Global Skills Opportunity is the Government of Canada's national outbound student mobility pilot program. It aims to empower post-secondary institutions to increase the participation of Canadians in international learning opportunities — especially students with disabilities, Indigenous students and those from low socio-economic backgrounds who have traditionally faced barriers to participation.

Global Skills Opportunity is an integral component of the Government of Canada’s International Education Strategy. It is administered jointly by Universities Canada and Colleges and Institutes Canada. Projects are designed, implemented and managed by participating universities, colleges and institutes across the country. This decentralized approach allows post-secondary institutions to create projects that best serve the needs of their students and their communities.

**GSO in Numbers**

- **C$95 MILLION** OF FUNDING FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA THROUGH EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CANADA.
- **PARTICIPATING POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS**
  - 102 institutions (56 universities, 49 colleges), including seven consortia.
- **FUNDED MOBILITY PROJECTS**
  - 124 projects (65 at universities, 59 at colleges).

**Outbound Mobility Projects**

- **50%** earmarked for supporting underrepresented students’ access to outbound mobility opportunities.
- **64%** of funding from underrepresented student groups specifically Indigenous students, students with disabilities and those from low socio-economic backgrounds.
- **10%** to test innovative approaches to reduce barriers to study/work abroad.
- **MORE THAN 16,000** post-secondary students projected to gain global skills through both virtual and physical mobility opportunities.

Find the full list of projects at globalskillsopportunity.ca/funded-opportunities/student-mobility

**Top partner countries for GSO’s outbound mobility projects**

**UNIVERSITIES**

1. Mexico
2. Germany
3. New Zealand
4. Japan
5. Australia

**COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES**

1. Mexico
2. Spain
3. Costa Rica
4. Denmark
5. Germany
In face of physical mobility restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Innovation Fund call for proposals focused on supporting institutions in testing novel and innovative approaches to outbound student mobility and international partnerships. This call led to the development of enhanced communication tools and platforms, collaborative online integrated learning (COIL) as well as inclusive recruiting materials.

### Innovation Fund Projects

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**General themes of Innovation Fund projects**

- **Marketing & Recruitment**
- **Research & Reducing Barriers**
- **Wraparound Supports**
- **Partnership Development**
- **Virtual Mobility**
- **Risk Management**

**Participating Institutions**

- **107 Participating Institutions**
- **130 Projects**
- **Nearly 35,000 Students Engaged**

Find the full list of projects here: [globalskillsopportunity.ca/funded-opportunities/innovation-funds](http://globalskillsopportunity.ca/funded-opportunities/innovation-funds)