

# Innovation in Education: Today's undergraduate experience

Canada's universities are learning communities where students develop the critical thinking, communication and analytical skills our knowledge-driven economy demands. Through innovation in teaching and hands-on research opportunities, universities are producing Canada's next generation of scientists, entrepreneurs, professionals, educators, innovators and community leaders.

## PREPARING FOR REWARDING CAREERS

About half of all Canadian university students across all disciplines complete at least one co-op, practicum, internship or field placement by the time they graduate.<sup>1</sup>

## HIGH-END RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

University professors often involve undergraduates in their research work: 58 percent of undergraduates report having involvement with faculty research projects.<sup>2</sup>

## A GLOBAL EXPERIENCE ON CAMPUS

Canada is increasingly becoming a destination of choice for international students seeking a high-quality university education. More than 100,000 international students are currently enrolled at our universities. They enrich the learning experience of all students by bringing new perspectives, cultures and languages to university life — inside and outside of the classroom.<sup>3</sup>

## NEW APPROACHES IN TEACHING AND RESEARCH

More than half of faculty members at Canadian universities have been hired since 2000. These scholars and scientists bring new approaches in learning and research to their classrooms and labs. They also bring international perspectives gained through their own studies and research partnerships. They're innovative, interdisciplinary, collaborative and open to the world.<sup>4</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

About 25,000 undergraduate students take part in a study-abroad experience each year.<sup>5</sup> These international experiences help students become global citizens and prepare for future careers. More than half of employers polled said they would hire a student with study abroad experience over a candidate without these experiences.<sup>6</sup>

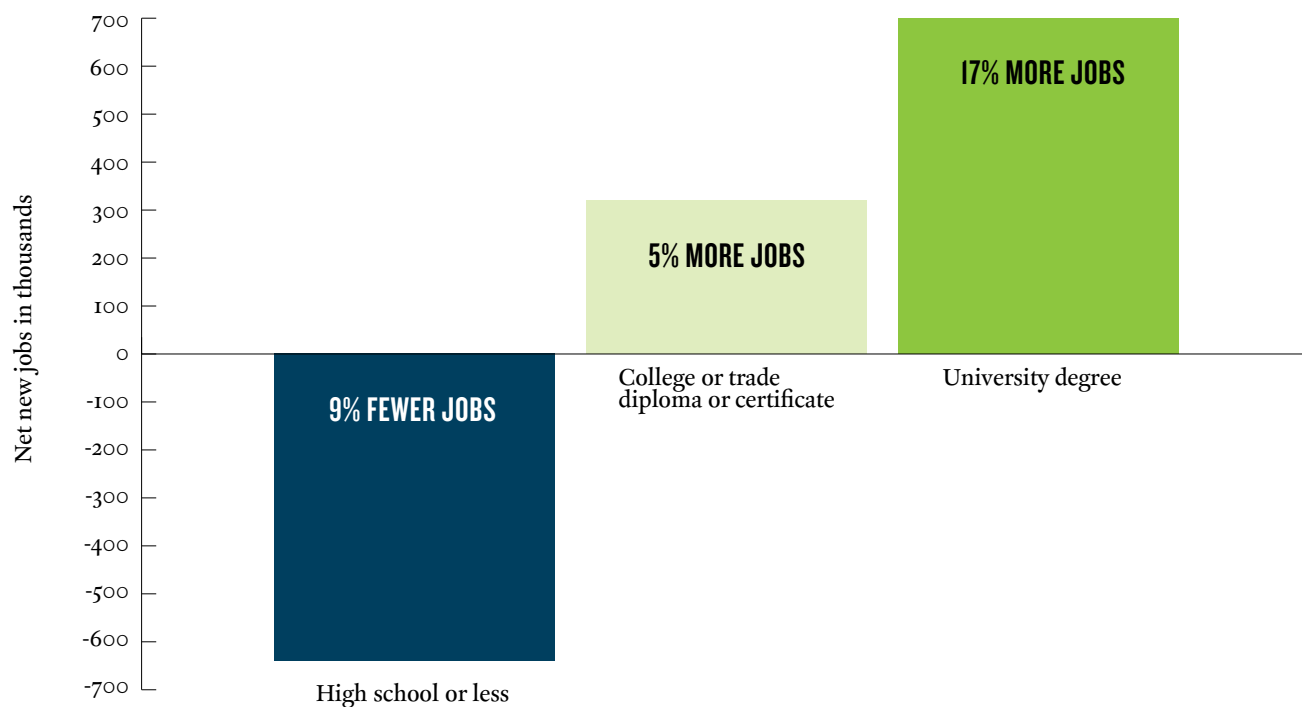
## BECOMING GLOBAL CITIZENS

More than 1,300 Canadian students from three-quarters of Canada's universities have participated in internships in developing and emerging countries through the CIDA-funded Students for Development since the program was launched in 2005. This is just one of many programs and courses that give undergraduates an opportunity to gain international experience and make a difference in communities around the world.<sup>7</sup>

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## JOB GROWTH FOR UNIVERSITY GRADUATES REMAINS STRONG

700,000 new jobs for university grads



Between July 2008 and July 2012 there were 700,000 net new jobs for university graduates, compared to 320,000 net new jobs for college and trades graduates; a total of 640,000 jobs were lost for high school graduates.<sup>8</sup>

## SOURCES

1. Canadian University Survey Consortium, 2012 Survey of Graduating Undergraduate Students
2. Canadian University Survey Consortium, 2012 Survey of Graduating Undergraduate Students
3. AUCC estimates adapted from Statistics Canada, Postsecondary Student Information System
4. AUCC estimates adapted from Statistics Canada, University and College Academic Staff System
5. AUCC estimates adapted from Statistics Canada, Postsecondary Student Information System
6. Council of Ontario Universities, *Employment Outcomes of 2009 Graduates of Ontario University Undergraduate Programs, November 2012* (<http://cou.on.ca/publications/reports/pdfs/2011-survey-highlights---ontario-graduate-employme>)
7. AUCC figures (AUCC has been the managing body for the program over this time period and tracks participation each year for reporting to CIDA)
8. Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey July 2008 to July 2012