

	Policy No.	Approval Authority
	IB-04	Board of Directors
	Policy Name	Approval Date
	International Student Tuition	
	Responsible	Scheduled Review
	Advocacy Committee	2 years

Summary

Post-secondary institutions in British Columbia have relied on the tuition funds of international students to balance budgets for almost two decades.¹ International students experience discrimination and exclusion based on their various backgrounds while simultaneously putting billions into the economy and creating thousands of jobs.²

The gross inequality in the university experience and tuition fee increases between international and domestic students is not only unfair but potentially hazardous for British Columbia's economy. With international education so tied to economic growth, any decline in international enrolment could result in a sudden shock to British Columbia's economy and job market with far-reaching, disastrous effects.

Rationale

The Alliance of BC Students has adopted these policy principles because:

- International students experience heightened discrimination and exclusion in comparison to domestic students;³
- International student tuition has risen 485% since 1991;⁴
- International student spending in 2022 translated to 79, 769 jobs throughout British Columbia;⁵
- The absence of limits to international student tuition increases create extreme financial uncertainty for international students;
- International students contributed \$3.5 billion to British Columbia's GDP in 2020;⁶

¹ AJ Aiken, "The Funding Desert: How Budget 2025 Leaves Post-Secondary Stranded," *Nexus Newspaper*, March 19, 2025, <https://www.nexusnewspaper.com/newsite/2025/03/19/the-funding-desert-how-budget-2025-leaves-post-secondary-stranded/>.

² Ibid.

³ Renata Matsumoto, "Canada's International Student Program Engineers Inequality," *Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives*, December 4, 2024, <https://www.policyalternatives.ca/news-research/canadas-international-student-program-engineers-inequality/>.

⁴ "Average International Undergraduate Student Tuition." Canadian Association of University Teachers. November 20, 2017, <https://www.caut.ca/content/321-average-international-undergraduate-student-tuition>

⁵ *Economic impact of international education in Canada – 2022 update*. Roslyn Kunin & Associates, Inc, June 2022. Global Affairs Canada, accessed online:

<https://www.international.gc.ca/education/report-rapport/impact-2017/index.aspx?lang=eng>

⁶ British Columbia Council for International Education, "Impact of International Education in British Columbia – 2022 Update," https://bccie.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Allsector_Infographic_2023.pdf.

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- A considerable decline in international student enrollment would result in a sudden shock for British Columbia's economy and jobs market.

Policy Principles

1. The Alliance of BC Students supports limiting international student tuition increases to the same percentage basis as domestic tuition increases.