 - International student graduates earning above the Canadian median income

IRCC could gather the following indicators from institutions:

- Retention rates for international students
- On-time program completion rate for international students
- Percentage of revenue from international student tuition
- Scholarship and grants to international students from less developed countries
- Funding for international student supports
- Availability of DLI-administered housing for international students
- Teacher-international student ratio

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Proposed Indicators – DLI-held data

Retention rates

- Percentage of international students in a multi-year program of study who remain in their original program after their first year in Canada

On-time program completion rate

- Percentage of international students who complete their program within the advertised length of study (i.e., complete a four-year bachelors degree in four years or less)

Percentage of revenue from international tuition

- Percentage of a DLI's total tuition revenue that is derived from international student tuition

Scholarships awarded to international students from less developed countries

- The dollar value and percentage of total scholarships and grants provided to international students originating from countries on the UN Least Developed Countries list

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Proposed Indicators – DLI-held data

Funding for international student supports

- The value of targeted supports for international students per international student and as a percentage of average international student tuition
- Supports may include mental health services, career and employment counselling, and immigration counselling

Availability of DLI-administered housing for international students

- Total number and percentage of international students living in housing administered by their institution

Teacher-student ratio

- Average teacher-student ratio for the 10 courses with the highest numeric enrollment of international students

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DLI Test Group

- IRCC plans to test the data collection process related to the proposed indicators with a DLI test group, before rolling out a survey more broadly to institutions.
- IRCC has identified a small group of public colleges and universities to be invited to participate in the DLI test group.
- The proposed test group was selected to enable representation by region, language, level of study, and institution type and size, as well as consideration of operational risk, and post-graduation outcomes.
- The results of this test will be used to further refine the Framework and survey process.

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Next Steps

- **Summer 2023:** IRCC would test the survey with a small number of DLIs that will be selected to represent the diversity of the sector
- **Fall 2023:** Based on our findings from the test survey, the survey would be refined and made available to all DLIs
- **Spring 2024:** Data collected would be compiled and analyzed to identify DLIs eligible for Trusted Institution status. Applicants to these DLIs could potentially receive expedited processing for the 2024 academic session

Questions

Annex A: Trusted Institutions Framework Overview

Vision for a Trusted Institutions Framework

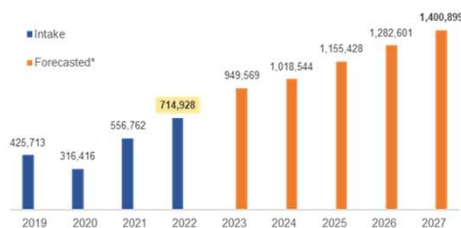
Overview

IRCC has developed a draft Trusted Institutions Framework, which will aim to **strengthen the overall DLI framework** and **incentivize higher standards** for integrity and education quality, for international students.

IRCC envisions the following outcomes for the Trusted Institutions Framework, to help ensure that DLIs are:

1. Recruiting sustainably
2. Recruiting genuine students
3. Providing adequate student supports
4. Supporting equity and diversity
5. Demonstrating strong student outcomes

Figure 1: Study Permit Applications Received versus Forecasted



*IRCC forecast as of January 2023. Forecasts are updated every quarter and subject to change.

Background

- From 2019 to 2022, study permit applications have increased by a total of nearly 300,000 applications per year.
- By 2027, volumes are forecasted to nearly double to 1.4 million applications per year (see Figure 1).
- The rapid growth in intake has disrupted processing times and service standards. There are concerns that many DLIs have become increasingly dependent on international students for tuition revenue, in some cases not providing international students a positive education experience in Canada.
- There is a belief that processing times are impacting Canada's ability to attract top international students, and that, compounded with the reported cases of international student exploitation, this may harm Canada's reputation as a destination of choice.

Methodology

- IRCC has developed an index that could be used to determine which DLIs would be eligible for Trusted Institutions.
- The index will compile data held by IRCC and the Government of Canada as well as data that DLIs could share annually with IRCC.
- IRCC would provide certain facilitations to Trusted Institutions, such as lighter-touch expedited processing for its applicants.

Indicators

IRCC-held

The following proposed indicators may be gathered from GCMS, Statistics Canada, and other Government of Canada databases.

- Study permit approval rates
- Rate of adverse outcomes for study permit holders
- Diversity of international students' country of origin
- PGWP to PR transition rates
- Language levels of graduates who apply for Express Entry
- International student graduates earning above the Canadian median income

DLI-held

The following proposed indicators may be gathered from existing information collected by DLIs on their students.

- Retention rates of international students after one year
- On-time program completion rate
- Percentage of revenue from international tuition
- Scholarships awarded to students from less developed countries
- Funding for international student supports
- Availability of DLI-administered housing for international students
- Student-teacher ratio

Timelines

- During **Summer 2023**, IRCC will design a survey to collect indicator data and test it with a test group of DLIs selected to represent the diversity of the sector. Participation in the DLI test group would not necessarily result in Trusted Institution status.
- In **Fall 2023**, IRCC would aim to make the proposed survey, adjusted based on findings from the test group, available to all DLIs and use the data to establish a Trusted Institutions list.
- In **Spring 2024**, the DLIs identified as Trusted Institutions could benefit from expedited processing.

Future Vision

- IRCC will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the Framework as well as explore new data sources and indicators.