

Foreign students help university enrolment set new record

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University enrolment hit a record high for the fifth straight year during 2005/06, largely due to record numbers of foreign students.

A new study by Statistics Canada estimates 1,047,700 students registered for classes, a 3% increase over the previous year, when enrolment first broke the 1-million mark.

In the 2004/05 academic year, Ontario's double cohort propelled nationwide registration to a 6.4% increase, the largest gain in 28 years.

As in previous years, students aged 18 to 24 accounted for the most significant growth, representing 64% of total enrolment, compared with 59% a decade earlier.

Foreign students flocked to Canada in record numbers, with 80,200 students from other countries registering at Canadian universities. Foreign students accounted for 7.7% of total registration, nearly double the proportion from a decade ago.

"Canada is on a good trajectory, we just need to keep moving along that path," said Jennifer Humphries, Canadian Bureau of International Education vice-president of membership and scholarships.

Locally, Humphries said Carleton University and the University of Ottawa have "so many programs that are attractive to foreign students."

"International students like Ottawa, it's perceived as being a nice city," she said.

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