

# **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: CHALLENGE AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UASU STUDENTS' COUNCIL**

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**Sponsored by:**

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# PURPOSE

- Provide UASU Students' Council with a *general* context to initiate further discussion and work concerning international students in the upcoming year
- Highlight documented challenges international students face
- Provide recommendations for course of action to address challenges and increase international student participation in Students' Union activities



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA INTERNATIONAL (UAI)

- 3 main locations
  - International Centre; HUB Mall; Enterprise Square
- Offices
  - International Student Services
  - Global Education (runs I-Week)
  - International Relations and Recruitment
  - Education Abroad Program
  - Visiting Student Certificate Program
  - Summer Student Program (?)



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA INTERNATIONAL

## International Relations & Recruitment

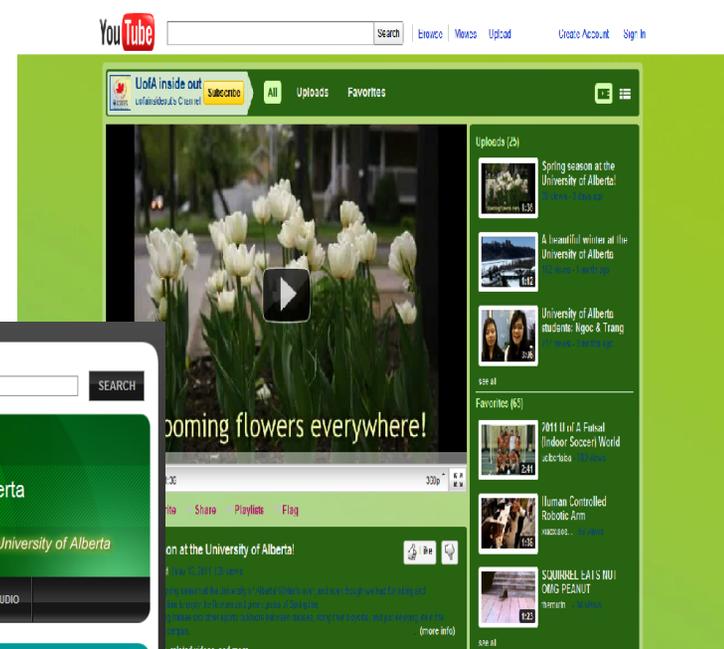
- Regional managers tour select countries at least twice a year to recruit students
- Viewbooks and brochures in different languages



- Use of social media for recruitment and marketing
- +5 different social networks (Facebook, Youtube, Orkut, Renren, Foursquare, Tudou)
- Mashup site: [www.uofainsideout.ca](http://www.uofainsideout.ca)



<https://www.facebook.com/universityofalberta?ref=ts>



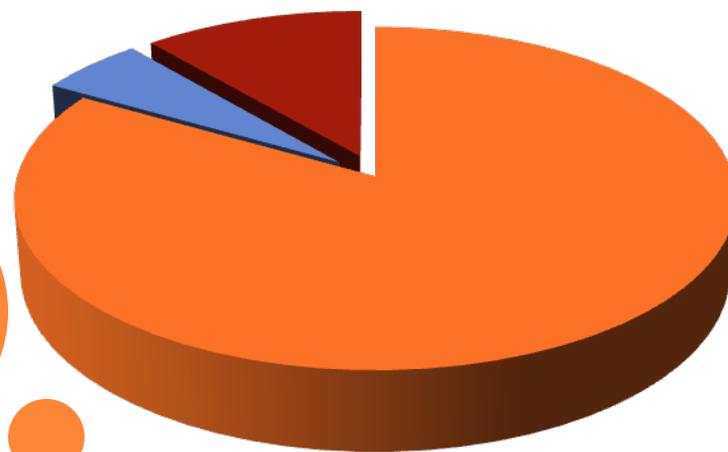
<http://www.youtube.com/user/uofainsideout>



