



## A 360° Review of Student Needs & Community Service Integration

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October 30, 2015



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# Presentation Outline

- International landscape at McMaster
- Common challenges
- A holistic approach to transition and support
- Highlight: McMaster English Language Development (MELD) diploma



# McMaster – International Landscape

- Full-time faculty represent **69 countries**. The largest representation of countries, other than Canada, includes the United States, the United Kingdom, India and China.
- International undergraduate students represent 6.3% of the student population and **92 countries** (2013).
- International graduate students represent 19.3% of the graduate student body (2013).
- Over 10,000 active alumni reside outside of Canada, representing **137 countries** (2013).

# Common Challenges

- Social
- Cultural
- Academic
- Financial
- Language



# A multi-pronged approach

- Pre-arrival
  - » online orientation
  - » peer mentorship (navigating university and community resources)
- Arrival
  - » Welcome Week – international student orientation day
  - » Guaranteed residence for international students
  - » “Stuff drop” program in residence
- Ongoing
  - » Academic integrity workshops
  - » Peer mentoring
  - » Conversation circles
- MELD – McMaster English Language Development diploma

# MELD

## McMaster English Language Development diploma

- For students who have qualified academically but have not met language requirements
- Delivered by Dept of Linguistics and Languages
- Informed by research on second language learning
- Language & acculturation
- Embedded peer mentorship
- Reflective practice through Learning Portfolio
- Frequent feedback and testing using IELTS benchmarks
- Partnering with our Student Success Centre to offer other supports



Thank You  
Sean Van Koughnett,  
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McMaster University



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SUMMIT 2015  
29-30 OCTOBER

