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ABSTRACT

The University of Alberta conducted this survey of foreign students to determine (1) the need for an International Center; (2) the kinds of academic experiences foreign students have; (3) the students' perception of the Foreign Student Office; and (4) how foreign students adjusted to life in Canada and at the University of Alberta. The group surveyed included Canadian students, foreign students, and students sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The students responded that they felt such a center should be a focal point for social and cultural interaction. A majority of the foreign and CIDA students were willing to make a financial commitment to such a center, while Canadian students were not. A majority of all three groups indicated that the Center should be open to everyone on campus. A chi-square analysis of responses indicated that more foreign and CIDA students than could be expected felt they were completely prepared to handle work at the University of Alberta, while fewer Canadian students than expected felt themselves prepared. Students' perceptions of the functions of the Foreign Student Office were ranked, with the most commonly perceived function being to help the foreign student adjust to Canadian society. The problems in adjusting to Canada and the University were surveyed using open ended questions, and ranged from finding the way around the city and campus and getting a job for money and experience, to establishing a bank account and finding a babysitter. (JMF)

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OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND PLANNING

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

EDMONTON, ALBERTA T6G 2J9

A Report on the
Survey of Foreign Students

Submitted to the University of Alberta
Foreign Student Office

By

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Office of Institutional Research and Planning

September, 1975

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Background

Early in 1975 the Director of the Foreign Student Office and the Foreign Student Adviser approached the Office of Institutional Research and Planning with the request to conduct a survey of foreign students on the question of the desirability of an International Centre on the University of Alberta campus. The four major areas of concern expressed by Major Hooper and Mrs. Groberman were:

- 1) Is there a need for an International Centre?
- 2) What kinds of academic experiences have foreign students had?
- 3) What is the students' perception of the Foreign Student Office? and
- 4) How have foreign students (especially those from non-English speaking countries) adjusted to life in Canada and at the University of Alberta?

Procedure

The first methodological problem encountered was the operational definition of foreign student. Should this classification be limited to people from other lands who

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received aid while attending the University of Alberta, or should it be broad enough to embrace every University of Alberta student who, at the time of his birth, had parents that were citizens of a country other than Canada? The former classification was very narrow, while the latter was so broad that it would be difficult to determine who was and who was not a 'foreign student'. The alternative classification criterion, then, was to label all students here under a Student Visa or Landed Immigrant status foreign students. This classification not only included all the students who came to the University of Alberta from other countries, but also nearly fifteen hundred students with Landed Immigrant status living in Canada. (See Table 1)

Table 1

Population Breakdown by Citizenship and Last Country of Residence before attending the University of Alberta, Full Time Winter Day Intramural Students

<u>Immigration Status</u>	<u>Last Country of Residence</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Canada</u>	<u>Other</u>	
Canadian	16,533	0	16,533
Landed Immigrant	1,489	297	1,786
Student Visa	0	820	820
Total	18,022	1,117	19,139

} 2,606

Source: U. of A. Registrar's Summary of Statistics 1974-75.

Because some of the areas of concern (i.e., the concern for a need and utilization of an International Centre) might apply

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to all students on campus, it was also decided to include a sample of Canadian students in the study. A stratified sample of three major groups on campus was selected. One-half of a percentum of the Canadian student population, one hundred percent of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) student population and twenty-five percent of the remaining students with Student Visa or Landed Immigrant status were selected. The numbers of students which comprised the randomly drawn stratified sample and the numbers who completed the questionnaire were:

Table 2

The Number of Questionnaires Sent and Returned, by Strata.

	<u>Sent</u>	<u>Returned</u>	<u>% Response</u>
Canadian Students	845	385	45.6%
Foreign Students	665	268	40.3%
CIDA Students	<u>100</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>41.0%</u>
Total	1610	694	43.1%

The Canadian Students were sent a reduced version of the same questionnaire, as some of the questions were obviously not intended for them. Both versions of the questionnaire were mailed on March 15th, shortly after the reading week break on campus and a few weeks before the end of the term. By June 19th, 694 usable questionnaires were returned.

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Representativeness

Canadian students in the sample who completed the questionnaire were representative of the student body in the demographic attributes of sex, age, faculty and marital status. The foreign students in the sample who responded matched the overall student body on the dimensions of sex and faculty enrolment, but differed from the student body norm in that they were older and a greater percentage of them were married. (See Appendix A for more details).

Areas of Concern

How did the respondents perceive an International Centre? Question 22 asked the students in all three groups what they thought an International Centre should do. The respondent was invited to write his own opinion in the space provided. When these answers were coded for keypunching, the separate categories were maintained (e.g., a mention of a social mixer but none of cultural exchange; a mention of both social and cultural exchange; etc.). These separate categories are presented in Table 3. The numbers in the boxes are subtotals of similar categories under more encompassing rubrics.



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Table 3

"22. What do you think an International Centre should do?"

<u>Function</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Social Mixer	193	34.3%
Cultural and Social Exchange	85	8.6
Cultural and Idea Exchange	131	23.5
Promote Good Will	34	6.1
INTERACTION SUBTOTAL	404	72.5
Orientation to Canadian Life	66	11.9
Information Centre	31	5.6
Advising	14	2.5
HELP FOREIGN STUDENTS SUBTOTAL	111	20.0
Meeting Place for Clubs, etc.	6	1.1
As Outlined in Your Coverletter	13	2.3
Negative Comments	23	4.1
TOTAL	557	100.0%

Nearly three out of every four respondents felt that the International Centre should be a focal point for social and cultural interaction. Twenty percent, or one out of every five respondents, felt the Centre should function in an advisory capacity for foreign students. Four percent of the respondents, chiefly Canadian students, were vocal in their opposition to an International Centre.