<http://www.uofainsideout.ca/>



## Students Enrollment by Citizenship



- Canadian Citizen  
(28539=84%)
- Permanent Resident  
(1860=5%)
- International  
(3883=11%)

[http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/sosfiles/2009-2010/Summary\\_of\\_Statistics\\_2009\\_10\\_Book.pdf](http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/sosfiles/2009-2010/Summary_of_Statistics_2009_10_Book.pdf)

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT POPULATION

## Top 10 Countries Represented

China : 1826

India :421

Iran :414

Korea :280

USA :163

P/kstan:159

B/desh:138

H. Kong:113

Nigeria:101

Egypt :103



# BECOMING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

Step into my shoes!



# BECOMING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

- Harare, Zimbabwe
  - 2008:inflation in the world (+3 million %)
  - Highest literacy rate in Africa but Education system seriously malfunctioning with economic collapse
- 2007-Cambridge A-Level Certificate
- Upper-Middle class family
- Canadian Sister



# BECOMING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

- Apply to selected universities
  - Parents wanted U of A only
  - Applied to 3, scolded for wasting \$300
- Wait for acceptance: conditional/full



# BECOMING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

- Apply for Student Visa
  - Wait 2 months (HELL!)
  - Feeling anxious: have to show CAD \$18000 in account
  - Disconnect between Embassy and U of A





# BECOMING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

- Leave for Canada
  - Parties, excitement, anxiety, whole family at airport
- Arrive in Edmonton
  - Picked up by sister (a privilege very **FEW** people have)
  - Initial disappointment at scenery (or lack of)
  - Culture shock
  - Major jet lag
- Arrive at U of A
  - Go to International Centre
  - Transitions (Orientation)
  - Meet other students
  - First day of class (Bio 107: 300 students OMG!!)
  - Call dad: I WANT TO GO HOME
  - Dad: don't be silly, there's nothing for you here! (lol)



# BECOMING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

- Arrive at U of A
- Go to International Centre
- Attend transitions
- You feel cold in Fall and scared to death of winter
- First day of class: Bio 107, 300 studentd OMG!
  - Call dad: I want to come home
  - Dad: Don't be silly! I didn't pay all that for nothing!



## ○ First 3 months at U of A

- Terrible!
- no real friends (living off campus with sister) – spend hours on skype and facebook
- Joined a few student groups (Musicians Club/African Students/Bridges Volunteer)
- Focus only on academics to maintain scholarship
- Looking for job
- You wonder why people don't want to sit with you on the bus??? (Perceived?)



# BECOMING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

- Next 3 months
  - Make one friend at an event: make even more friends through him! Bam- life's good!
  - Upload Facebook pictures of you having a good time!
  - You have a job!



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' NEEDS

- Knowledge of immigration regulations and visa requirements
- Career and academic related needs
- Prioritise mainly academic adjustment with interpersonal happiness being an accessory
  - Under immense pressure to succeed from sponsors, parents, need to maintain scholarships
  - Culturally based perception of education



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' NEEDS

- Personal and psychological needs normally dealt within cultural context and vary from culture to culture
- Tend to turn to fellow country men & women for assistance



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: COMMON CHALLENGES

- Stress from international political events affecting home country-Canada relations
- Getting a work permit and a job
- Feeling isolated in classroom, not knowing appropriate manner of asking questions.  
(*rubber/eraser?*)
- Language barriers
- Culture shock (eg: differences in gender roles; teacher-student relationship, what to wear; how to respond when asked on a date)
- Diet



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: SPECIFIC CHALLENGES

- Students from different regions differ in their needs
- May vary by gender
- May vary by faculty
- Vary by ethnicity and preconceived perception of one's ethnicity and culture by him/herself and by local nationals
  - Eg sitting next to me on the bus
  - Cultural values and work ethics



Subscribe Now!

