



# National Immigration Centre (NIC)

## Fall 2021 Members' Meeting Agenda

**Dates: October 27, 28 & November 4, 2021**

**Location – National Immigration Centre Campus (Virtual Event)**

**Theme: International Student Success: Navigating the path from student to immigrant.**

### **Syllabus:**

International students are an integral part of the Canadian education system. They contributed \$21.6 billion to Canada's GDP in 2018. In spite of the pandemic, Canada hosted over 530,000 international students during 2021/21 academic year. While many stakeholders are looking for ways to promote Canadian post-secondary education to potential international students, there remain challenges to ensure that students benefit from investment in a Canadian education. International students are not always eligible for the settlement and integration supports that they need. Pathways to permanent residence are uncertain, complex, and difficult to navigate.

NIC Fall Meeting 2021 will focus on international student mobility to critically assess how we can attract and admit international students in a fair and effective way and set them up for success including as potential immigrants.

### **Event contacts**

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## October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Semester 1 “Perspectives on International Students”

1:00 p.m. –

1:15 p.m. **Welcome and Syllabus Remarks**

**National Immigration Centre Team**

1:15 p.m. –

1:45 p.m. **Opening Assembly - Keynote Presentation**

**Larissa Bezo**, President and CEO, Canadian Bureau for International Education

1:45 p.m. –

2:45 p.m. **Semester 1A – Emerging Research on International Student Mobility to Canada**

This session will feature current research on international student mobility. It will provide recent data and insights on international students, their sociodemographic characteristics, and the existing pathways for them to access permanent residency.

**Moderator: Melissa Payne** Director, Membership, Research and Learning, Canadian Bureau for International Education

**Eden Crossman**, Senior Research Officer, IRCC

**Feng Hou**, Principal Researcher with Social Analysis and Modeling Division, Statistics Canada

**Margaret Walton-Roberts**, Professor, Geography and Environmental Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University

**Elena Neiterman**, Continuing Lecturer, University of Waterloo

2:45 p.m. –

3:00 p.m. **Break**

3:00 p.m. –

4:00 p.m. **Semester 1B - The International Student Experience**

This session will feature current and/or former international students, to share their own experience of studying in Canada and potentially transitioning to permanent residency.

**Moderator: Paola Gomez**, Co-Founder & Program Director, Lead Community Artist, MUSE Arts and Professor, Centennial College



**Zeba Syeda**, Human Resources Intern, SE Health

**Kudzai Gondora**, Master of Global Affairs, '23, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

**Chiedza Pasipanodya**, Manager, Youth Initiatives, WES Canada

**4:00 p.m.**     **Adjourn Semester 1**

## **October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Semester 2 “Support for Students Pre and Post-Graduation”**

**1:00 p.m. –**

**1:10 p.m.**     **Welcome and Syllabus Remarks**

**National Immigration Centre Team**

**1:10 p.m. –**

**2:10 p.m.**     **Semester 2A - Supporting International Students during Post-Secondary Studies**

The programs and supports available to international students are key to ensuring that they benefit from their decision to study at a Canadian institution. In this session, our presenters will share what kinds of supports are available to international students, including refugee students, during post-secondary education, as well as the challenges in transitioning into and out of post-secondary study.

**Moderator: Gulcan Barclay**, Manager of International Student Services, Camosun College

**Vinitha Gengatharan**, Executive Director, York International

**Cynthia Murphy**, Director, Student Experience, Dalhousie University

**Ashley Korn**, Manager, Canadian Programming, Durable Solutions for Refugees, World University Service of Canada WUSC

**2:10 p.m. –**

**2:25 p.m.**     **Break**



**2:45 p.m. –**

**4:00 p.m.**

**Semester 2B – The Role of Information, Empowerment, and Organizing in the International Student Journey**

Supporting international students as they navigate the Canadian immigration and settlement system remains a key challenge. This session considers how students are and could be supported in their immigration, career, and settlement trajectories through settlement services, mentorship, and grassroots organizing.

**Moderator: Deborah Slonowsky**, Dauphin Regional Program Manager, Regional Connections Inc.

**Aimee Holmes**, Director, Online Services, ACCES Employment

**Sukhjit S. Ahluwalia**, Founder, Success & Innovation

**Rahila Mushtaq**, General Manager, International Student Connect, COSTI

**Sarom Rho**, Organizer, Migrant Workers Alliance for Change

**4:00 p.m. –**

**4:10 p.m.**

**Grab your food and beverage break, then meet at the Campus Pub**

**4:10 p.m. –**

**5:00 p.m.**

**National Immigration Centre Campus Pub – Virtual Reception**

**Virtual Music Performance by singer-songwriter [Paula Sofia](#)**

For this virtual reception, attendees will be invited to enjoy a virtual pub performance and will be provided with a “Skip the Dishes” gift card to order an appetizer or meal from their favorite restaurant of choice to enjoy throughout the performance.

Following the performance attendees will be split up into small breakout rooms “pub tables” to enjoying a virtual networking reception with their peers.

**5:00 p.m.**

**Adjourn Semester 2**



## November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Semester 3 “Employment Challenges and Opportunities for International Students”

1:00 p.m. –

1:05 p.m. **Welcome and Syllabus Remarks**

**National Immigration Centre Team**

1:05 p.m. –

2:15 p.m. **Semester 3A - Boosting Employment Prospects of International Students**

This session will highlight international student transitions into the labour market, including the role of university-employer partnerships, employer practices, mentorship, and research examining international students' experiences seeking work following studies in Canada.

**Moderator:** Beth Clarke, Senior Director, Strategic Partnerships, World Education Services

**Rupa Banerjee**, Canada Research Chair in Economic Inclusion, Employment and Entrepreneurship of Canada's Immigrant, Ryerson University

**Roopa Desai Trilokekar**, Associate Professor Education, Faculty of Education, York University

**Cynthia Bishop**, Manager, Student Experience - Career and Professional Development at the DeGroot School of Business, McMaster University

**Katarina Faoro**, International Recruitment Manager, KPMG Management Services LP

2:15 p.m. –

2:30 pm **Break**

2:30 p.m. –

3:45 p.m. **Semester 3B - National Immigration Centre Research and Updates**

Preview of “From Student to Immigrant: Migration Trajectories of International Students”

**Kathryn Dennler**, Research Associate II, The Conference Board of Canada

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Update on the COVID-19 Immigrant Cohort  
**Yilmaz Dinc**, Senior Research Associate I, The Conference Board of  
Canada

Preview of “Accessibility of Settlement Services in Small and Rural  
Communities”  
**Kathryn Dennler**, Research Associate II, The Conference Board of  
Canada

Overview of Immigrants in Essential Work  
**Yilmaz Dinc**, Senior Research Associate I, The Conference Board of  
Canada

National Immigration Centre Benefits  
**Jo-Leen Folz**, Council Manager, The Conference Board of Canada

**3:45 p.m. –**

**4:00 p.m.**     **National Immigration Centre Campus Semester Summary**

**Next meeting Spring Members’ Meeting 2021-  
Fredericton, NB**

**More details to come, stay tuned!**