

## GSO Partnerships

# Investing in Global Skills; Investing in Canada's Future



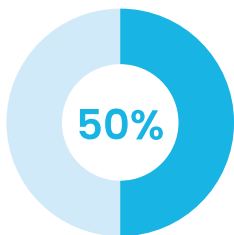
# Investing in Global Skills; Investing in Canada's Future

## WHAT IS GLOBAL SKILLS OPPORTUNITY?

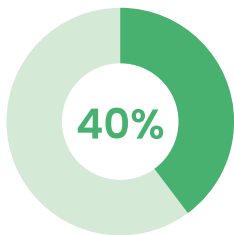
Global Skills Opportunity (GSO) is Canada's national outbound student mobility pilot program. A key component of Canada's International Education Strategy, the program is funded by Employment and Social Development Canada.

### GSO IN NUMBERS

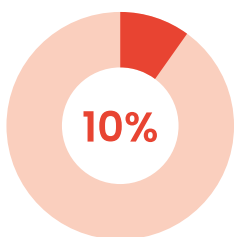
**C\$95 MILLION** OF FUNDING FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA THROUGH EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CANADA.



50% earmarked for supporting underrepresented students' access to outbound mobility opportunities.



40% towards diversification of destination countries where students choose to work/study abroad.



10% to test innovative approaches to reduce barriers to study/work abroad.

GSO aims to get more Canadian post-secondary students participating in important study and work abroad opportunities. With funding provided by the program, Canadian colleges and universities are reducing barriers to participation in international experiences, particularly for Indigenous students, students with disabilities and students from low socio-economic background.

The program also focuses on ensuring more Canadian students work and study in non-traditional destinations – meaning countries other than Australia, France, the United Kingdom and the United States – which is key to supporting Canada's trade diversification goals and strengthening its international networks.

### THE NEED FOR GLOBAL SKILLS

Sometimes referred to as *soft* or *foundational* skills, global skills are competencies developed or sharpened through international experiences, including intercultural communication, problem solving, collaboration and adaptability. As structural, technological and environmental factors reshape Canada's labour market, Canadian employers are increasingly seeking employees with global skills.

However, unlike their peers in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and Europe, few Canadian post-secondary students currently participate in international work and study experiences.

Canada is recognized globally as a strong, stable and reliable trading partner, and as one of the best places in the world to invest and start a business.<sup>1</sup> Trade remains crucial to the prosperity of all Canadians; It accounts for nearly two thirds of our economy and supports 3.3 million jobs. Having a workforce with global skills is pivotal to building strong international relationships.

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“In our rapidly changing world, Canadian employers need workers who are culturally aware, resilient and adaptable – skilled in problem-solving, communication and teamwork. These are all competencies gained through international experiences.”

## PAUL DAVIDSON

President and CEO,  
Universities Canada

Emerging markets are playing an increasingly prominent role on the world stage. When Canadian students have international experiences, they foster relationships and people-to-people ties that facilitate opportunities for Canadian companies to diversify and expand their business activities in an amiable and prosperous environment.<sup>2</sup>

Global Skills Opportunity helps ensure that more Canadians entering the workforce are equipped with the global skills needed for Canadian businesses to thrive and successfully compete in a rapidly changing labour market.

## SUPPORTING DIVERSIFICATION AND INCLUSION

International experiences are associated with greater academic success as well as higher rates of employment and earnings post-graduation – especially among students from underrepresented groups.<sup>3</sup> An opportunity to develop global skills can therefore be an economic and social equalizer.

Thanks to GSO and its university and college partners, underrepresented students – Indigenous students, students with disabilities and those from low-income backgrounds – have access to additional funding and tailored wraparound support to reduce financial and other barriers to participation.

## OUTBOUND MOBILITY PROJECTS



102

### PARTICIPATING POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

56 universities, 49 colleges, including 7 consortia.



124

### FUNDED MOBILITY PROJECTS

65 at universities, 59 at colleges.



## OUTBOUND MOBILITY PROJECTS

MORE THAN

**16,000**

### POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS

projected to gain global skills through both virtual and physical mobility opportunities.



NEARLY

**65%**

### FROM UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENT GROUPS

specifically Indigenous students, students with disabilities and low-income students.



Find the full list of projects at [globalskillsopportunity.ca/funded-opportunities/student-mobility](https://globalskillsopportunity.ca/funded-opportunities/student-mobility)



“In an increasingly globalized world, study and work abroad programs are essential international learning experiences that ensure students are culturally literate, resilient and adaptable. Global Skills Opportunity will equip Canadian students to remain competitive in today’s global marketplace.”

### DENISE AMYOT

President and CEO,  
Colleges and Institutes Canada

## MORE THAN 100 DESTINATION COUNTRIES FOR GSO PARTICIPANTS



### TOP DESTINATION COUNTRIES

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

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## PARTNER WITH GLOBAL SKILLS OPPORTUNITY

Partner organizations – private sector, educational institutions and not-for-profits – have a key role to play in amplifying Global Skills Opportunity's work. This support can include:

- Endorsing, championing and sharing Global Skills Opportunity programming within your network.
- Providing services to Global Skills Opportunity projects at post-secondary institutions and to their participating students across Canada.
- Creating employment or internship opportunities for GSO Alumni to strengthen or demonstrate the value of global skills.
- Contributing additional funding to further the impact of the program and support student participation.

Partnering with Global Skills Opportunity can also have direct benefits to your company or organization:

- Increase your brand recognition and reputation.
- Acquire strategic connections with colleges and universities across Canada.
- Contribute to upskilling your future employees.
- Demonstrate your organizational values in a tangible way.
- Support Canada's economy and future competitiveness.

<sup>1</sup> Global Affairs Canada, Canada's State of Trade 2020, July 22, 2020

<sup>2</sup> Global Affairs Canada, Canada is a trading nation: International Trade Minister to address the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting, September 22, 2017

<sup>3</sup> Report of the Study Group on Global Education, Global Education for Canadians: Equipping Young Canadian to Succeed at Home & Abroad, November 2017

To learn more about partnering with Global Skills Opportunity, visit [globalskillsoportunity.ca/partners](https://globalskillsoportunity.ca/partners)



Global Skills Opportunity is the Government of Canada's Outbound Student Mobility Pilot Program.