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Would the Student be Willing to Make a Financial Commitment to an International Centre?

The investigators posed this question in order to determine how much of an attitudinal as well as financial commitment the respondent would make to an International Centre. The question was couched in the framework of the student's personal experience, as he already faced a compulsory fee for membership either in the Students' Union or the Graduate Students' Association. The use of the word 'optional' inadvertently clouded the interpretation of the responses, however, for over 60% of the Canadian students said "yes", they would commit themselves to a \$10 optional fee for an International Centre, but no doubt many of these students did not, or would not, feel much of an inclination to exercise this option.

Even so, that 60% was the lowest percentage of all three groups, for the Foreign Students and those students under some sort of support (i.e., CIDA) were more inclined to make a financial commitment (even in the face of an option) than were the Canadian Students. Their respective percentages were 68% for the Foreign Students and 84% for the CIDA Students.

Table 4 presents these data.

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Table 4

"23a. Would you support the operation of an International Centre through an optional \$10.00 fee assessment...?"

	<u>Yes</u>		<u>No</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Num</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>%</u>	
Canadian	220	60%	147	40%	367
CIDA	32	84	6	15	38
Foreign	<u>173</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>253</u>
TOTAL	425	65%	233*	35%	658

* "23b. If no, why?"

	<u>Canadian</u>		<u>CIDA</u>		<u>Foreign</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Num</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>%</u>
Too Expensive	39	28%	1	20%	30	40%	70	32%
Not Interested	53	39	0	0	26	35	79	37
Should Be Self Supporting	7	5	2	40	0	0	9	4
Support from Univ. or Government agency	15	11	2	40	11	15	28	13
Negative Comments	<u>22</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>15</u>
TOTAL	136	100%	5	100%	75	100%	216	100%

Two hundred and thirty-three individuals, or 35% of all the responses said "no", they would not wish to make a \$10 contribution to an International Centre. Two hundred and sixteen of the 233 gave a reason. Canadians and the Foreign Students, by and large, thought that it was too expensive. Thirty-nine Canadian Students and thirty-one Foreign Students felt the fee was too expensive. A great many Canadians, 53 to be exact, or

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39% of the Canadian Student response, felt that they simply would not be interested or would not make any use of an International Centre. About one out of every six respondents (15% of the 216) indicated that he would not support an International Centre because he felt that such a Centre ought to be supported by some agency such as the University, the Provincial or the Federal Government. A similar proportion of responses had generally negative comments about either the Centre itself or the concept of a fee assessment (see Appendix B for student comments).

It would be interesting to compare the intended utilization of an International Centre with other such public facilities on campus (e.g., the Students' Union Bookstore, the Students' Union Gameroom, the Physical Education Building, or any one of the University's Libraries).

Utilization

Question 21 asked all the students in the three samples who should be entitled to use the International Centre. An overwhelming majority of responses indicated that the Centre should be open to everyone on campus. Seventy percent of the Canadian Students, forty-seven percent of the CIDA students, and sixty-six percent of the other Foreign Students felt that the International Centre should be open to everyone in the academic

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community.

Table 5

"21. The University of Alberta may wish to set aside some space for an International Centre....who do you think should be entitled to use it?"

	<u>Canadian</u>		<u>CIDA</u>		<u>Foreign</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Num</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>%</u>
Foreign Students Only	0	0%	0	0%	2	1%	2	<1%
Foreign Students and Invited Guests	31	8	14	37	39	15	84	13
All Students on Campus	78	22	6	16	48	18	132	20
All Students and All Faculty on Campus	<u>258</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>446</u>	<u>67</u>
TOTAL	367	100%	38	100%	259	100%	664	100%

The Academic Experience of Foreign Students

Both the Canadian Students and Foreign Students were asked, in question 10a, if their current academic program was the program of their choice.

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Table 6

"10a. Is this the degree program of your choice?"

Original Matrix

	<u>Canadian</u>	<u>Foreign</u>	<u>Total</u>
Yes	362	270	632
No	<u>10</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>38</u>
Total	372	298	670

Expected Matrix

Yes	350.9	281.1	632
No	<u>21.1</u>	<u>16.9</u>	<u>38</u>
Total	371.0	298.0	670

Comparason of Original to Expected on 'Yes' Answers

Original 'Yes'	362	270
Expected 'Yes'	<u>351</u>	<u>281</u>
Difference	+11	-11

The chi-square statistics for this two by two presentation is 13.92, which with one degree of freedom has a probability greater than .001. In other words, the chance that such a distribution would occur is less than one in a thousand.

An examination of the contribution to this chi-square number reveals that there is a maldistribution between the "no" responses of the Canadian Students and of the Foreign Students. Eleven more of the 372 Canadian students who answered this question felt that they were in the program of their choice, while eleven fewer of the 298 Foreign Students who answered this

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question felt that they were able to select the program of their choice. It would seem that the Foreign Students do not feel they have as much freedom and selection in their programs as do Canadian Students.

