Understanding and Developing Services for International Students: A Workshop

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LIDA, 2018
Overview

- A close look at international students
- Challenges faced by international students
- Using enrolment data for understanding international students at your institution
- Strategies for enhancing the library experience of international students
In Canada, defined as "those who left their country of origin and moved to Canada for the purpose of study."
Benefits of having international students

- Economy of the host countries
- Quality of education provided by the host institutions
Top destination countries of international students worldwide

Economic Impact of International Education in Canada, 2016, from
Source regions of international students studying in Canada

Proportion of international students, by program level, selected OECD countries

International Students by Field of Study, United States

International students by field of study, 2018, from https://www.iie.org/Research-and-Insights/Open-Doors/Data/International-Students/Fields-of-Study
Top five fields of study for international students, Canada

Challenges of international students

- Linguistic obstacle
- Distinct learning styles
- Inefficient library use
- Cultural differences
- Lack of awareness
Enrolment data of McGill University

- McGill Factbook, Fall 2017

McGill Factbook, Fall 2017, from https://www.mcgill.ca/about/quickfacts
Enrolment by mother tongue and by place of origin

- McGill Factbook, Fall 2017

McGill Factbook, Fall 2017, from https://www.mcgill.ca/about/quickfacts
Proportion of international students

McGill Factbook, Fall 2017

McGill Factbook, Fall 2017, from https://www.mcgill.ca/about/quickfacts
Top 20 source countries based on citizenship Fall 2017

Enrolment reports, Fall 2017

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Enrolment reports, Fall 2017, from https://www.mcgill.ca/es/registration-statistics
International students by faculty, McGill University, Fall 2017

McGill University Enrolment Services, email message to authors, 2018.
Successful library practices targeting at international students

**Outreach**
- Reception
- Peer support
- Liaison Librarian
- Collaboration with other units (writing centers, etc.)

**Instruction**
- Orientation & tours
- Courses & workshops
- One-on-one consultation
- Online guides, videos, and learning modules

**Communication**
You are invited to give a 1.5-hour guest lecture on using library resources for literature review in an engineering graduate course. There are 25 students in the class and most are in their first year. According to the instructor, between 1/3 and 1/2 students may be international students.

**Question?**

What strategies will you use to prepare for, deliver, follow up, and assess this session?
Strategies suggested

- Recognize that **different backgrounds** influence how international students use the library
  - Establish **rapport** with students

- Use the **simple language** (i.e. vocabulary, sentence, grammar)
  - Develop the ability to explain a concept in multiple ways
  - Adopt inclusive examples
  - Avoid difficult moments using technologies

- **Avoid cognitive overload** and connect to students’ prior knowledge
  - Adopt backward design approaches
  - Provide supplemental material and **flip the classroom**
Your homework

- Look at the various enrolment data related to international students at your institution
- Design an activity (service, program, etc.) aimed at improving the library experience of international students at your institution
Thank you!