



Global Skills Opportunity at a glance



When students work and study abroad, they bring back skills and knowledge that benefit everyone.

Global Skills Opportunity is the Government of Canada’s national outbound student mobility pilot program. GSO empowers post-secondary institutions to increase the participation of Canadians in international learning opportunities — especially students with disabilities, Indigenous students and those from low socio-economic backgrounds who have traditionally faced barriers to participation.

GSO is an integral component of the Government of Canada’s International Education Strategy. It is administered jointly by Universities Canada and Colleges and Institutes Canada. Projects are designed, implemented and managed by participating universities, colleges and institutes across the country. This decentralized approach allows post-secondary institutions to create projects that best serve the needs of their students and their communities.

Through GSO-funded international study and work experiences, thousands of Canadian post-secondary students are gaining life-long skills they — and Canada — need.

TOP FIVE SKILLS GSO ALUMNI REPORT HAVING GAINED AND/OR IMPROVED:

- Intercultural competencies
- Adaptability
- Communication
- Self-confidence
- Cultural sensitivity skills

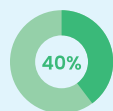
GSO in Numbers



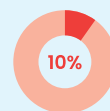
C\$95 million program funded by the Government of Canada through Employment and Social Development Canada.



50% earmarked for supporting underrepresented students’ access to outbound mobility opportunities.



40% towards diversification of destination countries where students choose to work/study abroad.



10% to test innovative approaches to reduce barriers to study/work abroad.

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Outbound Mobility Projects

Through GSO, Canadian students are gaining skills — and building valuable networks — in more than 100 non-traditional countries.



131 PARTICIPATING POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS
64 universities, 67 colleges, cégeps and polytechnics.



151 MOBILITY PROJECTS
92 at universities, 59 at colleges, cégeps and polytechnics.



11,000+ POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS projected to gain global skills through virtual and physical mobility opportunities by 2025.

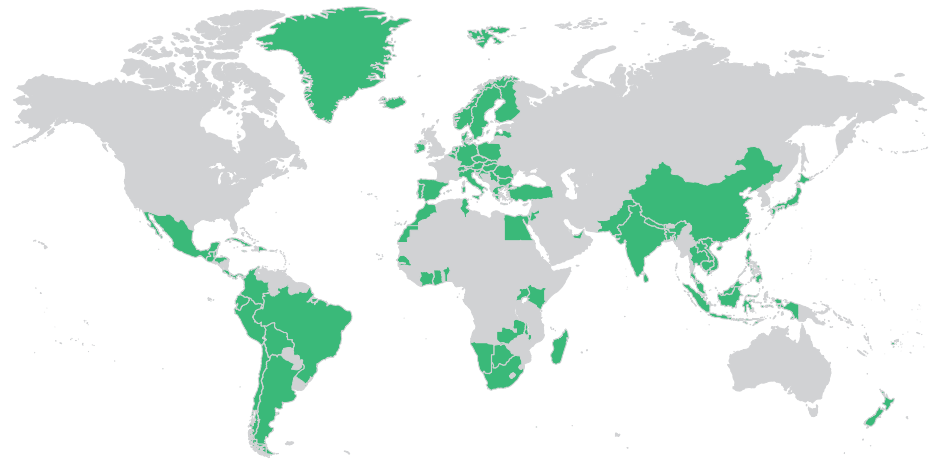


75% FROM UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS GROUPS specifically Indigenous students, students with disabilities and those from low socio-economic backgrounds.

“

The program is working. The international opportunities funded through GSO are helping young, talented Canadians of all backgrounds sharpen their skills and strengthen our economy for unknown challenges ahead.”

ZABEEN HIRJI
EXECUTIVE ADVISOR, DELOITTE
STRATEGIC ADVISOR, SFU BEEDIE
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



Innovation Projects

In face of physical mobility restrictions imposed by the pandemic, Global Skills Opportunity seized the moment to support institutions in testing novel and innovative approaches to outbound student mobility and international partnerships.

GSO Innovation funding has led to the development of enhanced communication tools and platforms, collaborative online international learning (COIL) as well as inclusive recruiting materials. While not part of the program's original plans, Innovation Projects have been instrumental in helping post-secondary institutions reduce barriers for mobility and improve the services they provide students.

INNOVATION PROJECT THEMES

- Marketing & Recruitment
- Research & Reducing Barriers
- Wraparound Supports
- Partnership Development
- Risk Management
- Virtual Mobility



116 PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS



172 PROJECTS