It was possible to examine the responses of the Foreign Students more closely. Nearly nine out of every ten of the responding Foreign Students in this survey were in the academic program of their choice.

Table 7

"10a. Is this the degree program of your choice?"

	<u>CIDA</u>		<u>FOR:SV¹</u>		<u>FOR:LI¹</u>	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
Yes	35	88%	65	87%	159	92%
No	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>8</u>
Total	40	100%	75	100%	172	100%

Even though Foreign Students felt they were not in the program of their own choice, they nevertheless felt that they were more academically prepared to handle the work at the University of Alberta than were the Canadian Students. Question 32 asked the students to place themselves on a five point Likert-type scale of academic preparation for work at the University of Alberta. The contribution to chi-square indicated that twenty-six more Foreign Students than could be expected



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indicated that they felt they were completely prepared to handle work at the University of Alberta while twenty-six fewer Canadian Students checked the same category than could be expected by chi-square hypothetical distribution. This one category, number 5 (completely prepared), was the one which made the largest contribution to the chi-square figure of 25.4. A visual examination of the responses of the CIDA students, when compared to the other Foreign Students, indicated the same type of distribution in response between the two classes of respondents.

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Table 8

"32. How well prepared were you to do the academic work now expected of you?"

Original Matrix

	<u>Canadian</u>	<u>Foreign</u>
Unprepared 1	7	7
2	38	15
3	103	66
4	153	109
Prepared 5	65	99

Expected Matrix

Unprepared 1	7.7	6.3
2	29.3	23.7
3	93.4	75.6
4	144.9	117.1
Prepared 5	90.7	73.3

Comparison of the 'Prepared' Category

Original Matrix	65	99
Expected Matrix	<u>91</u>	<u>73</u>
Difference	-26	+26

The Students' Perception of the Foreign Student Office

One out of four of the Foreign Students responding to this questionnaire indicated that at one point or another he or she

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had visited the Foreign Student Office. On the other hand, only 4 of the 347 Canadian Students had visited that office. What were the functions which the respondents thought the Foreign Student Office should be performing?

Table 9

"36. What do you think a Foreign Student Office should do?"

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Help the student adjust, and explain Canada to Foreign Students	210	55.6%
Administration (e.g., \$, reports, etc.)	38	10.0
Dispense information and handle complaints	40	10.6
Advise: Personal Problems	41	10.9
Advise: Academic Problems	39	10.3
Help Student with Language Problems	<u>10</u>	<u>2.6</u>
Total	378	100.0%

Students thought that the Foreign Student Office and the Foreign Student Adviser should function to help Foreign Students adjust to the Canadian society and explain Canada and all its idiosyncracies to Foreign Students. Better than half of the respondents indicated this. Roughly twenty percent of the respondents thought that the Foreign Student Office should be an administrative office, e.g., keeping records of students, distributing the grant cheques to the students, dispensing

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information, etc. Twenty percent of the respondents indicated that the Foreign Student Adviser should be an adviser on either personal or academic problems.

A Further Look at the Foreign Student

There were additional questions in the questionnaire which provided more information about foreign students. Three out of four of the responding Foreign Students have been in Canada five year or less. This datum was even more remarkable when the responding foreign students were divided by the status of their visas. Most of the CIDA students and the other Foreign Students with a Student Visa have been at the University of Alberta for only a few years, while the majority of students with a Landed-Immigrant status have been on campus three years or more.

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Table 10

"15. How many years have you been living in Canada?"

<u>Years</u>	<u>CIDA</u>		<u>FOR:SV¹</u>		<u>FOR:LI¹</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
1	9	20%	20	27%	10	6%	39	13%
2	22	55	41	55	11	6	74	25
3	4	10	9	12	38	21	51	17
4	6	15	2	3	39	22	47	16
5			2	3	20	11	22	8
6			1	1	19	11	20	7
7					9	5	9	3
8					11	6	11	4
9					1	1	1	1
10-15					8	5	8	2
16-25					10	5	10	3
26+					1	1	1	1
TOTAL	41	100%	75	100%	177	100%	293	100%

"18. Counting this year, how many years have you been a student at the U. of A.?"

<u>Year</u>	<u>CIDA</u>		<u>FOR:SV</u>		<u>FOR:LI¹</u>	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
First Year	10	25%	35	46%	35	20%
Second Year	20	50	39	38	39	23
Three years	5	12 ^s	7	9	46	27
Four years	5	12 ^s	3	4	34	20
More than four years	0	0	2	3	19	10
Total	40	100	76	100	173	100

¹ FOR:SV = Foreign Students under a Student Visa; FOR:LI = Foreign Students with Landed Immigrant status.

Marital Status

Almost one half of the responding CIDA students in the

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survey are married. In contrast, more than two-thirds of the other Foreign Students are single.

Table 11

"2a. Marital Status"

	<u>CIDA</u>		<u>FOR:SV¹</u>		<u>FOR:LI¹</u>	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
Married	19	48%	18	24%	52	30%
Single	21	52	55	72	117	67
Other	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	40	100%	76	100%	174	100%

"2b. If married, are your spouse and children with you in Canada?"

	<u>CIDA</u>		<u>FOR:SV¹</u>		<u>FOR:LI¹</u>	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
Yes	5	26%	11	61%	48	92%
No	<u>14</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
Total	19	100%	18	100%	52	100%

Although proportionately more CIDA students are married, a smaller percentage of these CIDA married students have their spouses and/or families with them.

