Federation of Students’ Board Agenda

Special Meeting

SLC 1106, University of Waterloo
Chair: President Beauchemin  Secretary: Yomna Eldin

ATTENDANCE

Please convey regrets to the Chair of the Board chair@feds.ca.

Expected Attendees:
- President Beauchemin
- General Manager Burdett+
- Secretary Easton
- Vice President Fitzpatrick
- Vice President Gerrits
- Director Hunte
- Director Parmar
- Chairman Plante
- Director Town
- Vice President Velling

+ Non-Voting Resource Member

Expected Absences:
- Director Eyre
- Director De Sousa

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Public Session 2

1.0 Preliminaries 2
- 1.1 Call to order (Attention) 2
- 1.2 Approval of the Agenda (Assumed) 2
- 1.3 Territorial Acknowledgement (Information) 2
- 1.4 Oral Conflict of Interest Declaration (Information) 2
- 1.5 Remarks of the Chair (Information) 2

2.0 General Orders 2
- 2.1 Suspension of Procedure (Decision) 2
- 2.2 Adjustment of Student Refugee Program Fee (Decision) 3

Adjournment (Decision) 3
Public Session

1.0 PRELIMINARIES

1.1 CALL TO ORDER
The Chair calls the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

1.2 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
The Chair assumes the Agenda.

1.3 TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Pursuant to Federation Policy 50, Indigenous Engagement and Inclusivity, the Federation of Students’ Board of Directors acknowledges:

"The University of Waterloo is on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, land promised to the Six Nations, which includes six miles on each side of the Grand River."

1.4 ORAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION
In accordance with Procedure 2, §II(6), the Chair poses the following question:

"In relation to any of the items of business on the agenda for this meeting, does any Director have an actual, perceived, or potential conflict of interest?"

1.5 REMARKS OF THE CHAIR
Explanation for Special Meeting.

2.0 GENERAL ORDERS

2.1 SUSPENSION OF PROCEDURE
Be it resolved that the Board suspends Procedure 13, Fee Increases, §(4)(d), to consider the administered fee increase, as recommended by the Students’ Council, proposed in agenda item 2.2 below.

Submitted By: Chairman Plante.
2.2 Adjustment of Student Refugee Program Fee

Be it resolved that the Board accepts the recommendation of the Students’ Council to increment the optional Student Refugee Program administered fee to $4.82 to reflect the financial position of the fund and the required program expansion directed by the Students’ Council;

Be it further resolved that the Board directs the Vice President, Operations & Finance to review and increment the administrative overhead fee, as may be required for execution of the foregoing resolution, in compliance with the 15 May 2019 standing orders.

Submitted By: Vice President Velling.

Note: Please refer to the Student Refugee Program Financial Sustainability & Growth Report attached.

Adjournment

Be it resolved that the Chair adjourns the meeting.
Student Refugee Program
Financial Sustainability & Growth
Seneca J. Velling

Vice President, Operations & Finance

Acknowledgements:
- Charlene Hone, St. Paul’s (Administrative Assistant)
- Michael Steinmann, St. Paul’s (Manager of Finance & Administration)
- Richard Myers, St. Paul’s (President)
- Cheryl Pflug, WUSA (Accounting Manager)
- Dave McDougall, WUSA (Director, Student Experience)

17 August 2019
Appendix

1.0 Proposal to Increase the SRP Fee to $4.82 Per Term (Executive Summary)

2.0 Proposed SPR Fee Budget

3.0 SRP Financial Review

4.0 World University Services Canada Letter of Support

5.0 SRP Funding across Canada (2019-2020)

6.0 SRP Funding: Waterloo c.f. Ontario & Canada (2019-2020)

7.0 Tracer Studies:
   7.1 General SRP Tracer Study
   7.2 WUSC Local Committees Study

8.0 WUSC SRP Student Testimonials
   8.1 Ifrah, co-Chair of the Local Committee 2019-2020
   8.2 Leondard, former SRP Student and Orientation Coordinator for incoming refugee students
Proposal to Increase the SRP Fee to $4.82 Per Term

Executive Summary

Background

The Student Refugee Program (SRP) at the University of Waterloo was launched in 2006. Its aim is two-fold.

