

Investing in skills & talent to drive a prosperous, inclusive and innovative Canadian economy



The Challenge

Canada is at risk of losing its competitive edge

Canada faces an uncertain future. Traditional partners are increasingly turning inward, and technological advances and automation are drastically altering the labour market. Our ability to adapt to these changes, diversify trade relations, invest in talent and instil a mindset of lifelong learning will be the keys to Canada's success in a rapidly shifting, global knowledge economy.

50%

50% of Canadian jobs will demand major skills shifts in the next 10 years as technological advancements change the way we work.

The Solution

Investing in future skills and talent

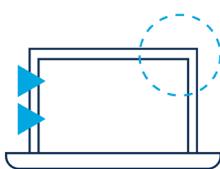
In this time of unprecedented global change, investments in **hands-on learning, global study, Indigenous student success, next-generation research talent and leading-edge research and training facilities** will equip Canada to compete on the world stage.

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By 2050, six of the seven largest economies in the world are predicted to be China, India, Indonesia, Brazil, Russia and Mexico. Canada must maximize its trade agreements and sign new ones.

Universities Canada recommends specific investments in skills and talent to strengthen Canada's competitive position in the world.

Hands-on learning



100%

Universities Canada supports the call by the Business Higher Education Roundtable that 100% of postsecondary students have access to WIL.

To equip young Canadians with the skills needed to achieve their potential and adapt to the changing future of work, we need to **help more students learn by doing**. Canada needs to expand work-integrated learning (WIL) programs and increase support for more private and public-sector WIL placements – with particular attention to underrepresented students' needs.

Next-generation research talent



2007

The number of Canada Graduate Scholarships awards for masters and doctoral students has remained static since 2007 despite increasing graduate enrolment.

To develop and retain highly skilled talent to strengthen our global competitiveness, Canada should build on the Fundamental Science Review recommendations and **invest in our next generation of research talent** by

- providing more individual scholarships and fellowships to at least match the rise in graduate student enrolment over the last decade
- adjusting the value of all awards and harmonizing award value across granting councils
- eliminating restrictions on international portability of awards to Canadians
- expanding the Undergraduate Student Research Awards to other councils

Leading-edge research and training facilities



50%

Half of today's students work alongside leading-edge researchers during their undergraduate degree.

To enhance our universities' efforts to develop talent and advance world-class research, Canada should **invest in state-of-the-art research and training environments** by providing significant, multi-year increases to the Research Support Fund, building on the recommendations of Canada's Fundamental Science Review.

Global study



11%

Despite the clear benefits of global study to building future skills, only 11% of Canadian students take advantage of international experiences over the course of their degree.

To equip a critical mass of young Canadians from all backgrounds with career-boosting experiences that prepare them for our shifting global economy, and allow Canada to better compete on the world stage, we must **take bold action**. Canada should **invest in global study** by funding a new *Go Global Canada* national initiative to support 15,000 Canadian postsecondary students per year going abroad within five years – rising to 30,000 per year within 10 years.

Indigenous student success



10.9%

Only 10.9% of Indigenous peoples versus 29.3% of the non-Indigenous population aged 25-64 have a university degree.

To harness the incredible potential of the country's fastest-growing demographic, Canada should **invest in Indigenous postsecondary student access and success** by

- increasing direct financial support for First Nations, Inuit and Métis learners
- supporting university programs and partnerships promoting Indigenous student success
- expanding funding to Inspire to scale support for Indigenous learners across Canada through scholarships, bursaries and educational programs

Strategic investments in all students are needed to ensure Canadians are equipped to achieve their potential in our rapidly changing global economy.

Learn more and download Universities Canada's Budget 2019 submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance at univcan.ca/budget2019submission.