

It Take a Village: Building Resilience by Connecting International Students to the Broader Community

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EPI@entre
Entrepreneurship + Practice + Innovation



Rationale

Employers want for local work experience (Veres, 2018).

The employability framework (McQuaid, 2005) includes access to resources like social networks.

No prior research applied the theory of embeddedness (Granovetter, 1985) to the development of resilience in international student migrants , in the context of employability.



Objectives

How can external stakeholders such as post-secondary institutions and off-campus community partners help international students studying in their community to build resiliency?

How might connecting international students to the community enhance their employability post-graduation?



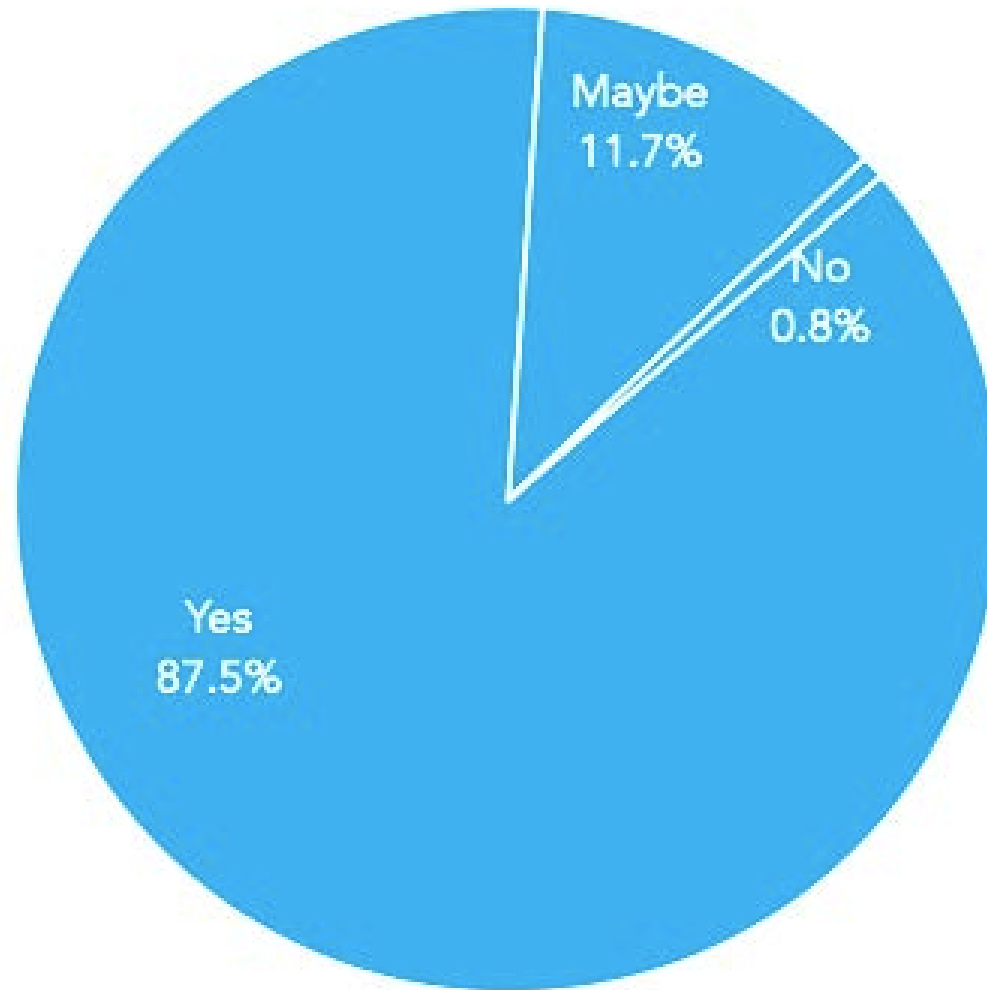
Approach

Year 1 - We conduct the study in Windsor, focusing on the University of Windsor (post-secondary institution) and the New Canadians' Centre of Excellence, Inc.
(off-campus community partner).

Year 2 – Expansion of study based on Year 1 findings



Intent to Stay and Work in Canada



Perception of Career Path

27.5% of students surveyed expressed optimism

Only ONE academic program has slightly over 50% responding with optimism – it has a mandatory internship placement program

Another academic program has 40% responding with optimism – it has its own career advising services