1. It gives young refugees who have been displaced by civil war, or other disasters, an opportunity to obtain a university education.
2. It provides an opportunity for students and others at the University of Waterloo to learn more about the plight of refugees and displaced persons – a major world problem that is steadily worsening.

Partnership with WUSC

The SRP is carried out in partnership with World University Services Canada (WUSC). WUSC has similar partnerships with most universities in Canada.

In this partnership, WUSC is responsible for the first stage of the program. Through its extensive network on the ground in refugee camps (primarily those in Africa), WUSC advertises the program, recruits and selects candidates, and manages the process of matching them with participating universities in Canada. WUSC also handles the immigration arrangements with the Federal Government.

The universities are responsible for supporting the SRP students once they arrive in Canada. The support is both financial and human (counselling, advice, friendship, problem-solving, encouragement). One should not underestimate the significance of the latter.

Partnership with STP and Conrad Grebel

Two of the affiliated institutions play a particularly active role in the SRP. There are minor variations in the arrangements, but to simplify, both St. Paul’s and Conrad Grebel (along with some support from the FEDS SRP budget) provide free meals and accommodations to the SRP students for their first two years at the University of Waterloo. In addition, direct management of the program is handled by the Office of the Principal at St. Paul’s.

Waterloo International

Waterloo International also participates in the SRP through its agreement to cover the tuition fees of SRP students during their second year of study.
The Local Committee

The agreement with WUSC stipulates that direct support of the SRP students is to be handled by a "local committee" consisting of student volunteers. In any given year, the local committee at the University of Waterloo will have 12-30 members. Typically, there is a core group of 8-10 students who provide most of the leadership and do most of the work.

Participation History

Since 2006, the University of Waterloo has welcomed 17 SRP students. Waterloo’s sponsored students greatly enrich, and are enriched by, student life at UW; they make lifelong friends both within the college residences and within their academic cohorts; they mentor other students and incoming refugee students, develop their individual talents and personalities, and generally make the SRP what it is: an inspired and inspiring community of students. Sponsored students achieve this despite their personal (and often private) struggles adapting to a foreign culture, to rigorous academic life, to learning and studying in English (often their second, third or even fourth language), and to living without the support and comfort of family and friends back home.

The pattern in recent years has been to take in one new student each year. The next new SRP student will arrive on August 20th to begin a degree in Applied Health Science.

Financial Support

SRP students require considerable financial support. As of 2018, the average 2-year cost to support an SRP student is $95,000 ($57,500 coming from the FEDS budget, the remaining coming from the partners). Expenses covered include:

- Tuition and co-op fees
- Books and other learning materials, including one laptop
- An initial settling-in allocation for clothing
- An allowance for monthly personal expenses, and other small specific supports
- Meals and accommodations at St. Paul’s or Conrad Grebel for the first two years, including between term accommodations; and an apartment transition amount
- WUSC processing fee and travel loan repayment

Revenues

The revenues to support the program come from three sources. Waterloo International contributes an average of $13,000 to cover tuition fees in Year 2.

Students at Conrad Grebel and St. Paul’s contribute generously to fund the cost of accommodating the SRP students in Years 1 and 2. Grebel students pay a mandatory $20 per semester. STP students pay $25 per semester with an opt-out. On average, over 70% of STP students elect to pay the fee.
Following a referendum in 2008, undergraduate students at the University of Waterloo have been paying a refundable levy of $1 per term to support the SRP. (The fee was recently increased to $1.03 with the additional three cents per capita going to FEDS to offset their administrative costs.) Students have always had the right to present at FEDS and request a rebate of the fee. Typically, few have done so.

In 2017-2018, the $1/term levy generated $55,859 for the SRP.

