



# LASTING IMPACTS AT HOME AND ABROAD



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In May 2019, Universities Canada organized and hosted a two-day workshop that gathered Principal Investigators and project leads from 18 Canadian universities as well as QES-AS funded researchers from Canada and 20 low- and middle-income countries. The workshop offered an opportunity to discuss subjects such as networking across boundaries, cultivating emerging leaders, defining success for projects as well as knowledge transfer and capacity building.

**“Leadership is about being aware of the other person's context and being accommodating - just as they are accommodating to you in other areas. I learned to listen more than I talked in Malawi, which was humbling.”**

*Zoe Louise Jackson, outgoing QEScholar, University of New Brunswick*

The Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships (QES) program is funded by contributions from the provinces, the private sector and the Government of Canada. The QES Advanced Scholars program (QES-AS) is made possible with financial support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). A list of donors is featured on the website: <http://www.queenelizabethscholars.ca/partners/>



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships (QES) program continues to offer emerging global leaders outstanding opportunities to develop their research, leadership, networking and community engagement skills. Through QES, scholars have a lasting impact on communities in Canada and around the world.

The professional experiences afforded by QES projects, designed by Canadian universities, provide unparalleled opportunities for inquiry and discovery. Queen Elizabeth Scholars bring their knowledge, ideas and curiosity to bear on projects addressing real needs at home and abroad. Together they form a global network of young scholars who share knowledge, exchange ideas and collaborate on meaningful initiatives.

The QES program is managed through a unique partnership of the Rideau Hall Foundation, Community Foundations of Canada, Universities Canada and Canadian universities. Since 2015, more than 2150 scholars have been funded through 95 projects in 72 countries. Projects have been designed and led by 44 Canadian universities.

Scholars report improvements in their knowledge and skills, particularly their communication, technical and leadership skills, because of their QES experience. They also report an increase in their awareness of the issues facing local and global communities.

The personal and professional growth opportunities provided by the QES program are rooted in the experience of different cultures and undertaking research that impacts the world. This report looks at how the QES program continued to develop a global community of scholars in 2019-2020 through leadership, networking, and community engagement opportunities.

In the final weeks of the fiscal year, the COVID-19 pandemic caused some upcoming project plans to be put on hold. Our participating universities and their partners are making adjustments as may be necessary for continuing QES projects for 2020-2021.

The following pages share a detailed account of what has been learned and accomplished this past year through evaluation data, anecdotes and lessons learned so that stakeholders can better understand the reach and lasting impact of this critical program.



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**"Outputs, completed projects, successful workshops- these are crucial to a successful mandate, but the true, long-lasting value comes from the people you've met on the way."**

*Alex Harte, outgoing QEScholar, Vancouver Island University*

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CARINA SEITZ, LEFT, INCOMING QES-AS SCHOLAR, UNIVERSITY OF REGINA DOING RESEARCH WITH DR. MARIA VÉLEZ IN DEEP LAKE, SASKATCHEWAN.

## >> Scholar profile

# The world-changing ways of Marina Melanidis



Growing up in Vancouver, Marina Melanidis always wanted to be a scientist. “I had gone through high school thinking that this was how I was going to change the world,” says the QEScholar who’s now pursuing an MSc in Natural Resources Conservation at UBC. “What I didn’t know was that climate change and biodiversity loss are not just scientific challenges; they are human ones.”

Melanidis, who’s also the co-founder of [Youth4Nature](#), credits the QES Program with helping her come to this realization after she spent a summer studying and interning at the Wildlife Institute of India in 2015 and participating in the two-week-long Students on Ice Arctic Expedition in 2017.

“The program supported my co-op experience in a month-long field school at the Wildlife Institute where I worked on a number of things, including a biodiversity monitoring project looking at different forests and different management structures,” she says. “After that, for two-and-half months, I contributed to a literature review on the impacts of climate change to the Indian Himalayas.”

Two years later, her status as a QES alumna put her in line for Students on Ice. “The next thing I knew I was on a plane to

Resolute Bay, Nunavut for the experience of a lifetime, for a second time,” she says. “I was one of over 120 secondary school and university students that traveled from Resolute Bay, Nunavut to Kangralassuit, Greenland, via the MS Ocean Endeavour, stopping along the way to participate in educational workshops, go on hikes and Zodiac cruises, and explore the landscape.”

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**“What I didn’t know was that climate change and biodiversity loss are not just scientific challenges; they are human ones.”**

*Marina Melanidis, outgoing QEScholar, University of British Columbia*

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The experiences, which she calls “formative”, opened her eyes. “It’s not just going to be science that will save the world all by itself,” she says. “We people need to make the connection that we are all a part of nature, and that we are all interlinked.”

As Partnerships Director of Youth4Nature – an organization she helped launch in 2019 with a mission statement that advises political leaders not to forget “young people, frontline and marginalized communities” and nature, itself – Marina is well on her way to changing the world, after all.



## QES World

QES World, seen here, is an interactive map on the [QES website](#) showing the location of all current QEScholars and alumni around the world. It includes information on the scholar, such as home country, scholarship dates, partner organization, QES project and university and allows connections to be created between scholars.

# INTRODUCTION

Emerging leaders from across Canada and around the world are learning the power of knowledge, inquiry, discovery and community engagement through the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships (QES) program. They're creating lasting impacts at home and abroad through cross-cultural exchanges encompassing international education, hands-on research and professional experiences.

These formative experiences are enabled through innovative international projects designed by Canadian universities – projects that reflect each institution's expertise and collaboration with over 650 institutions worldwide. Projects build on each university's strengths, with objectives that meet the needs of their scholars, faculty and administration.

## Collaboration and decentralization

The success of the QES Program has been attributed to its unique partnership model and project decentralization. The QES Program is managed by three partner organizations – Rideau Hall Foundation, Universities Canada and Community Foundations Canada – with the support of government bodies, crown corporations, private sector organizations and universities.

**“To be able to solve problems of rapid urbanization affecting the global South today, we must adopt a multi-lens approach. If we do not consider the various dimensions and approach problems as silos, our solutions will not be comprehensive as they will miss out some of the underlying causal factors.”**

*Percy Toriro, incoming QES-AS scholar, Wilfrid Laurier University*



JOSELITO ROBLES, INCOMING QES-AS SCHOLAR, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY, INSTALLING ISOTOPIC MONITORING EQUIPMENT, UPPER HWANCAVELICA BASIN, PERU

## Program objectives

1. Develop global citizens through enriched academic, professional and cross-cultural experiences.
2. Activate a new generation of enterprising leaders in Canada and around the world through facilitating lasting local and global community engagement.
3. Enhance collaboration and deepen peer relationships among Queen Elizabeth Scholars for an enriched experience and to facilitate personal and professional growth.

## Program expected outcomes

1. Increased knowledge and skills through academic and professional experiences of young global leaders.
2. Enhanced networking between Canadians and fellow citizens of the world.
3. Increased contributions to local and global communities by young leaders.

# 650+

## Partner organizations

# 2019-2020 AT A GLANCE

The QES program, having just completed its fifth year, continues to build a track record of success in supporting and developing global leaders.

**By the numbers,  
since 2015:**

**2151**

scholars funded

**95**

projects supported

**44**

Canadian universities

**72**

QEScholars going to/  
coming from 72 countries

**By the numbers, this  
reporting period**

(April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020)

**473**

new scholars  
received funding

**QES 2014/QES 2017**

**98%**

of scholars reported  
increasing their  
knowledge and skills

**85%**

of scholars reported  
increased leadership skills

**95%**

of scholars reported an  
increase in their awareness  
of issues faced by local  
and global communities,  
in comparison to their  
awareness before they  
began their scholarship.