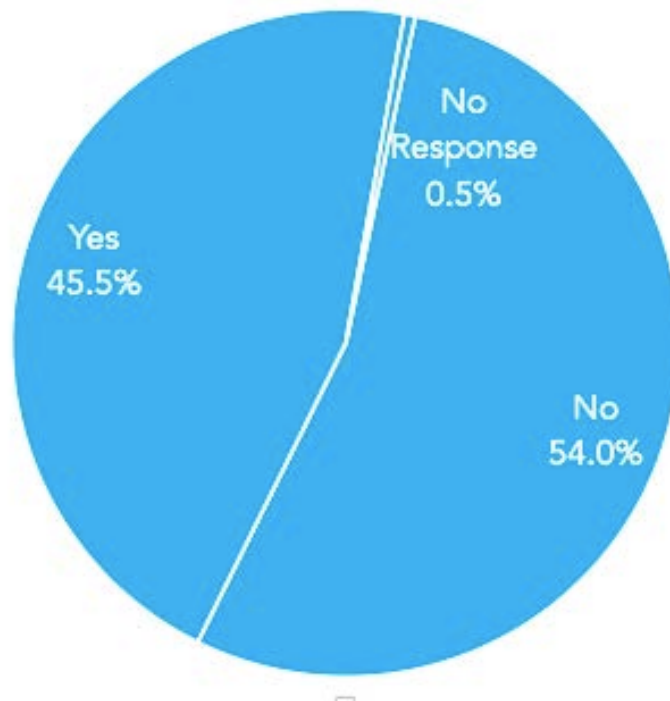
Perception of Career Path

Actually I have no idea, most company require students have experience, but many of program, for example, my program is a course-based program, it has neither co-op nor any practice, but see the name: Medical Biotechnology, it seems awesome, but we all know it's hard especially for international student to find a job, even compare to college student, we don't have Competitiveness. The truth is, most of my classmates are not the student who don't work hard, we just don't know where can get these information about job, career, anything. MMB Student

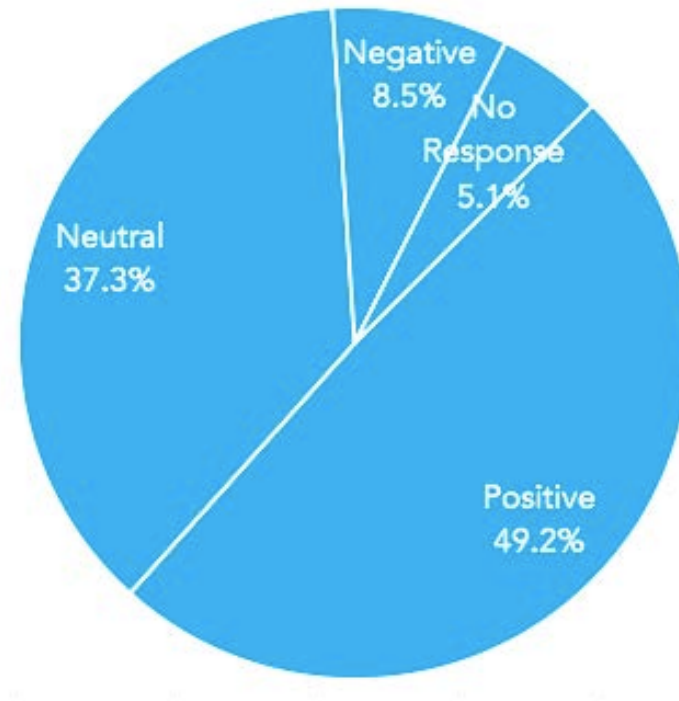


On-Campus Services

Students
Who Have Used Services



Perception
of Effectiveness



On-Campus Services

I am enrolled in a program which offers internships and they taught us all the necessary steps in order to place in a company from resume making to the interview and I also got an internship in one of the reputed company in Canada.
MAC Student

I am from India and we are paying huge amounts for our education. If the same amount if we spent in our country, the university itself provide us campus placements, they will bring companies to our campus. M. Eng Student



On-Campus Services

There are so many events about the culture of minorities, but might be few lecture about mainstream culture to guide how international students make friends with local people and avoid culture confliction. Intl Student

How did you cope?

The volunteer services provided by community definitely help, but many international students do not know that kind of opportunities.

It's not a kind of service but if the University can somehow introduce current students to the alumni who already got placed in reputed companies then it will be very helpful for the current students to find a job as they can give us a actual scenario in the industry.

How did you cope?

I contacted them through LinkedIn.



Part-time Jobs

Almost 50% working in non-field related part-time positions off-campus – Walmart, Tim Hortons and such

Less than 5% working in field-related part-time off-campus positions - Local automotive parts manufacturers

Some, which are not currently working, expressed interest in working on-campus or field-related positions only.



Off-Campus Services

At my local church, I get the opportunity to receive great insights that empower me to be effective and balanced in all areas of my life. I am also given the opportunity to interact with people from all walks of life. They are established professionals that I look up to, and there are young high school kids I can mentor as well. This is one of the best parts of my Canadian experience. Intl Student



Off-Campus Services

I did ask for some service as like mentioned above before, however they told me this kind of service is only for the citizen Canadian. International student cannot take any advantages from it. I cannot really remember the name of that program.

How did you cope?

I hope the terms can be more explicit. Don't only provide positive aspects in the admissions advertisements. Please provide more questions about the employment problems after graduation, especially the treatment of differences from Canadian citizens. This will allow students to think about whether they want to spend the most precious years studying in Canada.





Summary of Implications

Structured activities that strengthen social ties while gaining local field-related work experience seems important to students.

Students are actively, and need help, seeking opportunities to enhance their understanding of Canada, their network and work experience during their relatively short period of studies.

**NEXT STEP: DETERMINE WHAT POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS AND
COMMUNITY PARTNERS
ARE DOING**



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