

Crossing Borders

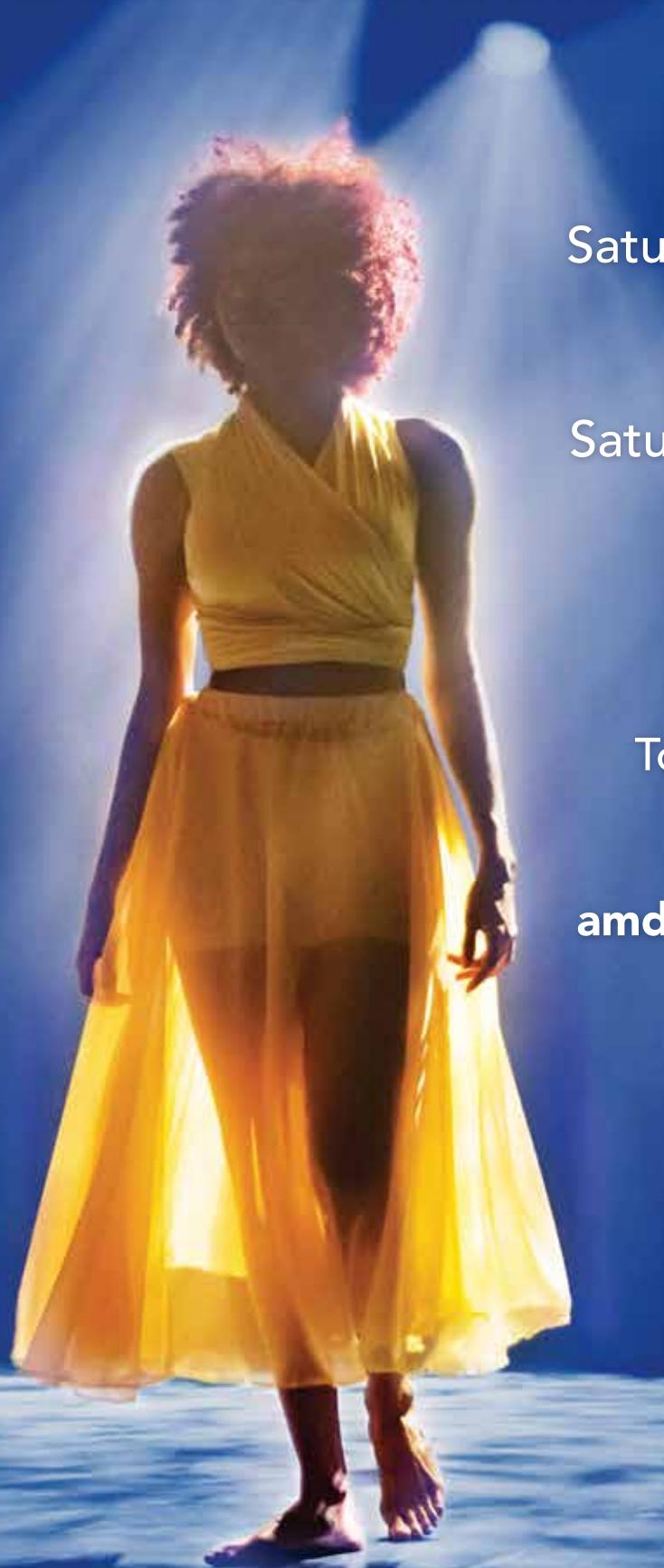
MAGAZINE



A supplement to Canadian School Counsellor

*Study
in
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DID YOU KNOW?

How COVID-19 Has Affected International Students Studying in the United States?

The Institute of International Education (IIE) is studying the effects of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on international educational exchange at U.S. higher education institutions and the impact on students looking to study abroad.

Through a research and survey report titled: **COVID-19 SNAPSHOT SURVEY SERIES**, insight into the short and long term effects of the Coronavirus and its impact are discussed.

Following are excerpts from the report titled: From Emergency Response to Planning for Future Student Mobility ~ Mirka Martel, Ph.D.

Institution Plans for Summer and Fall 2020

We first asked institutions whether they had made a decision on the mode of instruction for the rest of the calendar year 2020. While most institutions had confirmed their plans for summer 2020, the fall semester still remains uncertain.

Mode of Instruction in Summer and Fall 2020



While most respondent institutions have made plans about their mode of instruction for summer 2020, plans for fall 2020 are less clear. Anecdotal evidence from open-ended responses suggests that the decision to move instruction online was made more quickly for the summer because institutions have fewer students enrolled. The majority of colleges and universities have not made a decision on the mode of instruction for fall, likely due to the evolving nature of COVID-19 and how businesses proceed to open up within states amidst social distancing.