Orientation Seminars

Roughly half of the CIDA students had attended the Foreign Student Orientation, while only a quarter or less of the Foreign Students in the remaining groups attended either the Freshman or Foreign Student Orientation.

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Table 12

Orientation Seminars

"11. Did you attend the Freshman Orientation program when you first arrived at the U. of A.?"

	<u>CIDA</u>		<u>FOR:SV¹</u>		<u>FOR:LI¹</u>	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
Yes	14	35%	10	13%	13	7%
No	<u>26</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>161</u>	<u>93</u>
Total	40	100%	75	100%	174	100%

"12. Did you attend a Foreign Student Orientation when you first arrived at the U. of A.?"

Yes	22	55%	15	20%	12	7%
No	<u>18</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>93</u>
Total	40	100%	76	100%	174	100%

¹ FOR:SV = Foreign Students under a Student Visa; FOR:LI = Foreign Students with Landed Immigrant status.

Question 13 was an open-ended query of the Foreign Students' evaluation of the orientation seminars. A total of forty-eight students gave comments which could be placed into a five item scale, ranging from "Excellent" to "Useless". The modal evaluative response was "Very Good". Other Foreign Students merely expressed how the orientation seminar helped them. Most saw the orientation seminars as a good introduction to the University.

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Table 13

"13. If you attended either Orientation, perhaps you could comment on its value to you."

	<u>CIDA</u>	<u>FOR:SV</u> ¹	<u>FOR:LI</u> ¹
Excellent	0	0	1
Very Good	13	13	8
Good	3	1	0
Fair	1	1	1
Useless	1	1	0
No Answer	2	1	1
Total	20	17	11

¹ FOR:SV = Foreign Students under a Student Visa; FOR:LI = Foreign Students with Landed Immigrant status.

The Experiences of Foreign Students

Question 28 of the questionnaire specifically asked Foreign Students what kinds of problems they encountered when they first arrived in Canada. The greatest difficulty experienced when first arriving in Canada was orienting oneself to the city of Edmonton. Fifty-seven percent of the 295 Foreign Students experienced this problem. The next greatest difficulty encountered was of course selection, where slightly better than half of the Foreign Students in the survey reported having this problem. The third most frequently mentioned problem was making friends; followed very closely by obtaining a place to live and becoming oriented to the University of Alberta campus. Problems with financial aspects of living seemed to have been of minor importance, for only 17% of the respondents had difficulty

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converting money into Canadian currency. Forty respondents (or 14%) had experienced problems getting credit from the bank and only 4% had difficulty establishing a bank account.

Table 14

"28a. When you first arrived in Canada, did you have any difficulty:....." Ranked from greatest difficulty to least, Non-Canadian Students

	<u>Num</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1. Learning your way around the city	169	57.3%
2. Course selection	145	50.3
3. Making friends	142	48.6
4. Finding a place to live	138	46.7
5. Learning your way around campus	133	45.4
6. Handling the language	109	37.0
7. Adjusting to the food	91	31.0
8. Converting money to Canadian currency	50	17.1
9. Getting credit on a loan	40	13.9
10. Establishing a bank account	11	3.8

The second half of this question was open ended. In Table 15 the responses of the CIDA students are separated from those of the other Foreign Students. In general, Foreign Students seem to have a great deal of difficulty getting a job either for experience or for money. One respondent on a Student Visa said he was refused a professional internship because it was judged

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to be gainful employment. This has hurt those who are not CIDA students more than it did those who are. One personal problem, difficulty in making friends, emerges in both groups of Foreign Students. Note that items 2 and 4 of Table 15 below [getting along with Canadian Students and Being out of one's social milieu], when taken together, would out-rank the first most frequently mentioned difficulty. Twelve of the 41 CIDA students and 19 of the 268 Foreign Students had reported experiencing this problem with Canadian Students.

Table 15

"28b. Have there been other difficulties you've experienced or are now experiencing? If so, please describe."
Ranked in descending order.

	<u>CIDA</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Tot</u>	<u>%</u>
1. Getting a job for experience or money	1	27	28	29.3%
2. Getting along with Canadian Students	10	12	22	22.9
3. Academic Problems*	5	12	17	17.8
4. I am out of my social milieu	2	7	9	7.3
5. Language problems	1	5	6	6.3
6.5 Discrimination from nonacademic sources	0	5	5	5.2
6.5 Physically cold climate	1	4	5	5.2
8. Customs and Immigration Bureaucracy	0	2	2	2.1
9. Finding a babysitter	0	1	1	1.0

* i.e., Can't get into the faculty of my choice; All the red tape at registration time; Losses of credits when transferring to the University of Alberta; Multiple choice examinations (some students apparently have only written essay examinations); Eligibility for a Canadian Student Loan; and Too much homework.

This finding was corroborated by the responses to question 29, where the Foreign Students were asked if they ever felt any discrimination against them. Both the CIDA students and the

REPORT ON THE SURVEY OF FOREIGN STUDENTS

other Foreign Students felt that there was more discrimination from their fellow students than from teachers; and more discrimination from townspeople than from either businessmen or government officials.

