

SUPPORT

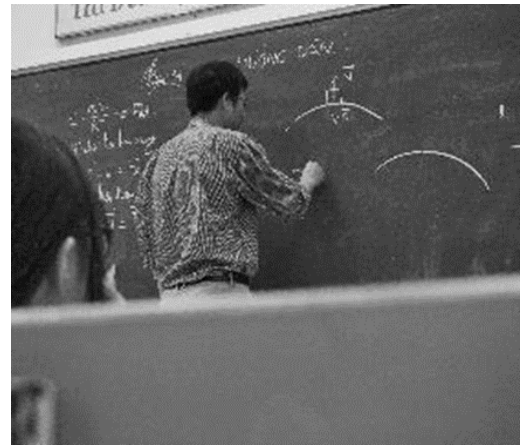
International Students

International students, newcomers, and racialized communities are increasingly being blamed for national housing, healthcare, and employment crises—and many are reporting rising incidents of racism.

International students face a unique array of challenges that require tailored support, but many of these actions can benefit all our students.

How can faculty support international students?

- International students may not be comfortable asking questions during class or staying after class for help. Normalize asking and answering questions for all students.
- Check in with international students when you can. Many feel socially isolated and are struggling to comprehend lectures. A few unfamiliar words can derail their chance to learn in a lecture setting.



Helping International Students

- Remember that students are often writing in their second, third, or fourth language. Academic writing styles and expectations in English and in your discipline might be different from their home country. Consider this when you offer writing support and guidance.
- Provide lists of key terms and glossaries for discipline-specific words; use slides, visuals, and text to help students follow lecture materials.
- Internationalize your curriculum. Use examples from places and cultures from around the world to ensure students see themselves in the course materials.
- Contest Eurocentrism. Colonial education and media have falsely situated relevant knowledge and progress as the product of Europe and “the west”; actively contest this using facts from around the world.
- Develop shared guidelines for respectful class dialogue (come up with your own or borrow “Ouch, Oops, Whoa”).
- International students disproportionately face culture shock, language barriers, financial stress, and social isolation, and can benefit from your academic guidance. Openly acknowledge their tuition burden, ask students if they need help, and encourage students to connect with each other in class or through the DSU.
- Shift to Open Education Resources (OERs) to reduce the financial burden on all students; DC provides an OER incentive grant, and BC Open Campus can help connect you with resources or help you produce your own OpenEd resources.
- Liaise with chairs and deans to ensure your teaching, counselling, learning assistance, or other work as faculty is supported.

