

The Hazelton Innovation  
Group

# The International Student Experience

Presenter: Colleen Jones

Session: 1-A3 & 2-A3

Friday, October 30, 2015

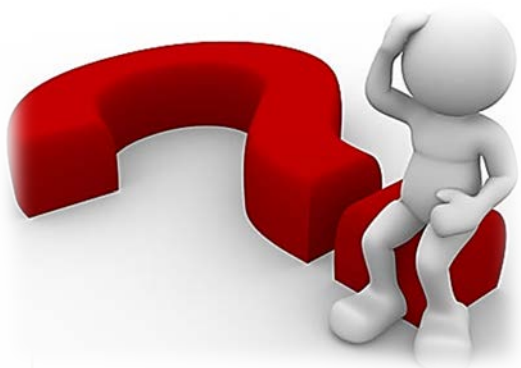


@InterActSummit

#InterActSummit



MOHAWK



1. *What can post-secondary institutions do to attract international students?*
2. *How can we make them feel welcome once they arrive?*
3. *What can we do to help them to attain their goals while attending school in Canada?*

# Presentation Outline

- Study Objectives & Methodology
- What We Learned....
  - Challenges
  - Requested Supports
- Implications & Next Steps

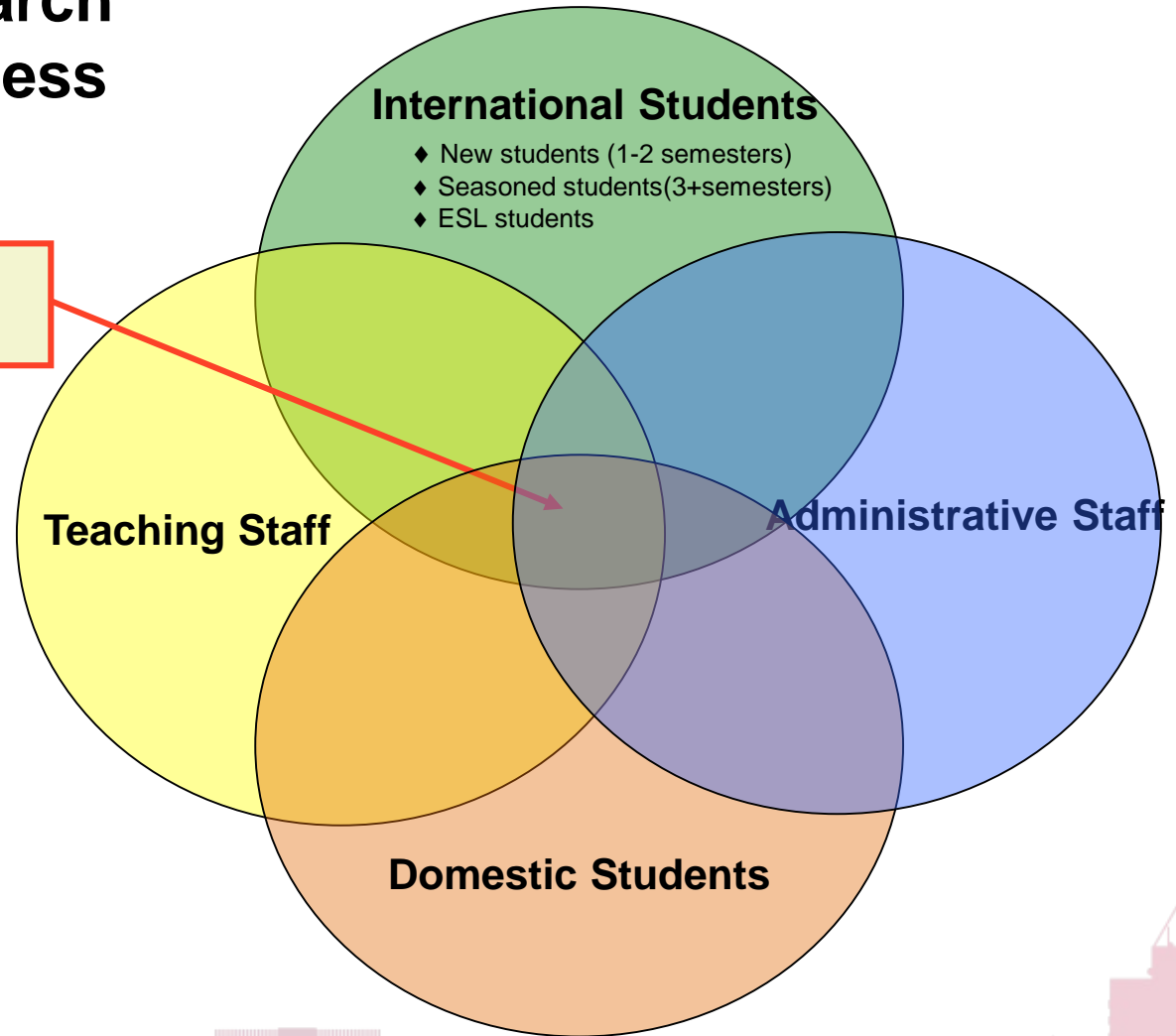
# Study Objectives

1. Gain a better understanding of the international student experience.
2. Identify tactical supports and strategies to help international students feel more welcome and succeed in reaching their educational goals.



# Qualitative Research 360° Insight Process

Comprehensive  
Insights



# Variety of ethnicities represented....



Nigerian  
Indian  
Chinese  
Jamaican  
Bahamian  
British  
Serbian

# Lessons Learned



# Greatest challenge international students face....

## TRANSITIONING TO LIFE IN CANADA

- Accommodation
- Transportation
- Finances / Job
- Cultural Orientation
- Isolation / missing home