Recapitulation

The responses by the Foreign Students corroborate the observations of the members of the Foreign Student Office. Students under CIDA sponsorship are in general older, married and in the program of their choice. They were more inclined to attend orientation seminars, probably because English is not their mother tongue (hence the desire for assistance in adjusting to a strange environment), and because they probably saw this as something their sponsor wished them to do. Like the other Foreign Students, the CIDA students reported that the orientation was helpful in acquainting them with the University of Alberta campus. This may account for the indication that orientation to the city was the first ranked problem of newly arrived Foreign Students, but orientation to the campus was fifth ranked (see Table 14 above).

Appendix A

TABLE A1

The Faculty or School of the Respondents and the corresponding enrolments of all full-time Winter Day Students, 1974-75

Faculty or School	(1) All Students Enroled	(2) Less Foreign Student	(3) All Canadian Students Enroled	(4) Canadians Responded	(5) CIDA Students Who Responded	(6) Other Foreign Students Who Responded
Agriculture	762	99	663	10	7	10
Arts	2853	218	2635	53	0	18
Business & Commerce	1774	349	1425	29	1	41
College Universitaire St. Jean	146	8	138	3	0	0
Dentistry & Dental Hygiene	266	11	255	7	0	1
Education	3676	202	3474	81	11	16
Engineering	1280	229	1051	27	6	22
Graduate Studies	1834	722	1112	27	10	70
Household Economics	400	31	369	7	0	0
Law	472	14	458	11	0	3
Library Science	58	8	50	1	1	0
Medicine & Med. Lab. Science	812	105	707	21	0	13
Nursing	307	8	299	7	0	1
Pharmacy	378	11	367	4	0	3
Physical Education	740	29	711	18	0	6
Rehabilitation Medicine	298	20	278	7	0	3
Science	3083	542	2541	55	4	43

When the Faculties & Schools with ten or fewer respondents were placed into an "other" category*, the Chi-square statistics are:

Table A2

Chi-Square comparisons of:

	<u>Chi-Square</u>	<u>Degrees of Freedom</u>	<u>Probability</u>
Canadians in the Sample to the Total Canadian Student Body (Col. 3 of Table A1)	9.95	9	.35
CIDA Students to the Total Enrolments in Selected Schools & Faculties (Col. 5 of Table A1) **	16.36	3	.001
Other Foreign Students to the Total Student Body	5.28	9	.79
All Foreign Students to the Total Student Body	11.76	9	.28

* The Faculties and Schools of Dentistry & Dental Hygiene; Household Economics; Law; Library Science; Nursing; Pharmacy and Rehabilitation Medicine were combined for all paired comparisons except that of the CIDA Students.

** Agriculture, Education, Engineering and Graduate Studies only.

Canadian students in the sample, when compared to all the full-time Canadian students on campus, are well represented as regards faculty enrolment. So, too, are all the non-Canadian students not under CIDA sponsorship. The CIDA students, because of their small number and their emphasis on practical subjects, are not representative of the foreign student population on campus.

Age

The average age of all full-time students on campus, both Canadian and non-Canadian, is a little over 22 years old. The age of the responding Canadian students in the survey was also just over 22 years old. CIDA students who responded, and the other Foreign students as well, were much older. CIDA students, on the average, were nearly seven years older, and the non-CIDA students were almost three years older than the Canadian respondents.

Table A3

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Standard Deviation</u>
All full-time students	19139	22.37 yrs.	5.04 yrs.
Canadians who responded	373	22.29	4.80
CIDA respondents	38	29.08	5.43
Other Foreign student respondents	259	25.26	5.57
All Foreign student respondents	297	25.75	5.69

Table A4

Sex

The sexual gender of all the full-time Canadian Students on campus, all the non-Canadian Students, CIDA Students and other Foreign Students, 1974-75

	(1) All Full-time Winter Day Students	(2) All Non- Canadian Students	(3) All Canadian Students	(4) Canadians in the Sample	(5) CIDA Students	(6) Other Foreign Students	(7) Total of Foreign Students in the Sample
Male	11,446	856	10,590	216	34	188	222
Female	7,693	261	7,432	158	6	73	79
Total	19,139	1,117	18,022	374	40	261	301

Table A5

A Chi-Square comparison of the respondents to their respective stratum.

	Chi-Square	Degrees of Freedom	Probability
Canadians in the Sample to all Canadians	0.15	1	0.70
CIDA Students to all Foreign Students	1.52	1	0.22
Other Foreign Students to all Foreign Students	2.44	1	0.12
CIDA & Foreign Students to all Foreign Students	1.08	1	0.30

Table A6

Marital Status

The Marital Status of all full-time students on campus and of the three categories of respondents.

	(1) All Full Time Students	(2) Canadians in the Sample	(3) CIDA Students	(4) Other Foreign Students	(5) Total CIDA & Foreign
Married	3,474	77	19	75	94
Single & Other	<u>15,665</u>	<u>299</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>207</u>
Total	19,139	376	40	261	301

Table A7

Paired comparisons of categories of respondents to the total full-time student body.

All Full-time Students to:	Chi-Square	Degrees of Freedom	Probability
Canadian Students	1.34	1	0.25
CIDA Students	23.08	1	0.001
Other Foreign Students	19.30	1	0.001
CIDA & Foreign Students	33.82	1	0.001

Appendix B

NB: In this, the shortened version of the report, Appendix B, over 100 pages long, has been deleted.

Appendix C



March 5, 1975

Dear Foreign Student:

Three thousand full-time students enrolled at the University of Alberta are either Landed Immigrants or on Student Visa status. This is approximately one student out of every seven full-time students currently enrolled.

