

Foreign students: How and why...

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More than 50,000 international students are receiving education in Canada. A good portion of these students come from Hong Kong and most of them are attending post secondary institutions.

However, a great number of these students were recruited to Canada during their high school days. Canadian grades 12 and 13 are becoming stepping stones for foreign students to enter post secondary institutions. Apparently because of the trend, a great number of private schools are established in Canada to accommodate these foreign scholars. Most high schools for international students are charging tuition fees at levels which average Canadians will never pay.

Because of foreign students' ignorance about the Canadian

school system and their desire to study abroad, most private schools are doing well in their businesses despite their high fees. Some schools even recruit Hong Kong teachers to teach Hong Kong students in Canada. Most international students believe they will get better chances of squeezing into the Canadian post secondary system if they attend high schools in Canada. Canadian University Press has conducted an investigation in Hong Kong to find out how potential foreign students proceed in their applications to Canada.

Most community colleges in Canada have matriculation courses offered. Admission requirements of community colleges vary from province to province. Most of these courses are designed for adult students. Many community colleges admit foreign students. In English Canada, foreign students

are required to write the Test of English-as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Few community colleges advertise vacancies outside the country. Potential foreign students can only contact these colleges on their own initiative. The community colleges have lower tuitions than the private schools, however several provinces are imposing differential fees for international students.

However, not too many students know the procedure for applying to the colleges. Instead, many of them turn their attention to private schools. Most private schools have recruiting channels in Hong Kong. Recruitment is either done through school agents or individual school representatives. They advertise in daily newspapers announcing openings for students. Applications proceeding through school agents are usually required to pay a

non-refundable registration fee. The fee, which may go as high as several hundred Canadian dollars, does not guarantee admission. Those who apply directly to school representatives also often pay fees. Interviews are usually conducted in Hong Kong by agents or school representatives.

There are cases of foreign students being cheated by so-called representatives. Some students on their arrival in Canada found their "school" do not exist and those pictures in the school catalogues or pamphlets are only pictures of street scenes.

If an applicant passed the interview he is required to pay the tuition fee before an admission letter is issued. Tuition averages \$2,500 Canadian per semester. Fees are usually non-refundable unless the student fails to pass the Canadian visa requirement.

The Canadian High Commission

in Hong Kong runs a library of school calendars and catalogues. However, in some cases they are unable to give information beyond the addresses and courses offered. The commission is now circulating a questionnaire to school authorities to check their credentials. If a school is unreliable the Commission will not issue a student authorization.

If a student passed the admission requirement and has paid her school fees she will be issued with an admission letter and a fee receipt. She then proceeds with her visa application. That may take two or three weeks. The student has to satisfy the high commission of her academic qualifications, and her ability in English or French. A student is required to deposit about \$4,000 in a Canadian bank before an authorization will be issued to her.


Before I came to university I wish I had known...

- that it didn't matter how late I scheduled my first class, I'd still sleep through it.
- that I would change so much and barely realize it.
- that you can love a lot of different people in a lot of different ways.
- that university kids throw paper airplanes too.
- that if you wear a shirt everyone asks you why you're so dressed up.
- that every clock on campus shows a different time.
- that you were smart in high school, so what!
- that I'd go to a party the night before a final.
- that Chem labs require more time than all my other 18 credits combined.
- that change is a very positive experience and shouldn't be avoided.
- that you know everything and fail a test.
- that I could get used to almost anything, I found out about my roommate.

- that home would be a great place to visit.
- that most of my education would be obtained outside my classes.
- that friendship is more than just getting stoned together.
- what I was getting into.
- that I would become one of those people my parents warned me about.
- that free food served at 10:00 is gone by 9:59.
- that Sunday is a figment of the world's imagination.
- that psychology is really biology, that biology is really chemistry, that chemistry is really physics, that physics is really math, that math is really
- that it is a good idea to go places alone and not always rely on a group for support.
- that friendships are what makes this place worthwhile.

Got a beef? Why not tell us about it?
Write a letter-to the editor, or better still
write a story and submit it-
we're always interested

Did you know-? classified ads are free of charge
and are a good way to sell, buy, trade, or otherwise-
anything. Classified ads deadline is Tuesdays at
5 pm each week.



the brunswickan

Also, Up coming? the ideal place
to notify students of campus and
surrounding activities- take advantage
of it! Deadline Tuesday - noon.

Any input, whether it be a letter, idea, story,
new advisor, pictures, cartoons, puzzles, etc..
is always appreciated!

And don't be afraid to drop in and give us a hand on the
paper some week. We'd love to meet you and be glad
to show you all we know (heh, heh).