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International Students in Canada

### **Canadian Changing Attitudes to International Students**

Post-World War II to 1969: - Internationals seen as recipients of Canadian aid, who would return to their home countries

1970s: - Internationals began to be seen as revenue source for institutions.

1980s and 1990s: - Internationals recruitment encouraged by Government

2000s: Internationals as economic and human resource benefits for Canada

2014-2019: Federal International Education Strategy: international

population target to 450K by 2022

2020s: - Target population reached 2017, projected 1.4 million by 2027

2023: Internationals exceeded 1 million

2024: Caps and provincial rationing applied to study permits2025: Caps applied to numbers of applications. New categories of PGWP eligibility applied, etc

#### Canadian International Student Population The top 4 1000K destinations Canada, US, UK, & Australia, saw reduced interest in 2024. There is a 750K significant shift to other countries, especially Asia e.g. Taiwan, Japan, S 500K Korea, and Malaysia. **ICEF Monitor** © 2025 Statistica 250K © 2025 Canadian Bureau for International Education 0K

2014

2020

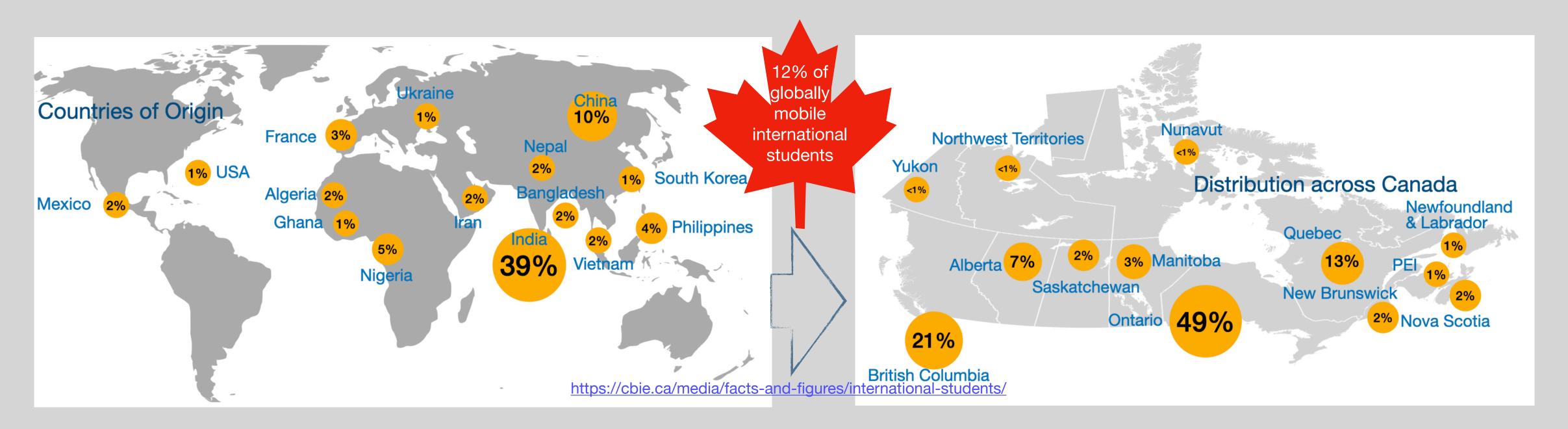
2010

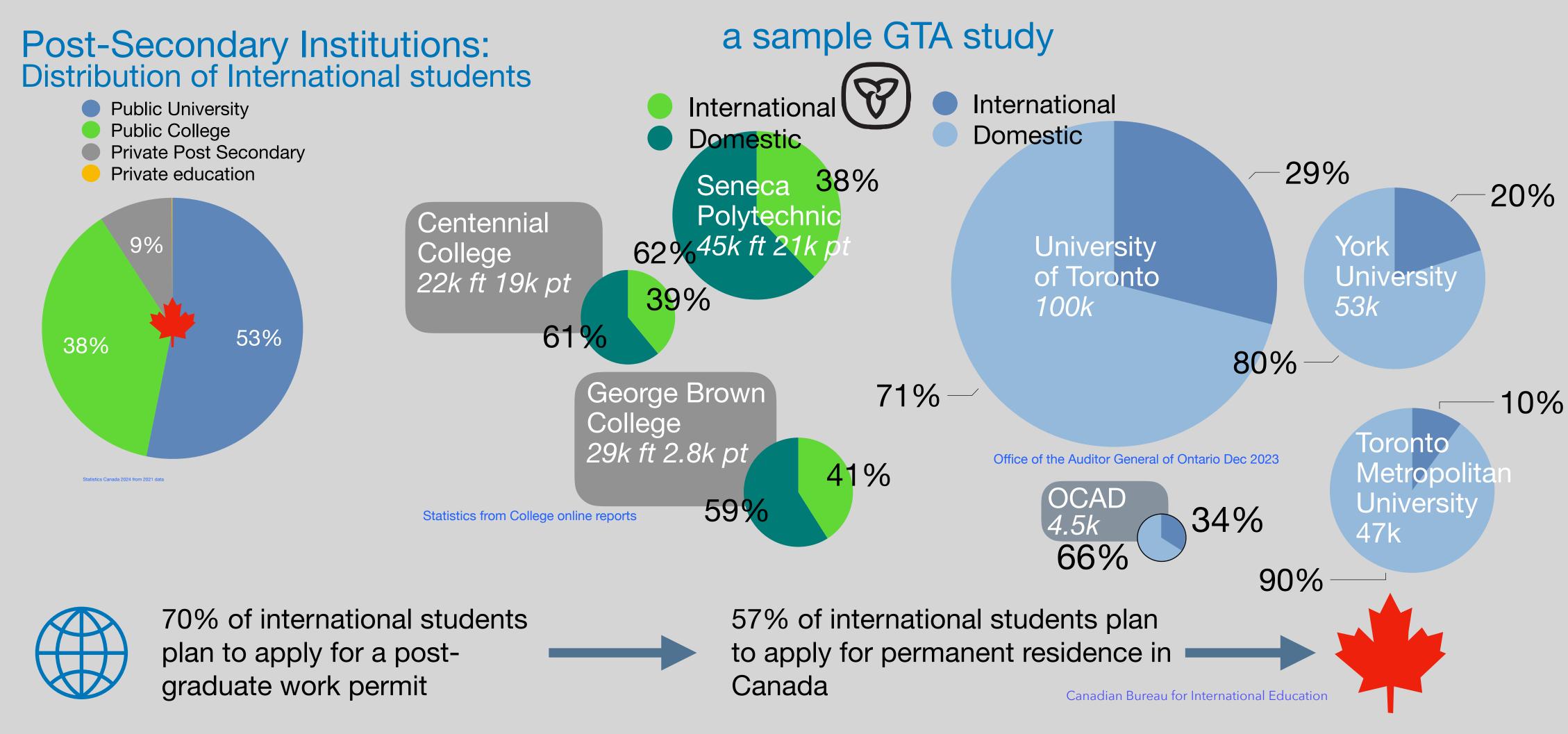
2008

2004

2002

2006





# Internationals not affected by Study Permit Applications Cap

NB current federal caps are on applications and not student numbers, of which around 40-50% of applications become students in person at DLI: Designated Learning Institutions.

- •Applicants who are now Permanent Residents
- •Applicants who are exchange students to a DLI in Canada.
- •Applicants at a DLI administered by a federal agency.
- •Applicants who have received scholarships under Global Affairs, e.g. Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP)
- •Applicants who are extending/renewing at same level at same DLI
- •Language school students of less than 6 months
- •Working Holiday Visa internationals
