

INTERNATIONAL PROSPECTIVE STUDENT SURVEY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will the survey be administered?

There are three options for sending out the survey:

- 1) Academica can provide your institution with one anonymous link that your institution can send to all prospective international students to keep things simple. Note that tying information back to other student data is not possible with this option due to lack of unique ID for each participant;*
- 2) Your institution can let us know how many prospective international students you will be inviting and we will send you unique survey links for each potential respondent (tied to a unique ID, this also allows you to merge in data from your database if desired);*
- 3) Your institution can send Academica your list of prospective international students and we can handle the administration (there is no cost for this). Should your institution provide a unique ID for each participant on your list then survey data can be linked to other institutional data you may have on file for participants. If this option is chosen, the list will be deleted after the study is complete and it will not be used for any other purposes.*

What information should be included in a list of prospective international students?

We tried to keep this very simple for institutions so there is no information that needs to be included. If you are using option 2 or 3 for the send out (outlined above) and you wish to include some key variables that you have on file we are happy to merge this into the data file for you.

When will institutions receive their data file?

The survey will be in-field for one week for the first administration and institution-specific data files will be sent to each institution as soon as possible after the survey has closed (within 2 days). There is some flexibility if an institution wants to leave their survey open longer or receive their data file sooner.

Is there an option for additional surveys in the future?

Yes, we are planning to conduct the survey approximately every 3 weeks. The reality is that decision-making by international students is going to change over time and Canadian institutional decision-makers want to stay as current as possible. Students are asked within the survey whether they are willing to be contacted again in the future and follow-up surveys will be conducted with those students who give permission to be contacted again.

When will aggregate results be shared through the Academica Forum and what will be included?

Timing for sharing aggregate results through the Forum is more difficult to say, more than 30 schools have expressed an interest in participating so our top priority will be getting each institution's data back to them quickly so that institutional decisions can be made and then we will look at the aggregate results after that time.

What will be included in the aggregate results will depend in part on the number of completed responses. The idea is to share some high-level findings that will be of interest to the sector in an Academica Forum article. This will likely be Canada-wide, but may be separated for colleges and universities or by country if the results warrant doing so. No institution-specific results will be shared.

What questions are being asked in the survey?

The survey questions are available and have been shared with all interested institutions for their review. Small tweaks may still be made to these questions based on institutional feedback. Some institutions have developed additional custom questions to ask while many other schools are just using the base survey to inform their decision-making needs.

Will any personally identifiable information be collected from respondents?

Within the survey we will need to collect first name and email address for those who wish to enter the prize draw. This will be stored separately from the survey data, used for the prize draw only, and will be deleted after the draw is complete.

Within the survey we will also be asking if respondents are interested in participating in future research. As we noted in the Top Ten, the plan is to check in with these students periodically (about every 3 weeks) to see how views are changing. We may also invite them to join our StudentVu panel (if they are in fact planning to come study in Canada). If you prefer that your institution not be included in this ask, we can exclude them.

Are there are any fees to participate?

There is no fee to participate. Some institutions have requested to add their own custom questions, which we are supporting for a nominal fee to cover our programming time (\$600 for up to 3 additional questions). Others have asked if we can run the analysis for them and produce a report, we would be happy to so at a fee of \$750 per report. There are no costs for participating and receiving your own data file.

When will the survey go to-field?

We are ready to field your IPSS when you are.

What do we do if we want to participate?

There are 3 steps:

- 1) Contact Academica (bruce@academica.ca) to confirm your participation as soon as possible.*
- 2) Decide how your institution would prefer to administer the survey, choosing one of the three options listed at the top of this FAQ document. Also, to decide if you would like Academica to produce an institutional report for each round in addition to the data-file, please confirm both of these.*
- 3) Prepare your list of International Prospective Student emails as this will be necessary regardless of what option you choose to administer the survey.*