**QES-Advanced  
Scholars**

**97%**

of scholars reported  
increasing their  
knowledge and skills

**93%**

of scholars reported  
enhanced leadership,  
professional, research  
and soft skills

**100%**

of scholars reported  
receiving transferable  
technology or science  
skills training

## Scholar success stories

The tremendous achievements of QEScholars speak to the value and impact of the program. This past year, our outstanding success stories include:

### Dennis Makau

University of Prince Edward Island

Dennis, from Kenya, was awarded the Governor General's Award at the 2019 UPEI Convocation for the best PhD thesis. Dennis had four of five substantive chapters from his thesis published and the last chapter is in review at a journal.

### Chief Ben Eghan

McGill University

Following the international symposium on equity in diversity, scholar Chief Ben decided to tackle one factor that contributed to inequality: the fact that published analyses of existing data tends to disregard data from minority participants. He developed proposals to increase equity in published science that have been favourably received by the editors in chief of PLoS and Nature publishing group and will likely lead to concrete changes in the research ecosystem. His manuscript outlining these proposals is currently in review at Nature.

### Christina Ure

University of Windsor

Christina was awarded several Canadian scholarships including a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada award, an Ontario Graduate Scholarship, a Canadian MITACS scholarship to travel and work in the Republic of South Korea as well as a sustainability scholarship from the University of Windsor, Faculty of Engineering.

### Erika Vas

University of Winnipeg

Erika received the Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship through SSHRC, which will support her research on Indigenous on-reserve housing and the feasibility of community-driven tiny houses to meaningfully address this longstanding issue.

### Lesly Tejada Benitez

Ryerson University (QES-AS)

Dr. Tejada Benitez gained skills in an ecotoxicology research laboratory at Ryerson University, and now Benitez leads a research team in the area of ecotoxicology at the University of Cartagena in Cartagena, Colombia.

### Jaime Escobar and Natalia Hoyos Botero

University of Regina (QES-AS)

Natalia Hoyos Botero and Jaime Escobar are part of the group of researchers who won the Colombian National Prize for Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences of the Alejandro Ángel Escobar Foundation, in recognition of the book "Hace tiempo. Un viaje paleontológico ilustrado por Colombia". This award is considered the highest scientific award given in the country, in order to highlight and support scientific work.

## Leadership, networking and community engagement

QEScholars continue to develop their leadership, networking and community engagement skills by immersing themselves in different cultures and participating in projects that impact the world. By focusing on the three pillars of *leadership, networking, and community engagement*, the QES program strengthened a global community of young leaders in 2019-2020.

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**"I learned on how interconnected we all truly are and if we don't begin to work together on a global scale, we all suffer."**

*Carolyn Cosette Shipman,  
outgoing QEScholar,  
University of Saskatchewan*

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## Nima Dorji

University of Victoria (QES-AS)

Nima coordinated and hosted the international conference "Public Law, Legal Orders and Governance: Regulating Globalisation in Asia." He brought together scholars from the University of Victoria and other QES partner institutions from Asia to discuss the themes around "Regulating Globalisation in Asia." Responsibilities included managing the expectations of 150 conference guests including Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck (Daughter of the Fourth King), Prime Minister of Bhutan, Chief Justice of Bhutan, Speaker of the National Assembly, Chairperson of National Council, the Leader of Opposition, and other high level dignitaries from the Royal Government of Bhutan. Many government organizations, private firms and Civil Society Organisations took part.

## Zhenzhong Si and Ning Dai

Wilfrid Laurier University (QES-AS)

Under the guidance of PI Jonathan Crush and LMIC Mentor Taiyang Zhong, these two QES-AS scholars drafted a proposal, timeline and \$440k budget within 10 days for the Canadian 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Rapid Research Funding Opportunity for a project on Assessing and Mitigating the Food Security Consequences of COVID-19 in China. This was a valuable learning experience for both, and their dedication and hard work was rewarded when the project was funded in

the first round of awards. Even more significant, the proposal ranked second in the Canada-wide competition. Further details about the project, in which both scholars are now involved, are available [here](#).

## Natalie Tchakerian

McMaster University

Natalie aided in the production of two publications for Africa Check, which looks at misinformation in the media and politics on public health and democracy in South Africa and Nigeria. They are [Public engagement with politics, information and news – South Africa](#), and [Public engagement with politics, information and news – Nigeria](#).

## Shweta Kiran Todkar et Kiran Jagdish Todkar

Université du Québec à Trois Rivières

Ces deux boursiers contribuent actuellement à une étude sur les porteurs asymptomatiques de la COVID-19 en cours à l'UQTR, avec la directrice de thèse de Shweta, Pr. Lyne Cloutier. Pour Kiran, il s'agit d'une implication communautaire bénévole, et pour Shweta, c'est complémentaire à son projet de doctorat et hautement formateur pour la poursuite de sa carrière. Il s'agit d'une contribution concrète et positive à l'avancement des connaissances sur la pandémie actuelle.



BAKHTIAR AZIM, INCOMING QESCHOLAR, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY, CELEBRATING CANADA DAY, VANCOUVER, B.C.

# University success stories

The QES Program is helping Canada's universities achieve their research, student experience and global engagement goals. Below are some of the university success stories.

## University of British Columbia

UBC had an MoU with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) before the QES program started. However, the QES project raised the collaboration to a much higher level. Eight scholars did their internships with WII in various interesting projects in Uttarakhand and Himalayas. Four PhD students came to study at UBC's research labs (under four different professors). All this has increased UBC's individual partnerships with WII and partly because of this, the Indian Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change signed a 10-year MOU with UBC, covering all faculties, to collaborate in various projects. In India this agreement covers 18 different research organizations, WII being one of them.

## University of Victoria

The QES Program enabled the Co-op and Career Centre to explore options which they otherwise wouldn't have been able to pursue. They were able to kick-start the first-ever Indigenous International Co-op Exchange Program with partners in Australia. This highly successful and sought-after program is continuing to develop through increased partnerships. The university has undertaken a research study on critical success factors for an indigenous international Work Integrated Learning program, and has submitted preliminary findings for publication in the International Journal of Work Integrated Learning (IJWIL).

## Lakehead University (QES-AS)

Dr. Brian McLaren, Project Principal Investigator and Veronica Paredes, QES-AS doctoral researcher, are now regularly invited contributors to the Andean Parliament with meetings continuing monthly. This is an important international effort to strengthen economies, food sovereignty and well-being with a new effort toward post-pandemic recovery.

## McGill University (QES-AS)

Two University of Ghana early-career researchers, Drs. Aaron Christian and Eric Afful-Dadzie, spent time at McGill in the summer of 2019 with the QES program. The two scholars had not previously worked together; Dr. Christian is at the Regional Population Studies Institute and Dr. Afful-Dadzie is in the Business School. During their stay at McGill, they began to collaborate on an analysis of multi-country nutrition data and over the past six months have written a manuscript on the co-occurrence of anaemia and stunting in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is an excellent example of the potential for collaboration across disciplines that can be encouraged through the QES.

## University of Saskatchewan (QES-AS)

Scholars Michele Monroy-Valle, Maira Ruano and Ginny Lane with Dr. Hassan Vatanparast, the University of Saskatchewan and Universidad de San Carlos integrated team, submitted two posters to the World Food Day Conference held in Guatemala City, which won first and second place awards.