As Foreign Student Advisers, we and our colleagues are interested in learning about some of the programmes which would be of value to the foreign student population. One possible programme is to establish an International Centre. An International Centre would be some space on campus, or just off campus, devoted to (1) helping new students get oriented to Edmonton and the University of Alberta, (2) providing meeting places, both formal and informal, official and social, for individuals from the same region of the globe, (3) organizing cross-cultural learning experiences, and (4) providing an atmosphere where Canadian and International students could meet.

In addition to this information, we would like to know something more about the attitudes and experiences of a foreign student. What is it like to live in an unfamiliar environment? What kinds of problems does the person with a Landed Immigration or Student Visa status experience while at the University of Alberta?

Indeed, bringing about any improvement, the foreign student must inevitably play an active role. It is towards this end that we seek your co-operation and assistance by providing us with the information asked for in the enclosed questionnaire.

Clearly some of the questions will not apply to you. We have had a difficult time drafting these questions because the foreign student runs the gamut from those students on a Student Visa who consider themselves fundamentally non-Canadians, temporarily residing here, to Landed Immigrants who have lived here many years and consider Alberta to be their home, but because they are not yet 21, cannot be naturalized. As you can see, this is a very diverse group. Try to answer as many questions as you possibly can.

Since it is not feasible to include in this survey all foreign students, a random sample of foreign students has been selected and your

name has fallen in this sample. In order that our results be reliable, it is important to obtain full co-operation of all participants. This involves simply doing your best to answer all questions as frankly and as honestly as you possibly can.

The Office of Institutional Research and Planning has agreed to undertake this study. If you have any questions with regard to this study, get in touch with that office. The phone number is 432-5295. That office will take responsibility for mailing the questionnaire to you, for coding and tabulating the results and for preparing a report of the survey to us. In this way anonymity will be preserved.

Please take a few minutes to help us.

Thank you,



R.C.W. Hooper
Dean of Students



Ruth Groberman
Foreign Student Adviser

RG/vs

Encl.

FOREIGN STUDENT SURVEY

Basic Information

Please check the appropriate circle (e.g.,)

Sex

- Female
- Male

Marital Status

- Married
- Single
- Other

2b. If married, are your spouse and children with you in Canada?

- Yes
- No

Number of Children

- None
- One
- Two or Three
- More than Three

Your age at last Birthday?

_____ years.

Immigration Status

- Student Visa
- Landed Immigrant
- Canadian Citizen
- Other

Is English your mother tongue?

- Yes (Go to question 8)
- No

6b. If no, how fluently do you speak, read and write English?

	Very Fluent			Not Fluent	
Speak	<input type="radio"/>				
Read	<input type="radio"/>				
Write	<input type="radio"/>				

7. Were you advised to take an English course at the University of Alberta?

- Yes
- No

8. Your Nationality?

9. Your Faculty or School at the U. of A.?

10a. Is this the degree program of your choice?

- Yes (Go to question 11)
- No

10b. If no, why?

11. Did you attend the Freshman Orientation program when you first arrived at the U. of A.?

- Yes
- No

Did you attend a Foreign Student Orientation when you first arrived at the U of A?

- ① Yes
- ② No (Go to question 14)

If you attended either Orientation, perhaps you could comment on its value to you.

Degree sought?

- ① Diploma
- ② Bachelor
- ③ Master (including LL.M.)
- ④ LL.B., D.D.S., or M.D.)
- ⑤ Ph. D.
- ⑥ Other

How many years have you been living in Canada?

_____ years.

Have you ever gone to another school in Canada (e.g., high school, college or University)?

- ① Yes
- ② No

Have you ever gone to a school or college outside your own country?

- ① Yes
- ② No (Go to question 18)

If Yes, where and for how long?

_____ Location; _____ Years

18. Counting this year, how many years have you been a student at the U. of A.?

- ① This is my first year
- ② Two years
- ③ Three years
- ④ Four years
- ⑤ More than four years

II. Questions on Attitudes

19a. Where are you now living?

- ① Lister Hall Residences
- ② Michener Park
- ③ H.U.B.
- ④ Co-operative Housing
- ⑤ Basement Suite or Room
- ⑥ Friends or Relatives
- ⑦ Your own apartment or home
- ⑧ Your Parent's home
- ⑨ Other (specify)

19b. Do you like it?

- ① Yes (Go to question 20)
- ② No

19c. If No, why not?

20a. Aside from members of your family, how many people from your country do you personally know who are living in Edmonton?

- ① Over 100
- ② between 50 and 99
- ③ between 25 and 49
- ④ between 10 and 24
- ⑤ between 1 and 9
- ⑥ None, besides myself (go to question 21)

How often do you have a chance to visit with these people?

- Daily Not at all
- ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

The University of Alberta may wish to set aside some space for an International Centre. If such space were available for an International Centre, who do you think should be entitled to use it?

- ① Foreign students only
- ② Foreign students and invited guests only.
- ③ All students on campus
- ④ All students and all faculty on campus.

Comments: _____

What do you think an International Centre should do?

Would you support the operation of an International Centre through an optional \$10.00 student fee assessment (as one now pays for membership in G.S.A., for example)?

- ① Yes (Go to question 24a)
- ② No

If no, why?

24a. Do you think it would be worthwhile if people from other cultures, including yours, were to put on a display or program so that others may learn about those countries and their cultures?