Small institutions (less than 5,000 students) were more likely to make decisions around mode of instruction in summer 2020 than larger institutions ($p < .005$). The only institution to indicate that in-person instruction would take place in summer 2020 has less than 5,000 students. Public institutions were significantly more likely to make a decision on summer 2020 than private institutions ($p < .01$). Public institutions were more likely to choose a hybrid option for the summer semester.

There were no differences in institutions' decision-making for the fall semester by institution size, location, or institution type (public/private). At the time of the survey, the five institutions that indicated they would be entirely virtual in the fall were Master's Colleges or Universities or Special Focus Institutions. This will likely evolve as institutions make decisions in the coming months.

International Students in Summer and Fall 2020

These are all considerations that U.S. higher education institutions are now making in planning for international student enrollment, whether in-person on campus or virtual. This section includes data on the plans respondent institutions are making to conduct outreach and recruitment, process international student applications, and anticipate international students on their campuses in the semesters to come.

Outreach and Recruitment Effects of COVID-19

The spring months were a time to focus on extensive outreach and recruitment of international students around the world, however the COVID-19 pandemic impacted much of the planned travel for outreach and recruitment. **Over 63% of institutions indicated that recruitment travel was canceled, and 57% of institutions canceled recruitment events.** To address these changes, many colleges and universities (78%) quickly pivoted to offering virtual means to reach international students and providing ways for students to learn about their institutions despite the inability to recruit in-person.



Application and Selection of International Students in Summer and Fall

As early as February, U.S. institutions were putting measures in place to ensure that international students would be able to apply to their campuses, and that, once they applied and were selected, they would have opportunities for admission. This has come even more into focus as all campuses may face decreasing enrollment numbers in the face of an economic downturn. Other concerns included students not being able to obtain official transcripts for applications due to school closures, and students not being able to attend visa interviews. To address some of these concerns, 84% of institutions enacted new measures to assist in international student recruitment.



44% Allowing online testing results in lieu of in-person testing

21% Waiving transcripts and/or other academic credentials

26% Waiving standardized testing requirements (e.g.,SAT) in lieu of other academic credentials

27% Offering online submission of applications

36% Extending application deadlines

42% Increased updates and notifications to accepted students

27% Extending deadlines to accept admissions offer

40% Offering options for accepted students to defer enrollment to future

In addition to the measures reported, institutions also indicated that they were waiving application fees, acceptance fees and deferment fees, giving students more flexibility to apply and confirm enrollment. Other institutions also extended their deferment deadlines to give students more time to come to a decision.

Will Students Come to Campus in the Summer?

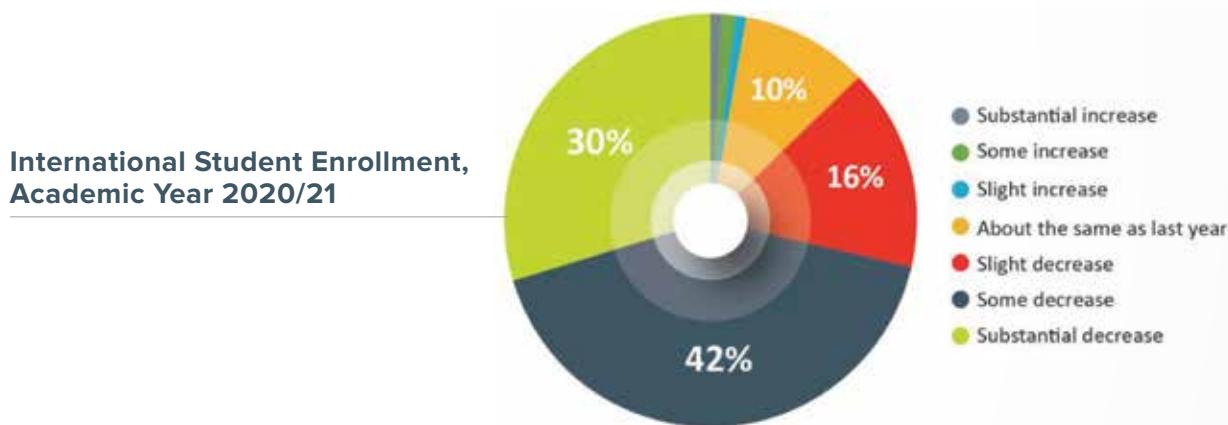
Respondent institutions shared their outlook on international students being able to come to their campuses in-person in summer 2020. Most institutions indicate that at least some of their international students will not be able to attend in-person this fall, primarily due to delays in obtaining visas in time to travel, or continuing travel restrictions. It is important to note that this analysis focuses specifically on attendance in-person.