## University of Waterloo (QES-AS)

Reach One Touch One Ministries (ROTOM): As a result of working with QES-AS faculty and scholars, ROTOM has gained an understanding of the strength of having research evidence to urge governments to develop policies and practices to support the health and social care of seniors. So much so that the organization changed their by-laws to include research as a recognized activity of the organization. The university is now working with ROTOM to develop a policy for doing research with partners in the academic realm, based on the Principles for Doing Global Health Research developed by the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research.

## University of Prince Edward Island

The successful partnership between UPEI's two QES projects and Farmers Helping Farmers, particularly in the disciplines of veterinary medicine and nutrition, provided additional credibility to the successful FHF acquisition of \$1M from Global Affairs Canada in the Small and Medium Organization RFP. This funding is double the largest amount that FHF ever got from CIDA, and will allow FHF to expand efforts to other areas of Meru County, and with other Dairy Groups, women's groups, and schools. Therefore, the QES projects have helped to strengthen this partner institution and enhance the symbiotic relationship between UPEI and FHF.

## University of Waterloo

The success of the QES program so far was illustrated by the Innovation Lab hosted by the Waterloo Institute for Sustainable Energy (WISE). Over 100 participants from around the globe took part, including representatives from several QES host organizations. Many QES alumni (and several future QEScholars) were also in participation, volunteering to support the event. Many people from host organizations thanked WISE for connecting them with bright and talented students who had a great impact on their organization, and many others noticed the talent of the alumni present and praised the QES program.

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**"The scholars have been a revelation on the team at Mandulis Energy. During the scholarship, they were flexible and still delivered their assignments with enthusiasm, ingenuity, innovation and excellence. Their work on creating a Beta version of a digital agricultural and energy yield monitoring software platform for our Biomass and Agricultural Value addition projects will lead to an optimizing real time feasibility of our projects."**

*Peter BenHur Nyeko, Director, Mandulis Energy, Uganda, University of Waterloo QES partner institution*

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## Cultivating *leadership*

In addition to the daily leadership development opportunities QEScholars experience, participating universities offer a variety of special events focused on leadership skills. In 2019-2020 these included:

### McMaster University

Leadership Summit for Women: Annual community event which provides the skills, space, and support for all participants to reach their full potential as individuals and as collaborative members of a community.

### University of Saskatchewan

Eco Hack: an immersive multi-day experience where environmental innovators collaborate using a rapid-iteration design model to generate viable solutions to problems posed by local community/industry partners.

### Université de Moncton (BRE-CNS)

Atelier sur la recherche documentaire dispensé aux étudiants de niveau master et doctorat inscrits dans les programmes d'agroforesterie de l'Université de Dschang au Cameroun.

### University of Toronto (QES-AS)

Skills Workshop: Knowledge Translation & Leadership for Change: How to Effectively Influence Decision-making, led by Erica Di Ruggiero (PI).



# \$84M

has been raised to support scholarships

**"Do not assume you understand someone else's hardships because you have studied about them in a textbook. Asking a person about their experiences is the most valuable source of information, as their opinions will dictate the success or failure of your project."**

*Amanda Coleman, outgoing QEScholar, University of Waterloo*



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA OUTGOING QESCHOLARS, GHANA

## Additional \$1.8 million for internships and international graduate students

Thanks to funding provided by **The Waugh Family Foundation**, a call for proposal was launched to support projects in Latin America and the Caribbean focused on education, social services and health. Dalhousie University, Université de Montréal, McGill University, Western University, the University of Manitoba and the University of Saskatchewan will share approximately \$1.8M to support international internships for Canadian students and host graduate students from Latin America and the Caribbean undertaking studies or research in Canada.

>> Scholar profile

## Feeding the hungry, with Michele Monroy-Valle



For Michele Monroy-Valle, working in the community garden of a Saskatoon food bank was not just another day at the office. “I had never done that before in my life,” says the PhD researcher from Guatemala, who splits her time between her home country and the University of Saskatchewan. “It was hard work, but I managed to understand how the food bank works.”

That work was, in fact, part of the research placement component of her project (stunting, dietary behaviour, and bone health among Maya mothers and their children) in the University of Saskatchewan program, Seeking Sustainable Solutions in Food Security and Nutrition for Women and Children. She also helped Community Foundations of Canada – the national leadership organization for Canada’s 191 local community foundations – create a research tool for measuring the outcomes of their projects. “I have a background in big data,” she says.

In fact, Michele is a nutritionist and dietitian who holds a Master’s in University Teaching, Summa Cum Laude, from Universidad del Istmo, a Master’s in Public Health from Rafael Landívar University, and completed epidemiology studies at

the Harvard School of Public Health and the International Epidemiological Association. She is currently a member of the Research Unit on Food and Nutrition Security (UNISAN-USAC) that conducts research projects with other local universities in Guatemala and national entities, of which the University of Saskatchewan is one.

About her QES-AS-supported project, she says one of the toughest jobs has also been one of the most rewarding: Getting to know and winning the trust of the Mayan people, whose food challenges she hopes to understand better and alleviate. “It has been very interesting. We worked for a long time to get their confidence, but we got it.”

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**“We worked for a long time to get their confidence, but we got it.”**

*Michele Monroy-Valle, incoming QES-AS scholar, University of Saskatchewan*

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With some of the hands-on know-how she acquired in a Canadian food bank, she was able to collect and deliver food hampers to many of her subjects when COVID-19 struck. “I became very amazed at how Canadian society collaboration build its well-being,” she says.



SARAH MILLS, OUTGOING QESCHOLAR, UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE DAVID JOHNSTON, GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA (2010-2017) AND NIMA DORJI INCOMING QES-AS SCHOLAR, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

## Outstanding *networking* opportunities

Networking opportunities at home and abroad are an important element of the QES Program. Beyond the daily networking opportunities afforded by scholar placements, the following are some of the focused networking events offered by Canadian universities this past year.

### Ryerson University (QES-AS)

At the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC), Latin American 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting held in Cartagena, Columbia, several QES-AS scholars presented their research findings. During the conference, all returning and recruited QES-AS scholars had a separate meeting where they also presented their research update. As a result of this, new lines of research and collaboration within the universities in Colombia, Ryerson University, Guelph University and Western University have been established.

### University of Alberta (QES-AS)

The Global Nursing Office sent two groups of nursing undergraduate students, all QEScholars, to Ghana through the second QES project managed by the University of Alberta. The Ghanaian QES-AS scholars, also in the field of nursing, played a vital role in mentoring and helping develop leadership skills of Canadian undergrad nursing students

### University of Victoria

The Centre for Asia Pacific Initiatives' pre-departure program is an intensive week-long face-to-face program, for all outgoing QEScholars. Various sessions (preparing for the workplace, what does it mean to be an intern, taking care of oneself - mentally and physically, podcasting workshop, pre-departure reflection activity debrief and country breakout sessions) are led by alumni. Pre-departure is not limited to the actual in-class session but spans the entire year prior to departure as past QEScholars connect with prospective applicants. Scholars have made presentations in classes, student groups, and shared their information of their experiences, research, and QES opportunities through word of mouth.

### McMaster University

*Navigating a career in health systems and policy: A speed-mentoring event for students and professionals* was an opportunity for students to speak with, ask questions of, and gain advice from researchers, policymakers, stakeholders and managers.

