

hundreds of Canadian studies centres actively involved in researching and teaching about Canada.

“Diplomacy isn’t always state to state; it can also be between publics, between people,” says Andrea Clark, who works in International Academic Relations at FAC. “Creating the opportunity for personalized relations and experiences between people is a type of soft diplomacy that has become increasingly important in a global world.”

Canadian studies provides an opportunity for long-term relationship building with reputable foreign academics. The focus may vary between institutions and between regions, Clark says. Canadian culture and literature, for example, are particularly popular in Europe, while in Latin America and Asia there is more interest in the Canadian model of education, health and political systems.

International exposure

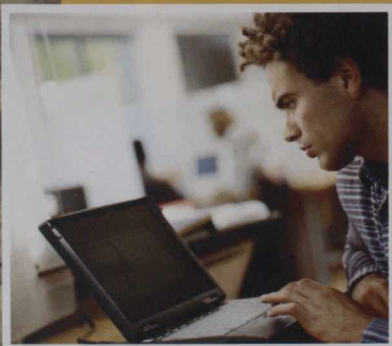
Whether it’s projecting Canada to the world or projecting the world to Canada, young people are on board. A survey conducted for FAC in February 2004 suggests that more than 90 percent of young people aged 18 to 35 believe that it is important to be exposed to and have opportunities to participate in other cultures. Some 80 percent believe that it’s important for Canada’s young people to participate in international youth programs.



photos: CP (Shuji Kajiyama)

Canadian strengths and values: (left to right) Tracy Cameron, Mara Jones, Elizabeth Urbach and Melanie Kok pose with their gold medals after an award ceremony for the lightweight women’s quadruple sculls at the 2005 World Rowing Championships in Gifu, Japan, in September.

A remarkable 92 percent of those surveyed believe there is a lot to learn from working in another country, and 77 percent said they like the idea of working abroad to finance an extended visit to a foreign country. About three quarters believe they can foster contacts that can help them become future entrepreneurs, while 65 percent want to open doors to diplomatic careers.



Get connected

There are lots of on-line resources for young Canadians looking to work, study or travel abroad.

Government of Canada international internship programs

Young Professionals International
www.international.gc.ca/yipi-jpi

International Youth Internship Program
www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/internships

International Environmental Youth Corps
www.eco.ca

NetCorps Canada International
www.netcorps-cyberjeunes.org

Government of Canada international youth programs

International Youth Programs
www.international.gc.ca/123go

Destination Europe: Youth on the Move
www.youthonthemove.gc.ca

Other international programs

IAESTE Canada
www.queensu.ca/iaeste

AIESEC Canada
www.aiesec.ca

CUSO
www.cuso.org

Global Citizens for Change
www.citizens4change.org

VSO Canada
www.vsocanada.org

Youth Challenge International
www.yci.org