

International Student Connect (ISC)

International Student Connect (ISC) is a bilingual pilot project managed by COSTI.

The core purpose of the project is to identify, develop and implement an appropriate service response to the settlement needs of international students (IS) pursuing post-secondary education in Ontario. The project is funded by the Government of Ontario.

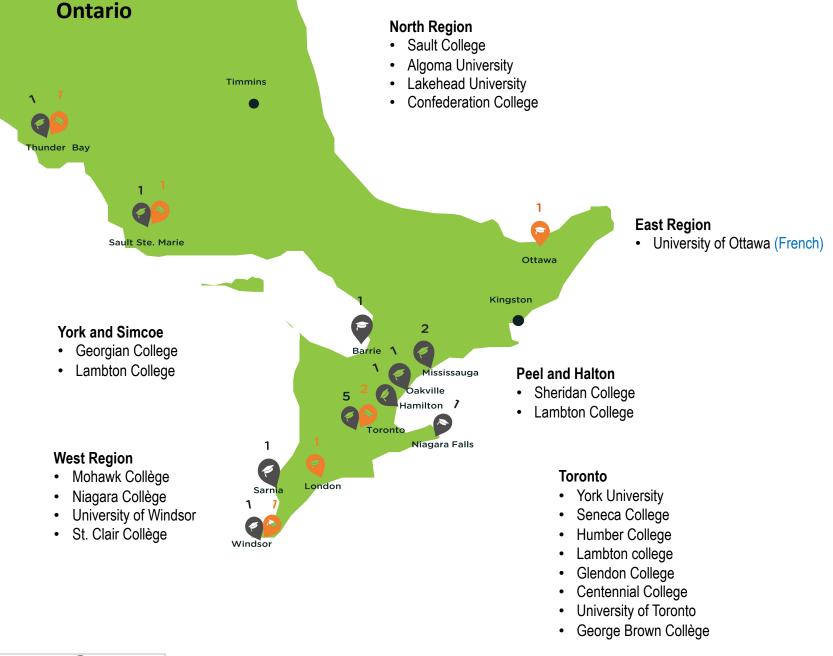
We currently work with **21** educational institutions and **16** SDAs.

Evaluation Report Findings

- A clear and significant service gap exists in the IS population
- Many ISOs at post-secondary institutions do not posses expertise in immigration and settlement matters
- Settlement agencies are not funded to support IS
- Educational institutions and the settlement sector committed to collaboration in support of international students

Evaluation Report Recomendations

- Connect IS with the wider settlement services and community
- Increase access to online resources and transfer of information - pre and post arrival webinars
- Provide tailored and practical information geared to IS needs





Topics Covered

In-Person 20+

- Banking and credit
- Finding a place to live
- Immigration pathways
- Filing income taxes
- Employment/Legal rights

Webinars 25+

- Finding a place to live
- Immigration pathways
- Supporting IS spouses
- Filing income taxes in Canada
- Labor market and employment
- Applying for PGWP

Services & Resources focused on:

Accompanying family members and graduating International Students

Challenges

International Students:

- Financial constraints
- Limited employment opportunities
- Lack of clarity on pre-departure information
- Wellness, mental health and settlement support & social networks

International Student Connect

- Promotion of services and resources
- Gap in understanding for support services for International Students