## Scholars invited to online chat with SSHRC President Ted Hewitt

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, (SSHRC) is the federal research funding agency that promotes and supports post secondary based research and research training in the humanities and social sciences. By focusing on developing talent, generating insights and forging connections across campuses and communities, SSHRC strategically supports world-leading initiatives that reflect a commitment to ensuring a better future for Canada and the world.

Ted Hewitt was appointed president of SSHRC in March 2015. He served as the inaugural chair of the Canada Research Coordinating Committee from 2017 to 2019. Ted was vice-president, research and international relations, at Western University in London, Ontario from 2004 to 2011, where he had been a professor of sociology since 1989. Ted holds a PhD in sociology from McMaster University.

Join him for a 45-minute online chat to discuss your personal experience as a Queen Elizabeth Scholar and its impact on your research and professional skills development.

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. EDT





NOVA SCOTIA'S LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR THE HONOURABLE ARTHUR J. LEBLANC, ONS, QC, HER HONOUR MRS. PATSY LEBLANC AND QESCHOLARS, HALIFAX, N.S.

## Expansion into West Africa

Thanks to support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the QES Advanced Scholars (QES-AS) program will launch a new phase focused on West Africa. As with Phase I, Phase II of the QES-AS will support research-focused exchanges for doctoral students, post-doctoral fellows and early career scientists. The scholars' research will inform progress on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with preference given to proposals that focus on or clearly integrate SDG 5 (gender equality) as a crosscutting or mainstream goal.

**"The exposure to a different culture has made me take a critical look at my own world view in comparison to that of others around me. I have learned to take time to understand why people who are different from me do the things that they do. This has made me more understanding and respectful of other people's opinions and way of life."**

*Valentine Gatune, incoming QEScholar, University of St. Michael's College*



BRITISH COLUMBIA'S LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR THE HONOURABLE JANET AUSTIN, UNIVERSITY CHANCELLORS AND PRESIDENTS, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE DAVID JOHNSTON, GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA (2010-2017) AND QESCHOLARS, VICTORIA, B.C.

# Community engagement

Community engagement is central to the QES Program. This may involve scholars sharing research results with the community (university community or community at large), but it can also be QEScholars involved with volunteer activities.

## Taylor Reid Sutherland

University of New Brunswick

Taylor played a key role as a presenter at Atlantic Canada's first Girls STEM Up Conference. The purpose of the conference was dedicated to increasing engagement and excitement for women in STEM fields. The focus of this conference was to bring new ideas to the forefront, foster networking opportunities and present an encouraging forum for delegates and speakers to share their experiences as women in STEM.

## Kaylin Arason

University of Victoria

Kaylin facilitated a workshop titled "Workshop on the Legal Struggles of Achieving the Rights of Women Migrant Workers and Their Families" at Solidaritas Perempuan's yearly congress in Sulawesi.

## Gurpreet Sodhi (QES-AS)

Simon Fraser University

Gurpreet accepted donations to feed the homeless and provide them with essentials such as blankets and clothes, as part of charity events to mark the 550<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji (founder of Sikhism).

## Elhadji Alioune Badara Ningue (QES-AS)

Université de Moncton

Elhadji Alioune présente une session d'informations à Thiès, Sénégal, sur la nutrition sportive auprès de 32 jeunes afin de répondre à leurs préoccupations et croyances également. Cette session a permis aux jeunes de constater l'importance d'une bonne nutrition pour la performance sportive.

**"Working with research placement partners that are actively working in the field of nutrition education and literacy provided me with a unique opportunity to strengthen my knowledge about nutrition and education in Ghana."**

*Mona Ghadirian, outgoing QES-AS scholar, McGill University*



BUKKE KIRAN NAIK, MINA ROUHANI, HAFIZ MUHAMMAD UMAR RAZA, PRANAY BISWAS AND AKASH SIDDIQUE, INCOMING QES-AS SCHOLARS, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY, AND CLAIRE MCCAGUE, PROJECT LEAD, PARTICIPATING IN A THERMOCHEMICAL ENERGY STORAGE WORKSHOP

>> Scholar profile

## The constitutional happiness of Nima Dorji



Nima Dorji, a PhD researcher at the Law and Society Program at the University of Victoria and one of the founding faculty members at the Jigme Singye Wangchuck (JSW) School of Law in Bhutan, is researching the public good of happiness.

Since 2017, he's been working on a special project as a QES-AS Scholar with the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives (CAPI) and university's Faculty of Law.

According to CAPI's website, they and their partners in South and Southeast Asia are working to "activate a dynamic community of young global leaders around the world to conduct interdisciplinary research on innovative governance and justice strategies to mitigate the harsher effects of economic globalization in South and Southeast Asia (specifically, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Thailand, and Vietnam)."

Nima's part is to conduct research that supports his theory of "constitutional happiness" in government. "So, basically, I'm trying to look at happiness as not just an individual end, but also as a public policy end; happiness as a state function. I'm still working on it."

But he likes where it's been going under the QES-AS Program. "The important highlight I would note is the importance of international relationships in the exchange of ideas and theories between different scholars," he says.

In fact, Nima – who received his BA and LLB (Hons.) degrees from NALSAR University of Law in India in 2009, his Postgraduate Diploma in National Law (PGDNL) from the Royal Institute of Management, Bhutan, in 2010, and his Master of Laws (LLM) from the University of Canberra, Australia, in 2014 – has been splitting his time between the University of Victoria and JSW.

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**"I'm trying to look at happiness as not just an individual end, but also as a public policy end; happiness as a state function."**

*Nima Dorji, incoming QES-AS scholar, University of Victoria*

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"While I've been at UVic, there have been lots of workshops and other functions that I have attended," he says, referring to research scope the QES-AS Program has afforded him. "Coming to Canada and trying to learn about Canadian experiences has been quite important to the work."



INCOMING QES-AS SCHOLARS, CARLETON UNIVERSITY WITH HIS WORSHIP MAYOR JIM WATSON, AT "QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOLAR DAY" AT CITY HALL, OTTAWA, ON.

## QES-AS Longitudinal research study

Universities Canada continues to conduct a longitudinal study to look at the implementation and outcomes of the QES-AS program by examining the gains accrued by scholars and participating institutions, as well as the design and implementation of gender-sensitive, equitable and inclusive international scholarship programming.

### >> Scholar profile

## Nawazish Naqvi gains life lessons from Down Under



Nawazish Naqvi can't say enough good things about his experience as a QEScholar in 2019 living and working in New South Wales, Australia. Maybe, he laughs, that could be a problem. "My friends and everyone I talk to say I can't stop talking about it, but I really can't help myself," he says. "I have overwhelmingly good feelings about the whole thing."

Apart from the surfing, which the University of Toronto medical student says was simply "amazing," the work was absorbing, enlightening and even career-defining.

With support from the QES Program, he worked with the Sax Institute – a national leader in promoting the use of research evidence in Australian health policy – on projects to assess existing and planned policies on the prevention and management of obesity in Aboriginal communities, especially among children, and to investigate the causes of food insecurity within that segment of the population.

He joined the QES Program while still an undergraduate at McMaster University. "I started working for the McMaster Health Forum, which is an organization that deals with health policy and helping health-policy makers with research," he says. "I became very interested in the field, and that really got me looking into things like the QES Program, which would allow me to get new experiences, new perspectives, by helping me go to other countries and learn about their health issues and systems."

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**"I have overwhelmingly good feelings about the whole thing."**

*Nawazish Naqvi, outgoing QEScholar, McMaster University*

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Australia, he says, is similar to Canada in population and culture, but just different enough to provide him with some keen insights. "Prior to QES, I'd never got to do a lot of first-hand research on many indigenous issues. So, for me to go to Australia really meant a lot. It helped me better understand many of the issues that we're dealing with here in Canada."

