

Senate Question Period
30th April, 2013

Question from Senator Berkok:

In light of the increasing emphasis on international recruitment, what plans are there to bolster support services for international students? Particularly, are there plans for an expansion of the International Centre?

Provost's Response:

Internationalization at Queen's, one part of which involves increasing international enrolment, is a University priority.

It is well documented that international students often require additional academic and social supports given the significant cultural and academic transition issues they can face. Queen's is working on various transition programs to help support all students, including international students, as they adjust to their lives on campus. One of these is the pilot program we are developing in partnership with the Limestone District School Board. This program will bring high-achieving international students to Kingston to spend their grade 12 year finishing high school here, as they apply to Queen's. The program includes additional ESL support and transition support for international students.

The Queen's University International Centre (QUIC) serves as a central hub of service for international students on campus and is anticipating an increase in demand for its range of supports, which include immigration and visa advisory services, the administration of the health insurance plan for international students, orientation activities, social events and advice and programming for incoming and outgoing exchange students. Plans are in place to meet this anticipated increased demand for service and support as international enrolment increases. In addition, the Counselling office has specialized support for international students and will monitor the demand and increase resources in this area as needed.

Additional admissions support is also planned to ensure the timely processing of applications from international students as the numbers increase. Specific scholarship programs are available for international students and these programs can accommodate an increase in international enrolment.