## Challenge #1



**Finding affordable accommodation  
expectation: \$200/month**

**The law - rental agreements**

**Renters rights & responsibilities**

## Challenge #2



## Navigating Public Transportation

**Bus schedules & routes**

**How to take a bus!!**

## Challenge #3



**Finding a job – any job!**

**Resume writing**

## Challenge #4

# CULTURE SHOCK

**Food**

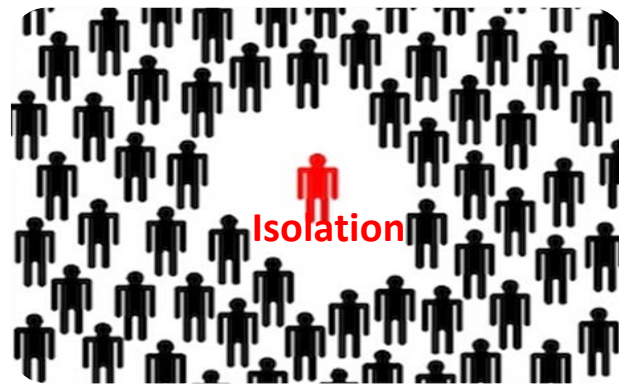
**Gender roles / authority**

**Canadian culture: organized & timely**

**Rules are the Rules: bartering & negotiation  
not the norm**

**Expectation of personal autonomy**

## Challenge #5



**Miss family and friends**

**Connecting with friends & family back home**

**Connecting with own cultural group while in  
Canada**

**Making friends - domestic & international**

# Barriers to Transitioning

## Personal

Language & communication