All of which, he's certain, puts him on the right medical career track, helping to enhance collaboration between community members, researchers, policy makers and healthcare providers involved in health systems decision.

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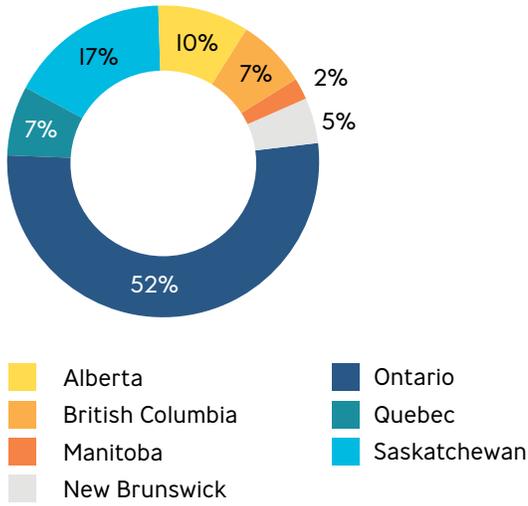
**"The capacity of our institution has been strengthened by the sharing of indigenous knowledge and experiences from an international perspective, and the scholarship produced as a result."**

*Vaughan Bidois, Executive Director Academic, Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi, Whakatana, New Zealand, University of Northern British Columbia QES partner institution*

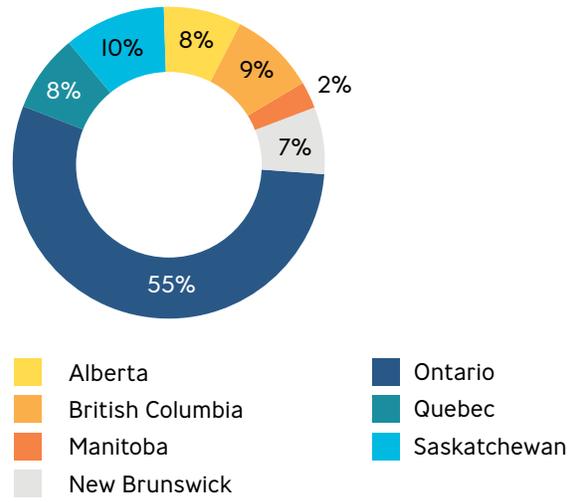
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The following charts provide information on QES-AS scholars.

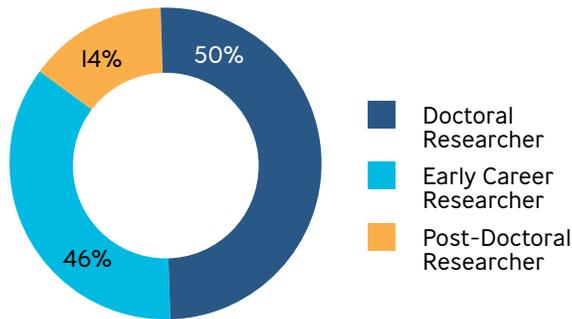
Provincial distribution of Canadian QES-AS scholars



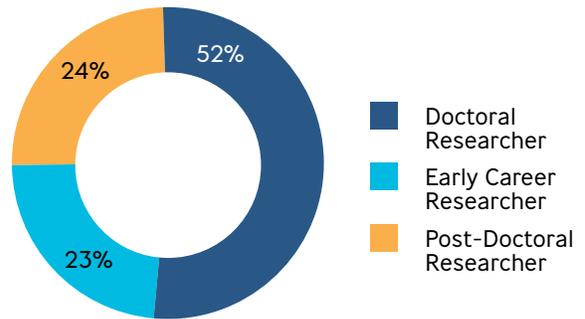
Provincial distribution of international QES-AS scholars



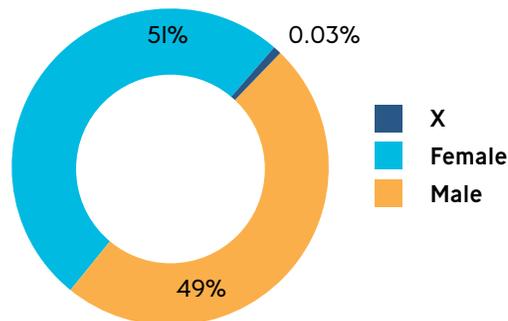
Canadian QES-AS scholars by academic level



International QES-AS scholars by academic level



QES-AS scholars by gender



EVA PURKEY, FIFTH FROM LEFT AND COLLEEN DAVISON, FIFTH FROM RIGHT, OUTGOING QES-AS SCHOLARS, QUEENS UNIVERSITY, MAE FAH LUANG UNIVERSITY, CHIANG RAI, THAILAND

## Project profile

### African scholars inspire Canadians to think globally about climate change

Carleton University's QES-AS project takes a unique approach to climate change research. It's the only project using a cohort model, for starters, but it also embraces interdisciplinarity and, this past year, its scholars raised awareness locally about the impacts of climate change globally.

"From the very beginning we felt the best way was to have everyone come together in these groups, do intensive training with them and have projects they could do together," Project Lead Onita Basu says of the cohort approach. "We developed our whole model around that idea," she says, "with tangible outputs."

The project, Societal Transformation and Climate Change: Training the next generation of Scholars in Sub-Saharan Africa, brings scholars from Tanzania, Malawi and Ghana to Carleton as a group each summer. To date, 27 researchers have been funded: three Canadians and 24 Africans. The group takes a broad view of climate change research.

"Climate change is such a huge term, so we wanted to focus it on how it impacts society as well and the social impact of it," says Dr. Basu. "For example, how does rainfall pattern change impact people? We didn't want to just look at change in weather data."

That broad approach also calls for interdisciplinary perspectives. "You could come from any field," she says. "We have people from engineering, economics, policy, business and science."

The project also brings in people from small NGOs and small businesses, providing opportunities for each of them to better understand the complexity of a shared issue.

This past year, outreach included the local community. The team organized and hosted two events in Ottawa called "Climate Conversations with an African Focus," and attracted a crowd to the local library.

"Scholars prepared presentations on the impact of climate change in different African communities and what governments there were doing to try to mitigate it," says Dr. Basu. "And people had no idea what was going on."

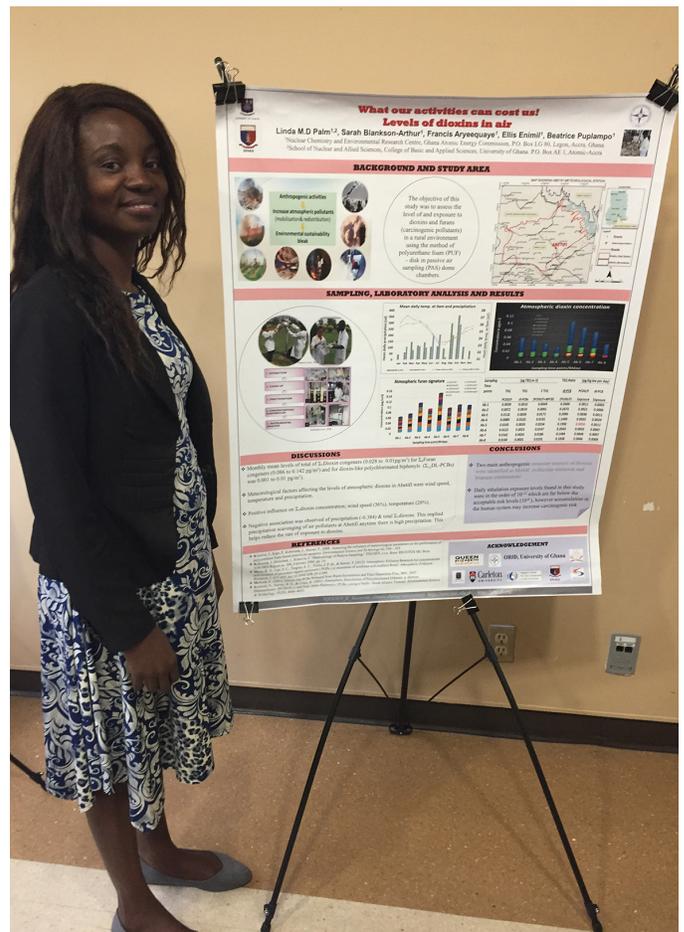
Attendees learned that over 50 per cent of cocoa production – chocolate – comes from West Africa, which is under threat due to climate change.

