

Intercultural Learning



Thompson Rivers University is located on the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc Territory - within the unceded traditional lands of the Secwepemc Nation.

The region includes 7 nations: Dákelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Secwepemc, St'át'imc, Syilx, Tsilhqot'in, and Nlaka'pamux

83% increase in international student population since 2008 (CBIE, 2015)

Indigenous Peoples are the fastest growing populations in Canada (StatsCan, 2011)

Over 400,000 Indigenous youth in Canada will be entering the labour force over the next decade (CIC, 2015)

Immigration represents over 70% of population growth (StatsCan, 2010)

1 in 5 Canadians are Allophone (StatsCan, 2011)

Projection: by 2031, 46% of Canadians under the age of 15 will have been born outside of the country or have parents born outside of the country (StatsCan, 2010)

Demographic Shifts



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1. What percentage of TRU students come from outside of Canada?
 2. Which are the top 5 countries they come from?



What percentage of TRU students identify as Indigenous?



TRU Student Population

International students at TRU – 2,374 from over 87 countries and regions (16%)

- India
- China
- Nigeria
- Saudi Arabia
- Russia / Ukraine

TRU educates one of the largest Indigenous student populations in BC (10%)

- Interior / Kootenays
- Lower Mainland
- Northern BC

The World is on Campus

What are students learning from increased diversity?

- Tolerance?
- Inclusion?
- Valuing of multiple perspectives?
- Entrenched stereotypes?
- Avoidance of interaction?

Strategic Priority: Increasing Intercultural Understanding

(Strategic Priorities 2014-2019)

“TRU will prioritize programs and practices that support diversity, inclusion and intercultural understanding between Aboriginal, local, regional and global communities in the context of:

- The **indigenization** of our university through the inclusion of traditional and contemporary Aboriginal teaching, learning, knowledge, research and creative practice
- The **internationalization** of our university through the inclusion of globally-engaged teaching, learning, knowledge, research and creative practice
- The recognition of the **diversity** and uniqueness of Canadian society including a local and BC perspective.
- The creation of a culture of **inclusion** in all aspects of university work and life

TRU Academic Plan: Aboriginal, Local, and Global Cultural Understanding

“Educational and **delivery models should incorporate international and intercultural experiences for all TRU students.** The development of these learning modes is reflexive, requiring that students and faculty integrate reflections of **local, global and Aboriginal cultures and histories** into their work” (*Academic Plan, 2011*).

ACCORD ON INTERNATIONALIZATION (ACDE, 2014)

Economic and **social justice and equity** across contexts and sites of educational practice

Reciprocity as the foundation for engaging in internationalization activities

Global **sustainability**

Intercultural awareness, **ethical engagement**, understanding, and respect

Equity of access to education, regardless of socio-economic status or financial circumstance

UNIVCAN PRINCIPLES ON INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Promote **dialogue** between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students

Greater exposure and knowledge for non-Indigenous students on the realities, histories, cultures and beliefs of Indigenous people in Canada

Recognize the **importance of fostering intercultural engagement** among Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, faculty and staff

Deardorff's Questions:

Do I measure student's behaviour based on my own culturally conditioned expectations?

What worldviews are demonstrated through the course materials I currently use?

Does my teaching style alienate some learners?

Can I demonstrate or mentor intercultural development?

How can I help students develop an "intercultural lens"?

What's the Difference?

Multicultural? Intercultural?

Structural diversity—when diversity is represented on campus—is an “insufficient condition for maximal educational benefits”

(Gurin, Dey, & Hurtado, 2002, p. 333)

"Acquiring increased awareness of subjective cultural contexts (worldviews), including one's own, and developing a greater ability to interact sensitively and competently across cultural contexts" (Bennett, 2009).

Intercultural Learning

Intercultural Learning at TRU: Opportunities and Resources

<http://www.tru.ca/intercultural.html>

Faculty Resources AERO

<http://www.tru.ca/aboriginaleducation/aero/faculty.html>

Upcoming PD Opportunities

On Campus

August 29 & 31 ***Intro to Secwepemcstin*** 1:00-2:00 (Register on Events pages)

September 8 ***University Teaching for Indigenous Student Success: Promising Practices, Research, and Resources from Aotearoa New Zealand*** (Register on CELT pages)

September 12 ***AACU Webinar on Global Learning*** 12:00 – 1:00 (Register on CELT pages)

September 13 Enhancing ***Multicultural Group Work for Intercultural Learning*** 12:30-2:00 (CELT)

September 15 Enhancing ***Multicultural Group Work for Intercultural Learning*** 9:00 – 10:30 (CELT)

September 26 & 28 ***Intro to Secwepemcstin*** 1:00-2:00 or 4:00-5:00 (Events)

Off Campus

September 22 ***BCCIE Symposium on Intercultural Learning*** – Langara Campus, Vancouver

Service Opportunities

Senate International
Affairs Committee (SIAC)

First Nations and
Aboriginal Affairs
Committee (FNAAC)
(Indigenous Affairs
Council)

TRUFA Equity Committee

TRUFA Human Rights
Committee

Faculty Award for
Excellence in
Internationalization

International Guest
Scholars Program (IDays)

Resources for Indigenous Students

Aboriginal Education – HL First Floor

The Gathering Place (Cplul'kw'ten) – House 5

Elder in the House Program

Aboriginal Mentor Program

Indigenous student Graduation

Indigenous Counselor



Resources for International Students

TRU World – 3rd floor of International Building

Multilingual ISA team (Mandarin, Korean, Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu, Russian, Japanese, Spanish, Swahili and Ukrainian)

International Academic Advising

International Orientation

LEAP Activity Program

International Student Life Guide



KUKSTEMC! Thank You

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