



MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

International Post-secondary students in Nova Scotia

- Nationally, International students pay on average 3.7x the tuition fees of domestic students.
- International tuition fees are exempt from any provincial tuition fee regulation by the Nova Scotia government, despite years of student advocacy and an expressed desire from the government to attract International students to the province.
- International students are huge drivers of the Nova Scotia economy, in 2014, international students spent \$324.7 million dollars in Nova Scotia, resulting in 3,328 new jobs and \$142 million dollars in wages.
- International Students are Nova Scotia's second biggest "export", second only to Michelin Tires.
- Nova Scotia currently does not provide MSI for international students upon arrival. Instead, they are forced to purchase expensive private health care plans for over a year and experience restrictive policies regarding leaving the country. Students must stay in the province for 13 months and not leave for over 31 consecutive days to remain eligible.
- International Students are restricted by Federal study visas and can only work a maximum of 20hrs per week during the academic year.
- International students must maintain full-time student status according to study visas.
- International students are often exempt from grants, bursaries and tri-council funding and have no access to provincial or federal student loans. This means financial support for students with the highest tuition fees is very limited.