These sessions "really helped open people's eyes to climate change on a global perspective," says Dr. Basu.

"It was such a hit that we expanded it this year, we were going to do a bigger location," before the COVID-19 pandemic caused plans to change.

**"My time at the Africa Centre for Evidence as a QEScholar has been marked by significant involvement in all stages of creating evidence syntheses to be used by stakeholders and policymakers in Africa, while also networking with and learning from exceptional innovators and thinkers within in the evidence-informed policy field."**

*Peter Belesiotis, outgoing QEScholar, McMaster University*

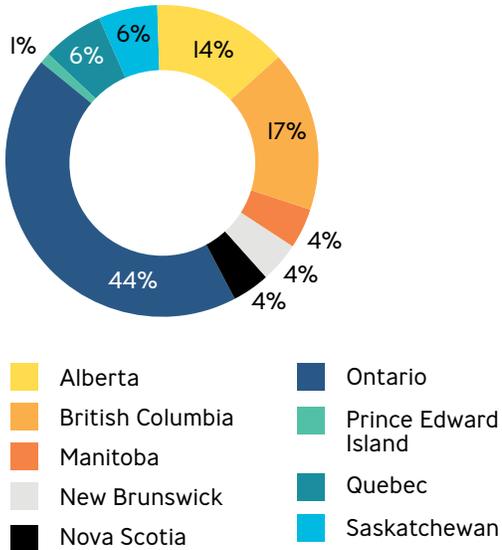


LINDA MAUD PALM, INCOMING QES-AS SCHOLAR, CARLETON UNIVERSITY

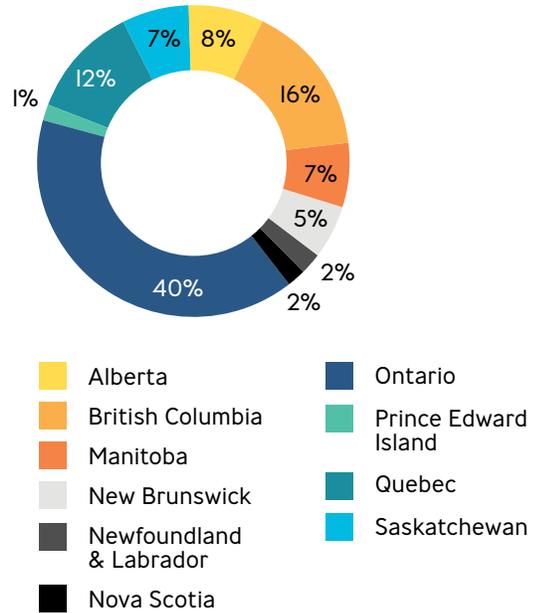
**The following charts provide information on QES2014 and QES2017 scholars.**

QES 2019 activities have not yet begun.

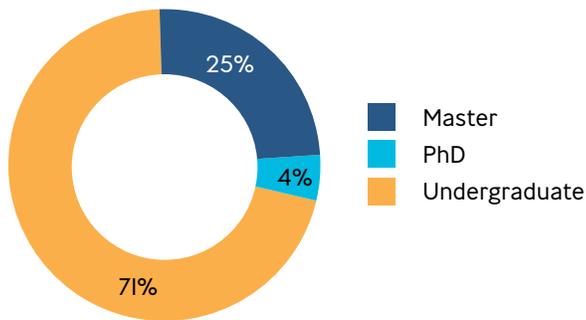
**Provincial distribution of Canadian scholars**



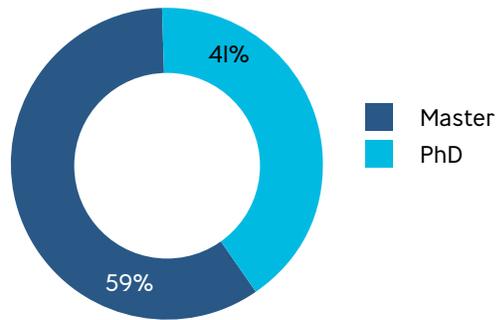
**Provincial distribution of international scholars**



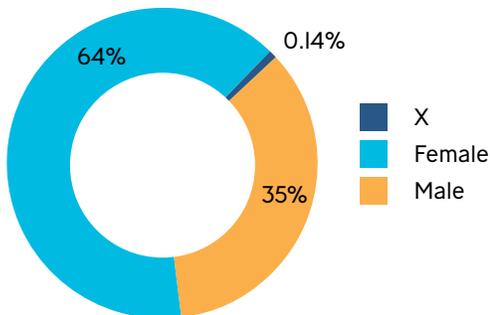
**Canadian QEScholars by academic level**



**International QEScholars by academic level**



**QEScholars by gender**



**“Critical thinking and self-reflection of QES (scholars) has allowed the work we do to be enhanced by an ‘outside view’ and is reinforced by best and new practices that is being taught and then being applied for work at the EAI.”**

*Alex Awiti, Director, Aga Khan University - East Africa Institute, Kenya, University of the Fraser Valley QES partner institution*

# Scholarship distribution

Since its inception, through 89 projects\*, the QES program has supported:

## Canadian scholars: QES 2014, QES 2017 and QES-AS

Between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2020, 1542 Canadian scholars received funding from the QES program.

### Top four destinations for Canadian scholars

- Uganda (10%)
- Australia (10%)
- India (10%)
- Ghana (9%)



## International scholars: QES 2014, QES 2017 and QES-AS

Between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2020, 609 international scholars received funding from the QES program.

### Top four home countries of international scholars

- India (17%)
- Ghana (13%)
- Kenya (10%)
- Nigeria (5%)



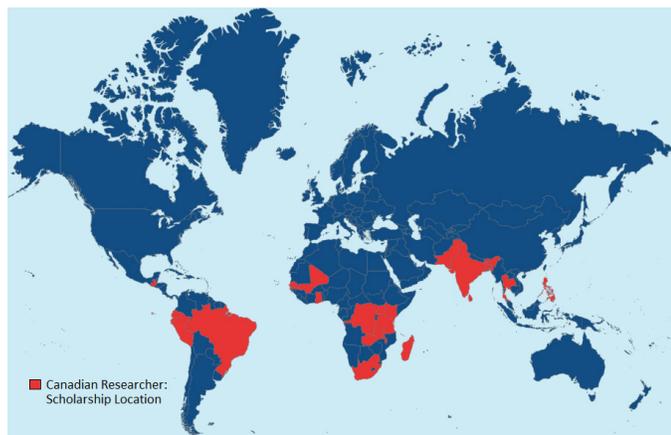
## Scholarship distribution – QES-Advanced Scholars (QES-AS) \*\*

### Canadian researchers

Between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2020, 42 Canadian researchers received funding from the QES-AS program.