68% of respondent institutions who plan to have international students enrolled in summer 2020 anticipate some students will not be able to come to their campus.

For the summer semester or term, **78% of institutions plan to offer online enrollment to these students**, while **72% are allowing students to defer enrollment until the fall 2020 semester**. A smaller proportion (19%) are offering deferment to summer 2021 or beyond. Only 13% are offering refunds.

Will Students Enroll and Come to Campus in the Fall?

While international offices are making a concerted effort to promote international student opportunities on their campus, **88% of respondent institutions anticipate that international student enrollment will decrease in the 2020/21 academic year**.



70% of respondent institutions indicated that they anticipate that some international students will not be able to come to their campus in-person in fall 2020, primarily due to ongoing COVID-19-related travel restrictions or visa delays. It is important to note that this question asked specifically about students being able to attend classes in-person.

A smaller subset of institutions provided specific estimates of how many international students they expected to be impacted. Our analysis indicates that these **institutions anticipate that approximately 16% of their international student body will not be able to come to campus in-person in fall 2020**.

Most institutions (75%) are giving students the option to defer enrollment to later in the fall or to spring 2021. While respondent institutions plan to give options for online enrollment, the relatively lower numbers in comparison to the summer semester indicate that institutions may still be unsure how many of their course offerings will be online in the fall. As a result, 52% of reported institutions indicate that they plan to offer students online enrollment in the fall, whereas 42% indicate that they will offer online instruction until the student can come to campus in-person.

We've included excerpts of this report, touching on the areas that most affect the Canadians seeking to study in the United States; the full report can be viewed online at: <https://www.iie.org/Connect/COVID-19/COVID-19-Snapshot-Survey-Series>



Study Destination: **Hawaii**

Why not study in **Paradise**





By Sean Dolan

You'd be hard pressed to encounter anyone who has been to the Hawaiian Islands who would have a disparaging thing to say about the place. The **natural beauty**, the **diverse culture** and the **relaxed** approach to life make it a destination of choice for many travellers. So, if you were counselling a student who is seeking a bit of adventure abroad, **Hawaii could be a fantastic choice.**

Of the 26,000 Canadians who choose to study in the United States every year, only a few make their way to the Aloha State. Comprised of eight major islands and a geography of volcanic hills, coral seascapes and lush tropical forests, Hawaii is considered a nature lover's dream come true.



Cultural considerations

When advising students on post-secondary destinations, counsellors often play the role of friendly interrogator with questions like:

- What is your area of interest?
- Are you willing to study away from home?
- Can your parents afford the additional expenses of studying abroad?

If a student expresses an interest in studying beyond Canada's borders, the counsellor will go deeper with their questions:

- Do you want to attend a school that is similar or different from what you would experience in Canada?
- Are you comfortable attending a school where the language and culture might be vastly different from your own?
- Are you looking for an adventure in addition to a program that suits your needs?

Once a counsellor gets to the root of what a student wants for their academic future, they can advise them accordingly. If the student is considering taking their academic journey to Hawaii, the counsellor can let them know that Hawaiian post-secondary institutions offer a wide variety of programs. While tuition and travel would not be cheap, the "culture shock" would not be too overwhelming based on the fact that Hawaii's working language is English and their society provides a mix of modern U.S. and Indigenous Hawaiian culture. Couple this with the fact that Hawaiians are a famously welcoming and tolerant people and it becomes apparent that Canadian students would be in a unique position to not only receive a quality education but also find themselves enriched by the Hawaiian philosophy of living as worry free a life as possible.



Go PUBLIC!

The Hawaiian post-secondary public education system is inclusive and diverse. Known as the University of Hawaii System (UH System), programming is offered on all of the main Hawaiian islands with choices ranging from certificate to doctorate studies. The key to the UH System is accessibility. It seems that the founders of the system had a simple premise in mind when they devised the current set up in 1907. While most American states allow for a variety of post-secondary institutions to run independently in direct competition with one another, Hawaii chose to work in a unified manner to deliver higher learning to everyone. So, within the UH System, you have the prestigious University of Hawaii at Manoa that offers



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an elite range of undergraduate and graduate programs on the island of Oahu while over on the island of Kauai you have Kauai Community College that offers a myriad of technology accreditation programs as well as degree offerings. In all, there are ten campuses in the UH System that deliver opportunities for all learners – from philosophers to scientists and accountants to carpenters. In all, around 50,000 students are engaged in higher learning throughout the Hawaiian Islands via the UH System.

