

Safety & Security — The Assessment Process

With responsibility for the safety and security of Canadians abroad, YPI also established a process to coordinate the assessment of overseas placements designed by other government departments under the Youth Employment Strategy. Over the first seven years, more than 7,500 assessments were completed and more than 100 consular cases were avoided.

Skills Development

We have developed an international employability skills assessment tool. It is used with all participants before and after their placements, first to identify which skills need to be honed during the placement and second to measure results.

Virtual Campus

To augment the placement, we have developed a series of learning modules that are accessible on the Internet. Participants will have access for the duration of their placement. Access is limited to our participants until 2005, when we hope all Government of Canada departments will be able to have access to the modules.

The Future

Young Professionals International has been extended to 2008.

Results

A snapshot of participants one year after participation in YPI shows that 80% are employed, 10% are back at school and 10% are unemployed. Of the 80% working, 90% are employed in internationally focused areas. The percentage of people returning to school is increasing as participants begin to use YPI as a way to gain valuable experience that will help them get into better schools and refine the focus of their graduate studies.

Where do they go?

Each year, Canada-based organizations apply to YPI and are funded according to the quality of the experience the placement will provide to the participants. To meet the needs of the many internationally focused NGOs in Canada, the program allows 1 in 10 placements to take place in Canada. Many of the North American placements were in the United States, or were located in Canada with international travel. The remainder were in Mexico.



Where do they come from?

Our implementing organizations receive approximately 20 applications per placement. They recruit unemployed or underemployed youth who need this type of assistance to make the transition from school to work. Offering opportunities to young people across Canada is a key principle of the YPI program. Women account for 63% of participants, visible minorities 21%, Aboriginals 7% and persons with disabilities 1%.