### Top four destinations for Canadian researchers

- India (12%)
- Malawi (12%)
- Ghana (12%)
- Tanzania (7%)

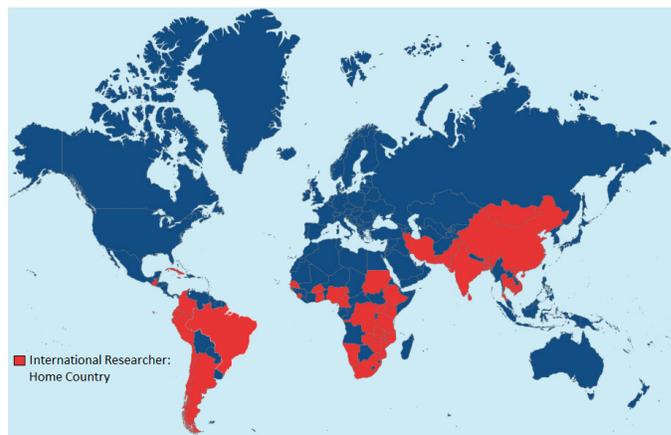


### International researchers

Between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2020, 223 international researchers received funding from the QES-AS program.

### Top four home countries of international researchers

- Ghana (17%)
- Colombia (10%)
- India (7%)
- Tanzania (6%)

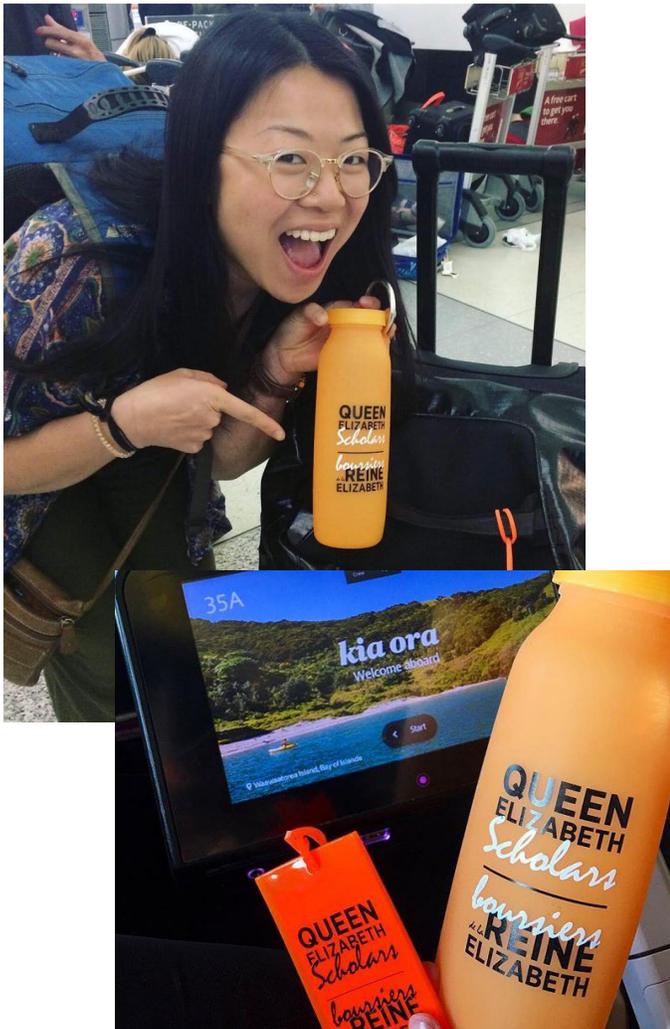


\* Six QES 2019 projects have not yet started

\*\* These numbers are reflected in the totals from data at top of page.

## A warm welcome

To build awareness and reinforce the QES brand and sense of community, staff developed the QEScholars' welcome kit. Consisting of an environmentally friendly, foldable water bottle, a luggage tag and the "QES Passport," the kit was conceived and designed to foster a sense of belonging to the QES program. The water bottle and luggage tag allow for a visible identification of QEScholars, while the QES Passport, containing targeted information, enables scholars to champion the program. Information on the QES social media accounts was also shared and the QEScholars were encouraged to share their experiences using the program hashtag #QEScholars.



**"The QEScholars were instrumental in developing key research and position papers to inform the Organisation's future work."**

*George Owoo, Program Manager, Human rights Advocacy Center, Ghana, Wilfrid Laurier University QES partner institution*

## Project profile

### UPEI program changes scholars' lives

UPEI's QES program, Integrating Innovative Research & Training Methods for Improved Sustainable Livelihoods of Smallholder Dairy Farms in Kenya, is changing the lives of both smallholder dairy farmers and the scholars themselves.

UPEI and Canadian partner, Farmers Helping Farmers, are collaborating with three Kenyan institutions – Kenyatta University, University of Nairobi and Naari Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society – to train dairy farmers on leading evidence-based management practices for cattle health and profitability, family nutrition and crop risk mitigation in the face of climate change. Scholars' research work helps school lunch program coordinators and farming families understand and adopt improved practices, thereby enhancing nutrition and quality of life.

For the undergraduate scholars from UPEI's veterinary and nutrition programs, making connections in Kenya and coming to intimately know their host community is life changing.

"They frequently have never been outside North America or Europe," says Project Lead Dr. John VanLeeuwen, Professor of Epidemiology and Ruminant Health Management. "They had no concept of what life was like in a developing country."

But that changes when they arrive in Kenya. "We're not staying at the hotels. We rent a house owned by local people in the Naari community. One of the schools we partner with is right across the road so the students get to see first-hand what living in the community is like."

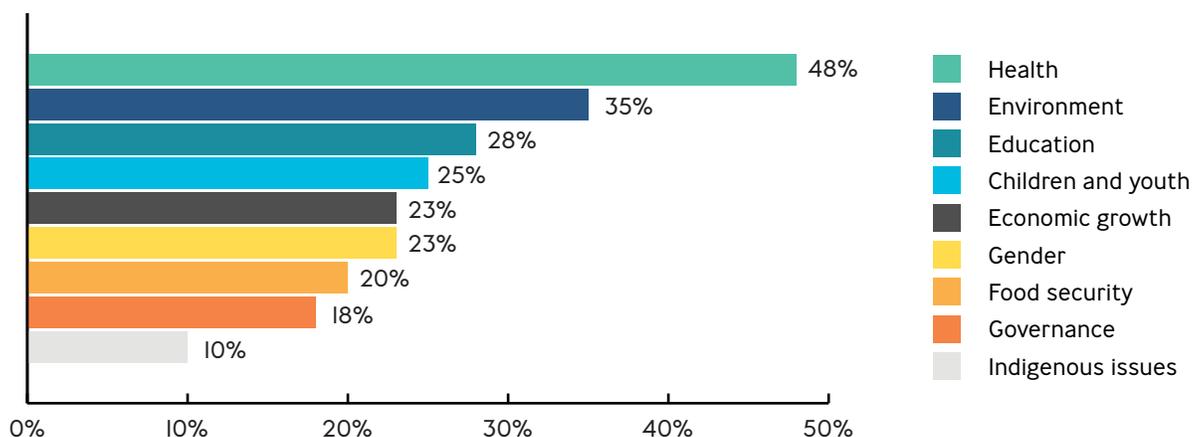
Along the way, they develop a deep attachment to the country and the region that for many has led to later engagement with organizations like Vets without Borders.