The cost?

While there are scholarship and student aid opportunities, it isn't cheap to go to school in the UH System (then again, it isn't cheap to go to school anywhere in North America).

By U.S. standards, tuition and the cost of living are considered reasonable. By Canadian standards, they would be considered quite pricey when you take into account the exchange rate. Undergraduate university programs at the UH Manoa campus cost over \$22,000 (all dollar amounts in CAD) for non-residents and over \$14,000 at the Hilo and West Oahu campuses. Those costs almost double depending on the program a student enrolls in when additional fees are taken into consideration. Meanwhile, the college campuses cost \$480 per course or roughly \$6,000 a year (again, costs go up with other fees and books). Room and board - whether residence on campus or an apartment off campus - can drive the total cost up to between \$40,000 and \$70,000 Canadian. Also, when you factor in travel to

and from Hawaii over the course of a degree, diploma or certificate program, one can see that studying in this isolated state can cost quite a bit of money. However, seeing that a post-secondary education in Canada can cost north of \$25,000 for students studying away from home, one has to wonder if Hawaii isn't worth the financial hit if you have the economic means to pull it off. There are also the intangibles: the social and life skills that come from studying abroad.



Go PRIVATE!

Students also have the option of attending private universities and colleges in Hawaii. The chart below provides a general comparison of three of these schools:

School	Overview	Cost	Programs
Brigham Young University – Hawaii	Operated by the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter-day Saints, BYU-Hawaii offers university programming to around 3,000 students from over 70 countries.	Tuition: \$8,000 Residence, books and fees: \$18,000	A wide range of arts, science and business programs with a compliment of religious education courses.
Chaminade University	A Roman Catholic university run by the Marianist order, Chaminade offers bachelor's and master's degree programs to around 2,000 students.	Tuition: \$30,000 Residence, books and fees: \$20,000	Programs of study include biology, business, criminal justice, education, forensic sciences, interior design, nursing, and religious studies
Hawaii Pacific University	A private university that offers undergraduate, graduate, and research programs to over 3,000 students.	Tuition: \$37,000 Residence, books and fees: \$22,000	Programs of study include business, social science, science and medicine.

The private universities and colleges face stiff competition from the UH System so they are motivated to deliver unique, high value programming that sets them apart.



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Highlights of the UH System:

- The University of Hawaii at Manoa is ranked 79th when compared to other public universities in the United States by U.S. News and World Report. The survey compares over 1,400 universities around the U.S.
- ★ UH Manoa also ranked 177th as the best value school and has the notable distinction of graduating students with a low debt level.
- ★ UH Manoa's business and engineering programs are in the top 150 in the U.S..
- In a comparison of western U.S. universities by U.S. News and World Report, the University of Hawaii at West Oahu ranks 4th among public universities.
- U.S. News and World Report identifies the University of Hawaii at Hilo as the most ethnically diverse campus in the U.S.
- UH Hilo is the only place in the nation where students can earn a master's degree in indigenous language studies

*based on the U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges Ranking 2020.

Once again, it should be noted that the UH System offers pretty much any program a student might want to take. Whether a student is looking to study liberal arts, accounting, automotive technology or animation – the UH System has it somewhere in its diverse, inclusive and generous course offerings.

Why Hawaii?

Why not Hawaii? Education is an investment in a person's future. It helps them set up the next stage of their life. Hawaii not only offers quality education in both the public and private realms, it also offers a Polynesian cultural experience that is founded on tolerance, acceptance and diversity. There is little doubt that Canadian students choosing to travel to Hawaii for their post-secondary learning will come back greatly enriched and changed forever. CB

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Student Spotlight: Nathalie de Rocquigny

All photos Courtesy of
Nathalie de Rocquigny

My name is Nathalie de Rocquigny, and I am from a small town one hour west of Winnipeg, Manitoba. I grew up on a dairy and grain farm where I discovered my love for agriculture and decided that it was the career path for me.

My secondary school was very small, only approximately 200 students from kindergarten to grade 12. As a result, they did not have many resources, especially when it came to post-secondary education and studying in other countries. The majority of students that graduated continued their education in Manitoba. It was very rare for anyone to leave the province. I thought that studying in the U.S would be beneficial to me because I would have the chance to explore and encounter different experiences while living in a country that was also similar to Canada. Even though I had the idea to study in the United States since I was 16, I decided it would be easiest to just stay home. I ended up attending university in Manitoba.

