 <p>Capilano Students' Union</p>	Policy No.	Approval Authority
	IS-07	Board of Directors
	Policy Name	Approval Date
	International Student Working Hours	August 16, 2019
	Responsible	Scheduled Review
	Campaigns & Advocacy Committee	August 2022

Summary

During their time studying in Canada, international students often must work to pay for high education and living costs. Under a study permit, full-time students are allowed to work only 20 hours off-campus per week, and are not permitted to undertake co-op positions or internships.¹ Part-time international students are not permitted to work at all.

International students also face high tuition and fees, as compared to domestic students,² that can rise substantially during a study period with no regulation in British Columbia to limit these year-to-year increases.³ While international students must prove they can afford their education as a requirement to obtain a study permit, with no stability in cost increases, many resort to employment opportunities to make up this shortfall.⁴

In order for Canada to remain competitive, attractive, and affordable for international students to pursue higher education, the Government of Canada must lift these restrictions on international students' ability to work during their period of study, and make it easier to pursue co-op and internship work.

Definitions

None.

Rationale

The Capilano Students' Union has adopted these policy principles because:

- There are international students who must work more than the allowable 20 hours per week to cover high tuition, fees, and the cost of living;
- The unregulated nature of international tuition and fees in British Columbia means students can face substantial, unpredictable cost increases from year-to-year that are hard to budget for;⁵


¹ Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations. *Department of Justice*. Section 186(v), accessed online: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/sor-2002-227/section-186.html>

² *Canadian and international tuition fees by level of study*. Statistics Canada, Table 37-10-0045-01. *Statistics Canada*, accessed online: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3710004501>

³ Ibid.

⁴ *The Student's Voice: National Results of the 2018 CBIE International Student Survey*. Canadian Bureau for International Education, August 2018, 11. *Canadian Bureau for International Education*, accessed online: https://cbie.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Student_Voice_Report-ENG.pdf

⁵ *Value Beyond the Dollars and Cents: International Students' Contributions to Canada and Their Need for Supports*. Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, September 2018, 9. *Canadian Alliance of Student Associations*, accessed online:

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- The current restrictions lead many international students to pursue internship and co-op opportunities in the United States of America, causing Canada to lose out on valuable skills and talents;⁶
- While *Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada* states the purpose of the restriction is to ensure students are genuinely pursuing education,⁷ the same restrictions are not applied to domestic students; and
- In the spirit of equal treatment, international students should be given the same opportunities to pursue off-campus employment, co-op positions and internship placement as their Canadian and permanent resident peers.

Policy Principles

1. The Capilano Students' Union is in favour of the Government of Canada lifting restrictions on the number of hours that an international student is permitted to work off-campus.
2. The Capilano Students' Union is in favour of the Government of Canada extending the eligibility to work off-campus to part-time international students.
3. The Capilano Students' Union is in favour of the Government of Canada changing study permits to allow international students to work co-op terms or internships that are components of the student's educational program without having to apply for additional permits.

https://www.casa-acae.com/value_beyond_the_dollars_and_cents_international_students_contributions_to_canada_and_their_need_for_supports

⁶ Ibid., 14.

⁷ Hill, Brian. "International student arrested, facing deportation for working too many hours." *Global News*, May 18, 2019, accessed online:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/5269138/international-student-arrested-facing-deportation-work-permit/>