“Asians in the Library”  
(Alexandra Wallace):  
lacking in cultural sensitivity in  
addressing what may or may have not  
been a problem for her

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: SPECIFIC CHALLENGES

- Macleans article “*Too Asian*” an example of subtle forms of discrimination against Asian-Canadians and Asian international students based on lack of understanding of “*Asian*” work ethic, history in North America

<http://www2.macleans.ca/2010/11/10/too-asian/>

- “African students faced highest need” (Hannasab & Tidwell)



# THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT: IMPACT ON CAMPUS

- Enrich intellectual life on campus
- Assist with international trade and diplomatic relations with other countries
- Host students benefit from social interaction and learning new cultures and ways of life
- International students a major source of income (international differential)



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

- Located in International Centre
- Services offered:
  - Airport greeting
  - Transitions (3 day orientation program for students)
  - Peer Program (Trip to Drumheller in June!)
  - International Week
  - Social & Language Events
  - Personal advice on academics and finances
  - University of Alberta International Student Network Community (UAISN)



<http://www.international.ualberta.ca/prospective/iss.cfm>

# INTERNATIONAL WORK STUDY PROGRAM (IWSP)

- Offered through CAPS to encourage U of A departments to hire international undergraduate students
- Full-time opportunities in the summer & part time in semesters
- Positions include: research assistants; office work etc

<http://www.caps.ualberta.ca/lookingforwork/Work%20Experience/International%20Student%20Work%20Study%20Program.aspx>



# INTERNATIONALISATION OF NORTH AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

Internationalisation:

*“Process of integrating an international perspective into a college or university system. It is an ongoing, future-oriented, multidimensional, interdisciplinary, leadership-driven vision...working to change the internal dynamics of an institution to respond and adapt appropriately to an increasingly diverse, globally focused, ever-changing external environment”*  
(Bartell, 2003)



# INTERNATIONALISATION OF NORTH AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

5 integral components applied in internationalisation of a university (Bartell 2003)

- 📁 College leadership
- 📖 Faculty members' international involvement in activities with colleagues,
- 📖 Availability, affordability, accessibility and transferability of study abroad programs for students
- 📖 Presence and integration of international students, scholars and visiting faculty into campus life
- 📖 International co-curricular units (residence halls, conference planning centers, student unions, career centers, cultural immersion and language houses, student activities and student organisations)



# INTERNATIONALISATION OF NORTH AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

- minimalist :simply securing funding for study abroad programs, international exchange of students, international research
- Complex: all encompassing, policy driven process, integral to and permeating the life, culture, curriculum and research activities (Bartell,2003)



# RECOMMENDATION TO UASU STUDENT'S COUNCIL

1. Use a policy driven method to internationalize the Students' Union
  - Training of all Students' Union staff to be (more) culturally sensitive/aware
  - Creation of a space with an “international feel”
  - Creation of an international students union/committee/working group focused on internationalisation (eg UniTe – University of Twente)
  - Create international students portfolio within council
  - Use of ISWP if not using already
  - International events or events with international component (ECOS example of sustainability)
  - Integration of UAISN into Bears den
  - Better internationalisation of websites and social media



student union University of Twente

About the Student Union For students For associations For entrepreneurs For employees

Ontspannen Ontplooiën Ondernemen

bastille 48

News Sport Culture Reservations Students Internationalization Contact

Portal > For employees > Home > Internationalization > **Internationalization**

## Internationalization

The Student Union applies itself to provide good facilities in the living environment of international students. An example is the housing of students. Associations are stimulated to be open to international students. Would you like to know more about internationalization at the Student Union? Check the [website!](#)

### UniTe

UniTe is a committee, that consists of organizations that are active in the internationalization field. UniTe supports the internationalization policy at the University of Twente, for and by students.