Fast forwarding to my third year of university, I finally made the decision that I should have years ago and that was to study in the United States. I was tired of having large class sizes where you could not even see the teacher from your seat, walking miles just to get to your next class, and most importantly, the cold weather that Manitoban winters bring. My mother was happy for me but my father was skeptical about my decision. He was worried that my future American degree would not be good enough for Canadian employers. Since this was such a big move for me, I was not sure how to tell people and did not want to draw too much attention to myself. I decided to wait until a few weeks prior to my departure, and received lots of love and good wishes from my friends and family.

Transferring to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo was incredibly easy. The international advisors were very kind and helpful. UH Hilo is a smaller campus, and this was beneficial to me because I was able to make connections with my professors and become more intrigued with their classes. There were many more opportunities to meet faculty, staff and students. In Winnipeg, it was almost impossible to make connections because there were very few opportunities. This helped me discover what I wanted to do in my career and to meet new people that would help me along the way.



"You may be a perfect fit for UH Hilo if you love nature, meeting new people, going on adventures and are interested in learning about Hawaiian culture."

The UH Hilo student rec center also had a program called 'Outdoor Edventures', where on the weekends you could sign up for field trips and tour different parts of the Big Island. This was my favorite part because I got to make friends and see the beautiful Hawai'i that I now get to call my home! It's hard to pick a favourite trip, but if I had to I think Hapuna Beach was the most beautiful! Hapuna is a large white sand beach with light blue water and gorgeous crashing waves.

In order to complete my requirements to graduate, I had to take either a dance or music course. This was much different than my old university, where I would instead be taking only major courses such as Biochemistry. The courses that I needed to graduate from UH Hilo were interesting but also fun. Because many of my courses from Manitoba transferred to UH Hilo, I was able to graduate one year earlier than I expected. This also saved me money! To meet the graduation requirements, I chose to take Ballet. The course was physically difficult but manageable and we all got the opportunity to be in the 25th anniversary of the Hawaiian Nutcracker! This was a lot of fun and I got to improve my dance skills.

UH Hilo is a research-oriented University, and in my first semester there I already learned the structure of a research proposal and participated in a symposium where I was able to share my research with other faculty members and students. I presented two separate research projects that I worked on in two of my classes. One of them was about marketing poinsettias in Hawai'i and which varieties were the most popular. In our horticulture class, we had three poinsettia sale days where we displayed the poinsettias at the school for buyers to view. We transplanted the poinsettias when they were young and grew them up until they changed to the colour red. I was very happy to see that all the poinsettias found a home before Christmas. The other project I worked on was for my agriculture sustainability class. At the beginning of the semester, we divided into groups and were given a garden plot to work on. I really enjoyed this hands-on learning because I got to see for myself how some different plants grow and cooperate with the elements, as opposed to just learning about it from a textbook. At the symposium, my group presented our garden and explained the sustainable practices that were implemented. In our garden we grew many plants but

the coolest ones were; lavender, mint, basil, taro, kawa, banana and pineapple. My favourite part about this project was learning about the other groups' gardens. The College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management at UH Hilo also has a research farm located about 20 minutes away. Every week for my horticulture class, we went to the farm for our labs. We got to understand the brief mechanics behind hydroponics, and study growth rates. We also looked at the yields of several varieties of rice and also the yields of transplanted peppers and eggplants in small plots. At the end of the day, my professor allowed us to roam the farm to pick whatever fruits off the trees that we wanted; rambutan, guava, avocado, starfruit, oranges...

I have zero regrets about moving to Hawai'i, other than that I should have done it sooner. I hope that all students who are considering post-secondary education are also looking into studying in another country. There are so many benefits to studying abroad! You may be a perfect fit for UH Hilo if you love nature, meeting new people, going on adventures and are interested in learning about Hawaiian culture. The International Student Association at UH Hilo was phenomenal for recognizing and appreciating their international students. They put on many activities such as a special orientation, meeting your host parents, United Nations day (I got to walk in the parade holding the Canadian flag), international nights and they even gave me a handmade sash for my graduation with Canadian flags on it! Throughout these activities, I was able to make friends with other students from all over the world and learn new things about their cultures.

I'll be graduating in May 2020 with my Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. As for my future plans, I am not sure yet, and that is okay. Moving to a different country has made me braver because I am more independent and feel like I can do much more than I originally thought. It takes a lot of courage to pack up and leave everyone behind; and after doing this I am able to face my fears.

Graduate school in Africa is a possibility, but I do not want to rush it because I want to make sure it is what I want. Don't spend your 20's thinking that you should have your life together already. Everything will work out in the end. 