- ① Yes
- ② No (Go to question 25)

24b. If Yes, how much time per week for three weeks would you be willing to give to such a program?

- ① An hour or less a week.
- ② Two to three hours a week.
- ③ Four to five hours a week.
- ④ Six to ten hours a week.
- ⑤ More than 10 hours a week.

25a. What is your favorite leisure time activity?

25b. Is that what you usually do in your home country?

- ① Yes
- ② No

26a. Do you think that the education and training you have received at the U. of A. will be of any use to you in your home country?

- ① Yes (Go to question 27)
- ② No

26b. If no, why?

27. How comfortable do you feel about approaching your professors with academic problems?

- Very comfortable Very uncomfortable
- ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

28a. When you first arrived in Canada, did you have any difficulty: (Check one circle for each number.)

	Yes, Lots	Yes, Some	No Trouble at all	Does Not Apply
a) Converting money to Canadian currency	①	②	③	④
b) Establishing a Bank Account	①	②	③	④
c) Getting credit on a loan	①	②	③	④
d) Finding a place to live	①	②	③	④
e) Adjusting to the food	①	②	③	④
f) Learning your way around campus	①	②	③	④
g) Learning your way around the city	①	②	③	④
h) Handling the language	①	②	③	④
i) Course selection	①	②	③	④
j) Making Friends	①	②	③	④

28b. Have there been other difficulties you've experienced or are now experiencing? If so, please describe.

29. Have you ever felt any discrimination against you because you were a stranger in this land?

	Yes, a great deal	Yes, some	Only minor incidents	No
a) From teachers	①	②	③	④
b) From other students	①	②	③	④
c) From people off-campus	①	②	③	④
d) From local Businessmen	①	②	③	④
e) From Government Officials	①	②	③	④
f) From Employers	①	②	③	④

②



March 10, 1975

Dear Canadian:

You no doubt are wondering why you have been asked to complete a Foreign Student Questionnaire. A small sample (about one percent) of Canadian students have been selected so that we may have the Canadian as well as the foreign student attitude towards an International Centre on campus, and other issues affecting all students.

As Foreign Student Advisers, we are always interested in finding ways we can better serve the foreign student population. One possible way is to establish an International Centre. An International Centre would be some space on campus, or just off campus, devoted to (1) helping new students get oriented to Edmonton and the University of Alberta, (2) providing meeting places, both formal and informal, official and social, for individuals from the same region of the globe, (3) organizing cross-cultural learning experiences, and (4) providing an atmosphere where Canadian and foreign students could meet.

Clearly some of the questions will not apply to you. We have had a difficult time drafting these questions because the foreign student runs the gamut from those students on a Student Visa who consider themselves fundamentally non-Canadians temporarily residing here, to Landed Immigrants who have lived here many years and consider Alberta to be their home, but because they are not yet 21, cannot be naturalized. As you can see, this is a very diverse group. Try to answer as many questions as you can.

The Office of Institutional Research and Planning is conducting this survey. That office is responsible for mailing the questionnaire, for coding and tabulating the results and for preparing a report of the survey to us. If you have any questions about the survey please get in touch with that office at 432-5295.

Please take a few minutes to help us.

Thank you,

R.C.W. Hooper
Dean of Men &
Foreign Student Adviser

Ruth Groberman
Foreign Student Adviser

RG/vs
Encl.

FOREIGN STUDENT SURVEY

Basic Information

Please check the appropriate circle (e.g.,)

Sex

- Female
- Male

Marital Status

- Married
- Single
- Other

2b. If married, are your spouse and children with you in Canada?

- Yes
- No

Number of Children

- None
- One
- Two or Three
- More than Three

Your age at last Birthday?

_____ years.

Immigration Status

- Student Visa
- Landed Immigrant
- Canadian Citizen
- Other

Is English your mother tongue?

- Yes (Go to question 8)
- No

6b. If no, how fluently do you speak, read and write English?

	Very Fluent			Not Fluent	
Speak	<input type="radio"/>				
Read	<input type="radio"/>				
Write	<input type="radio"/>				

~~7. Were you advised to take an English course at the University of Alberta?~~

- ~~- Yes
 - No~~

8. Your Nationality?

9. Your Faculty or School at the U. of A.?

10a. Is this the degree program of your choice?

- Yes (Go to question 11)
- No

10b. If no, why?

11. Did you attend the Freshman Orientation program when you first arrived at the U. of A.?

- Yes
- No

~~2. Did you attend a Foreign Student Orientation when you first arrived at the U of A?~~

- ~~① Yes~~
- ~~② No (Go to question 14)~~

3. If you attended either Orientation, perhaps you could comment on its value to you.

4. Degree sought?

- ① Diploma
- ② Bachelor
- ③ Master (including LL.M.)
- ④ LL.B., D.D.S., or M.D.)
- ⑤ Ph. D.
- ⑥ Other

5. How many years have you been living in Canada?

_____ years.

6. Have you ever gone to another school in Canada (e.g., high school, college or University)

- ① Yes
- ② No

a. Have you ever gone to a school or college outside your own country?

- ① Yes
- ② No (Go to question 18)

b. If Yes, where and for how long?

_____ Location; _____ Years

18. Counting this year, how many years have you been a student at the U. of A.?

- ① This is my first year
- ② Two years
- ③ Three years
- ④ Four years
- ⑤ More than four years

II. Questions on Attitudes

19a. Where are you now living?

