

The manner in which universities benefit from differential fee revenues varies by province. Whereas many universities are concerned that government funding is insufficient and view the differential fees as an additional indirect source of revenue, some expressed concern at the thought of having to depend on differential fees as a source of funding and possibly having to compromise on the quality of students being accepted to their institution.

Although information on the comparative cost of college-level education was not available, it was found that colleges generally have more direct control over the fees charged to international students. Higher fees for overseas students at this level can help to offset operating costs and be put toward enhancing the range of programs and services for all students attending the college.

In surveys evaluating the importance of various factors taken into consideration by international students in the target countries, it was found that cost of tuition and general cost of living ranked high on the list (Table 3.22). Although Canada compares favourably with competitor countries regarding the cost of university education for international students and cost of living, the fact that there are almost no scholarships at the undergraduate level for these students is perceived quite unfavourably by students in target countries that are developing nations.

3.21

COMPARISON OF UNDERGRADUATE TUITION FEES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, 1990-91

	MINIMUM FEES	MAXIMUM FEES
CANADA	\$1 364	\$10 877
U.S.	\$2 657	\$25 000
U.K.	\$8 889	\$21 574
AUS.	\$7 027	\$21 960
N.Z.	\$5 200	\$11 700

*Note: Fees have been converted to Canadian funds.
Source: Canadian embassies*