- •Visiting scholars who receive a temporary work permit

## **Stressors for International Students**

Academic - Personal success - immanent

Academic - Personal success - long-term career

Academic - Institutional financial dependency

Family and Personal expectations

Education Consultant - misinformation

Education Consultant - fraud

Financial - Currency exchange fluctuations

Financial - Family financial circumstances

Financial - Scholarship payment delays & GPA affects

Canadian Culture shock

Canadian Education system shock

Canadian Weather shock

Canadian Cost of Living financial shock

Canadian Availability Basics of life

Canadian Immigration Rule changes

## How will ISM work change? Will there be changes in roles or nature of ministry necessary?

Globally 70% of international students are from India and China. We have seen Nigerians and others increasing in recent years. Vietnam, Nepal, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan are rising as new home countries. <a href="https://higheredstrategy.com">higheredstrategy.com</a> Seemingly Canadian study visa allocations will favour university over colleges. ISM in Canada will not change for years to come because of the high numbers of students still being admitted especially to universities. Additionally a percentage of ISM is fall outside the Study Permit Application Caps. There have always been stressors for internationals, however with changes in geopolitics and Canadian government policies, some of the stressors have become more intense, especially around post-graduation expectations. Additionally, the expectation of more US academics moving to Canada may also bring increase competition in the job markets adding to post-graduation expectation stress. Also possible increase in cases of refugee claimants, or referrals from US IVCF staff etc, who were international students in the US or students with lost status in the US. NB this does not included PhDs who may transfer with their supervisors to Canada.