- ① Lister Hall Residences
- ② Michener Park
- ③ H.U.B.
- ④ Co-operative Housing
- ⑤ Basement Suite or Room
- ⑥ Friends or Relatives
- ⑦ Your own apartment or home
- ⑧ Your Parent's home
- ⑨ Other (specify)

19b. Do you like it?

- ① Yes (Go to question 20)
- ② No

19c. If No, why not?

20a. Aside from members of your family, how many people from your country do you personally know who are living in Edmonton?

- ① Over 100
- ② between 50 and 99
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- ④ between 10 and 24
- ⑤ between 1 and 9
- ⑥ None, besides myself (go to question 21)

How often do you have a chance to visit with these people?

- Daily Not at all
- ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

The University of Alberta may wish to set aside some space for an International Centre. If such space were available for an International Centre, who do you think should be entitled to use it?

- ① Foreign students only
- ② Foreign students and invited guests only.
- ③ All students on campus
- ④ All students and all faculty on campus.

Comments: _____

What do you think an International Centre should do?

Would you support the operation of an International Centre through an optional \$10.00 student fee assessment (as one now pays for membership in G.S.A., for example)?

- ① Yes (Go to question 24a)
- ② No

If no, why?

24a. Do you think it would be worthwhile if people from other cultures, including yours, were to put on a display or program so that others may learn about those countries and their cultures?

- ① Yes
- ② No (Go to question 25)

24b. If Yes, how much time per week for three weeks would you be willing to give to such a program?

- ① An hour or less a week.
- ② Two to three hours a week.
- ③ Four to five hours a week.
- ④ Six to ten hours a week.
- ⑤ More than 10 hours a week.

25a. What is your favorite leisure time activity?

~~25b. Is that what you usually do in your home country?~~

- ~~① Yes~~
- ~~② No~~

~~26a. Do you think that the education and training you have received at the U. of A. will be of any use to you in your home country?~~

- ~~① Yes (Go to question 27)~~
- ~~② No~~

~~26b. If no, why?~~

~~_____~~

27. How comfortable do you feel about approaching your professors with academic problems?

- Very comfortable Very uncomfortable
- ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

28a. When you first arrived in Canada, did you have any difficulty: (Check one circle for each number.)

	Yes, Lots	Yes, Some	No Trouble at all	Does Not Appl
a) Converting money to Canadian currency	①	②	③	④
b) Establishing a Bank Account	①	②	③	④
c) Getting credit on a loan	①	②	③	④
d) Finding a place to live	①	②	③	④
e) Adjusting to the food	①	②	③	④
f) Learning your way around campus	①	②	③	④
g) Learning your way around the city	①	②	③	④
h) Handling the language	①	②	③	④
i) Course selection	①	②	③	④
j) Making Friends	①	②	③	④

28b. Have there been other difficulties you've experienced or are now experiencing? If so, please describe.

SKIP THIS

29. Have you ever felt any discrimination against you because you were a stranger in this land?

	Yes, a great deal	Yes, some	Only minor incidents	No
a) From teachers	①	②	③	④
b) From other students	①	②	③	④
c) From people off-campus	①	②	③	④
d) From local Businessmen	①	②	③	④
e) From Government Officials	①	②	③	④
f) From Employers	①	②	③	④

②

Do you think the rules imposed upon a student under a Student Visa are just and fair?

- ① Yes (Go to question 31a)
- ② No

Could you cite some examples of how the rules are unjust?

Do you know if Academic Counselling is available to you?

- ① Yes
- ② No (Go to question 32)

Have you ever used it?

- ① Yes
- ② No (Go to question 32)

If Yes, how valuable was it?

Very Useless Very Valuable

- ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

How well prepared were you to do the academic work now expected of you?

Completely Unprepared Completely Prepared

- ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

What are your plans after graduation?

- ① Return home
- ② Pursue further study in Canada
- ③ Pursue further study elsewhere
- ④ Find a job in Canada
- ⑤ Other (specify) _____

34a. Have you ever gone to the Foreign Student Adviser's Office?

- ① Yes
- ② No (Go to question 33)

34b. If Yes, for what reason?

- ① Information
- ② Help with an academic problem.
- ③ Help with an Immigration problem.
- ④ Help with a personal problem.
- ⑤ Information on Foreign Study, work or travel programs. (e.g., C.U.S.O.)
- ⑥ Other (specify) _____

35. What do you think a Foreign Student Office does?

36. What do you think a Foreign Student Office should do?

38. These same adjectives could be used to describe the people from your country. Please do so.

In general, my fellow Canadians are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Honest | Dishonest |
| ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ | ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ |
| Aggressive | Retiring |
| ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ | ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ |
| Quiet | Noisy |
| ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ | ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ |
| Superficial | Sincere |
| ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ | ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ |
| Pessimistic | Optimistic |
| ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ | ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ |
| Dependent | Independent |
| ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ | ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ |
| Friendly | Distant |
| ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ | ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ |
| Internationally
Oriented | Locally
Oriented |
| ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ | ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ |
| Introverted | Extroverted |
| ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ | ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ |
| Prejudiced | Tolerant |
| ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ | ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ |
| Co-operative | Uncooperative |
| ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ | ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ |
| Anti-social | Social |
| ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ | ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ |

THANK YOU