Introverted personality

Attitudes / prejudices

Depression

## Cultural

Dietary

Behavioral

Norms / expectations

Spiritual / faith based

## Post-Secondary Institutions

Support staff – international student ratio

Classroom & assignment norms / expectations

## Structural

Distances

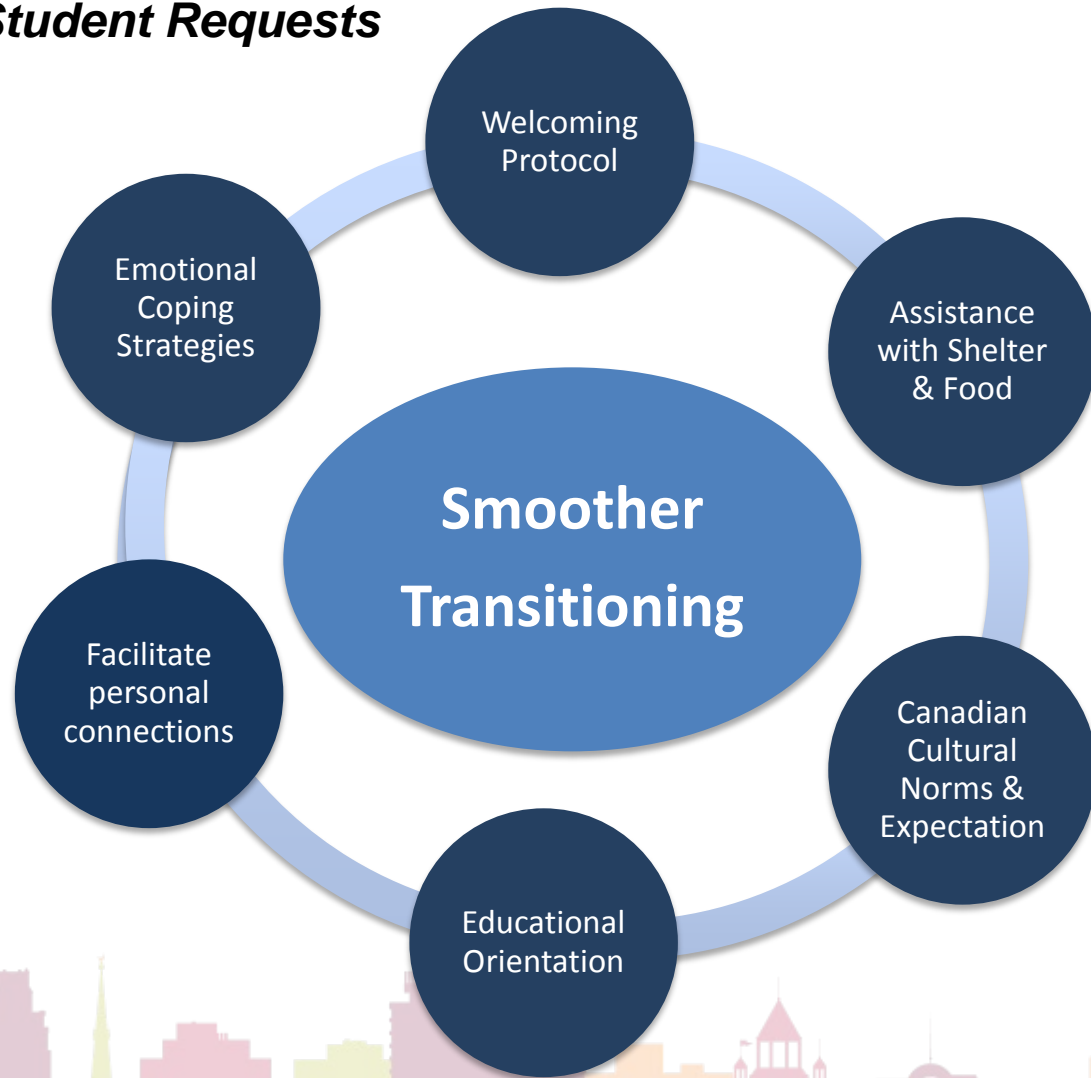
Transportation

Government rules & regulations re: Student Visas



# Supports for Smoother Transitioning & Feeling more Welcome

*International Student Requests*



Greater **proactivity** and a more **personal approach** will help newcomers feel more welcome & adjust more quickly to life in Canada







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## Thank you

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Presents