HANNA HONE AND CHANTEL DOYLE, OUTGOING QESCHOLARS AND DANIEL MUASYA, INCOMING QESCHOLAR, UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

**QEScholars and QES-AS scholars often identify more than one theme or area of focus to describe their activities.**

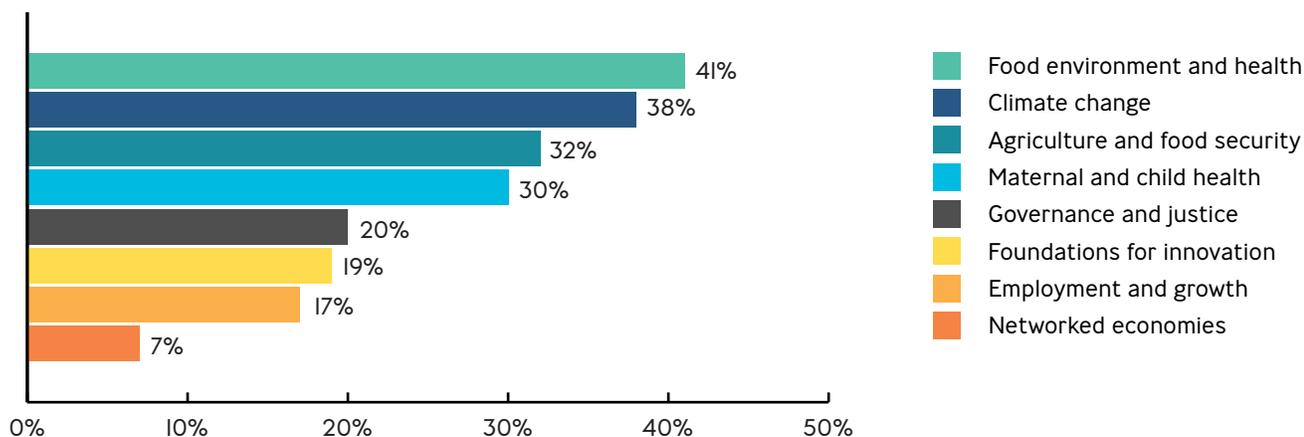
**QES 2014/QES 2017: Percentage of scholarships by theme**



For an overview of all QES 2014 projects, please visit [QES 2014](#)

For an overview of all QES 2017 projects, please visit [QES 2017](#)

**QES-AS: Percentage of scholarships by area of focus**



For an overview of all QES-AS projects, please visit [QES-AS projects](#)

**“Knowing professors from my country that I did not know before allowed me to submit a joint research proposal for financing in Colombia. Now I know that I can work with molecular biology with Roger Valle, sensors with Plinio Puello, computer platforms with Martha Ortiz, environmental inevitability in waters with Monica Eljaiek and modeling with Juan Carlos Burgos, all QES-AS scholars.”**

*Lesly Tejada Benitez, incoming QES-AS Scholar, Ryerson University*

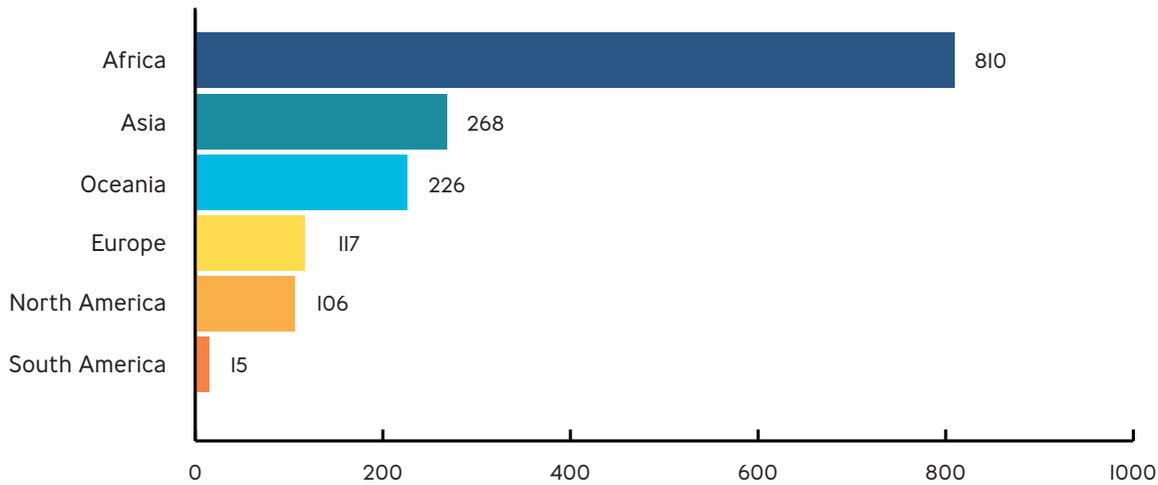
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**“Networking is indispensable in achieving personal and professional development.”**

*Clodine Mbuyi Shei, incoming QES-AS Scholar, University of Regina*

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**Continent of destination for Canadian scholars**



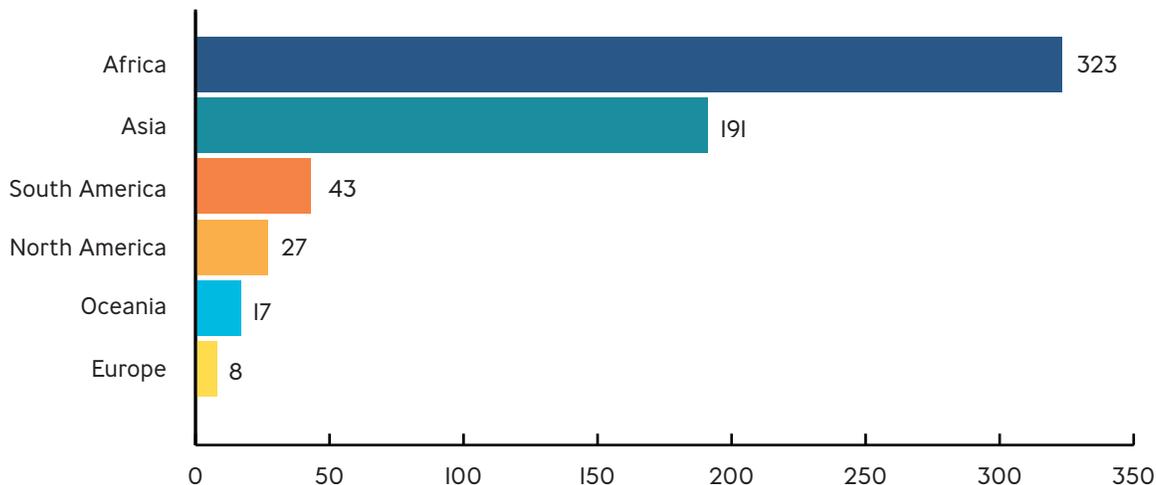
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**“The quality of the QES scholars has been outstanding. Some of the key benefits our institution has experienced include: increased productivity, enhanced perspective and improved leadership skills in current employees.”**

*Associate Professor Andrew Milat, Director, Evidence and Evaluation, New South Wales Ministry of Health, Australia, McMaster University QES partner institution*

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**Continent of origin of international scholars**





**QUEEN  
ELIZABETH**  
*Scholars*