In the meetings of UniTe the students give input about lots of different subjects. The Internationalization Vision of the UT and the improvements in integration of international students are examples of subjects. More information can be found on the UniTe [website!](#)

Event calendar

- Ludmilla van der Spoel
- More Mompou
- UT Anniversary Performance
- UT Anniversary Performance
- Vestingbar ClubberZ
- Courses exhibition 2010-2011
- UT Anniversary Performance
- Instruction weekend

Feedback on this page?

Anti-spam: 4 + 9 is

<http://www.studentunion.utwente.nl/employees/internationalization/>

# MY UNION IS...



## Home

### Your Union

- Elections
- Executive
- Council
- NUS
- Constitution
- General Meetings
- Policy
- Community Reps
- Union Weeks
- Evolving Union

### Activities and Societies

### Advice

### Education

### Campaigns

### Halls

### Services

### Women

### Jobs

### Referendum

Home > Your Union > Executive > International Students'

## Joseph Akinagbe - International Students Officer



Hi, I'm Joe your international students officer.

My job is to make sure all international students have an amazing experience in Manchester while making your views heard in the university. My main aim this year is to internationalise the student union, so we can better represent you and make the university review its teaching and welfare support available to international students.

I will also be working on globalising all students experiences, so we are all better equipped to face the world.

If you want to help out or have any comments please get in touch through: [international@umsu.manchester.ac.uk](mailto:international@umsu.manchester.ac.uk)

### Executive

#### Minutes

#### Reports

#### Officers

- Academic Affairs
- Activities
- Campaigns
- Communications
- General Secretary
- Student Direct
- Welfare
- Women's

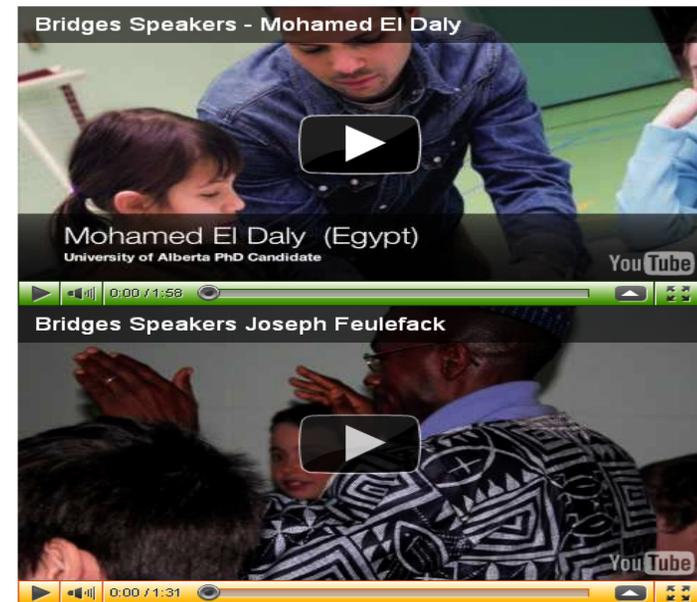
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- Engineering and Physical Sciences
- Humanities
- International Students'
- Life Sciences
- Medical and Human Sciences
- Postgraduate and Mature Students'



# RECOMMENDATION TO UASU STUDENT'S COUNCIL

2. Set up portfolio's focused on internationalisation
3. Work with International Student Services
  - Transitions & Orientation
  - Language learning groups
  - Peer program
  - Bridges Speakers
  - Leadership workshops
    - Fall 2011, Thursdays at noon



**Links:**

- [E-mail the Bridges program coordinator](#) or call (780) 492-8064 for more information
- [Bridge Client Brochure](#)

THANK YOU

- Questions & Comments?



## REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

- Bartell, M. (2003). Internationalization of universities: A university culture-based framework. *Higher Education* , 43-70.
- Hanassab, S. (305). International Students in Higher Education: Identification of Needs and Implications of Policy and Practice. *Journal of Studies in International Education* , 2006.
- University of Alberta: Office of the Registrar and Student Awards. (2009). *Summary of Statistics 2009-2010*. Edmonton: University of Alberta.

