

Universities Canada Overview and Challenges



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Overview

Universities Canada is the voice of Canadian universities, at home and abroad. They are a membership organization providing university presidents with a unified voice for higher education, research and innovation. Universities Canada advances the mission of member institutions to transform lives, strengthen communities and find solutions to the most pressing challenges facing our world. Universities Canada:

- Advocates for Canadian universities at the federal level
- Provides a forum for university leaders to share ideas and address challenges in higher education
- Supports students by providing online information on university study and offering scholarships on behalf of private sector companies
- Fosters collaboration among universities and governments, the private sector, communities and international partners to help build a better world

Challenges

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▼ Challenge 1

The shift to online learning

In the current context, post-secondary institutions have had to quickly increase the amount of online learning opportunities, services and operations they offer. They also need to ensure that these online activities are secure.

How can post-secondary institutions continue to meet the growing demand for these activities and ensure the security of their digital infrastructure in a cost-effective manner?

▼ Challenge 2

Improving collaboration with Indigenous peoples

The COVID-19 context has created new barriers to conducting research with Indigenous peoples and on Indigenous lands. For example, relationship building, land-based teaching and research are difficult in a virtual context where connectivity can be a significant challenge.

What practices should be put in place to improve research collaboration with Indigenous peoples?

▼ Challenge 3

Supporting equity, diversity, and inclusion in online environments

An important component of the post-secondary experience is the opportunity to be exposed to diverse groups and perspectives through formal and informal learning, events and social interactions. This helps learners enhance their durable skills such as critical thinking, collaboration and communication.

How can post-secondary institutions continue to support these experiences in an online environment, all while ensuring they are accessible and equitable for all who wish to participate in them?

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