Sustainability

Even under the current revenue model, there will soon be a shortfall in the SRP’s finances. Put simply, expenses have increased faster than revenues. It is projected that at current rates, the SRP would face a small shortfall in 2020.

Obviously, if the $1 levy is abolished, it will be necessary either to terminate the program, or to cut it back dramatically through a different funding model.

Proposal

As a result of recent changes in both provincial and university policy, FEDS will no longer be collecting any levies at a rate below $3.00. The stakeholders in Waterloo’s SRP program met recently to develop a response.

There is unanimous agreement among the stakeholders that the SRP should be continued for both ethical and educational reasons, as described under “Background” above.

As the program would be unsustainable without at least the equivalent of the contributions raised from the $1.03 levy, the group is unanimous that a new levy should be instituted that meets the requirements of the both the Province and FEDS.

After considerable discussion and analysis, it was agreed that we should propose a new levy, subject to the required online opt-out, in the amount of $4.82/semester.

The rationale for that amount is as follows.

A fee of $4.82 per term would allow us to continue bringing in one current student a year, and if opt out fees come in at 30% or less, allow us to bring in one additional student annually. It also allows us to build a bit of a fund balance initially to provide some funds in place to deal with cash flow issues that arise with no fund balance available. This buffer would slowly be removed as inflation costs rise and the $4.82 remains constant. Details of the revenue and expenses are shown in the accompanying document.
### Proposed SRP Fee budget

**Estimated new revenue based on $4.82 and 30% opt out**

$178,924

**Approximate annual Waterloo International, Conrad Grebel University College, and St. Paul’s University College support**

$33,399

**Total Revenue**

$212,323

**Expenses:**

- **Approximate average cost of new student**
  - $96,000

- **Approximate average Cost of additional new student (note 1)**
  - $96,000

- **Co-op/de-regulated fees buffer (note 2)**
  - $7,500

- **Increase fund balance/inflation protection (note 2)**
  - $12,500

**Total Expenses**

$212,000

**Notes**

1. This amount will cover the initial $12,500 to build a fund balance, and additionally help cover inflation increases going forward.

2. Average cost of new student is for average fees in a non co-op and regulated program. If an SRP student is in co-op or in a de-regulated program, the tuition fees are higher than above.

3. This amount will cover the initial $12,500 to build a fund balance, and additionally help cover inflation increases going forward.

**Calculation data:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Fee revenue</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Fee</td>
<td>$4.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current opt out</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated new opt out</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current approximate revenue (based on average of 5 years)</td>
<td>$52,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SRP Financial Review

The financial health of the fund has been slowly declining over the last few years. For the fiscal year 2014-15 the plan broke even and there was $46,500 in surplus, which was almost a whole year’s worth of fees. For the past fiscal year 2018-19 the plan lost $20,000 and the surplus is now down to $11,800, less than one term’s fees. Part of this was planned to reduce the surplus some was not.

In order for the plan to be in a comfortable spot the surplus should be maintained around $30,000. This would be equal to half of a year’s fees. It would also alleviate the program having to borrow money from the general fund at the beginning of each term while they are awaiting the fee cheque.

When looking at the past 3 years, removing the expenses for one of the students because the Provost has generously offered to cover this student’s costs, the fund has fallen short and average of $12,000 per year. This means in order to be able to cover its expenses the fund will need a minimum of $.21 increase. To make up the short fall in the surplus it will need an additional $.35 for the upcoming year. This makes the total additional monies needed for the upcoming year $.56. Making the fee $1.56. This would be true, if we had the entire year, but since the increase won’t take effect until winter term the increase needs to be $1.44. so the fee should be $2.44

Due to the health of the fund, certain items need to be cut from the program, such as driver training, bicycle purchase, travel between terms, lower quality less expensive computers. Also, when bringing a refugee over certain health and dental items arise that cannot always be planned for. While the students are covered under the WUSA health and dental plans the difference between the coverage and the expense still needs to be covered and those items that are not covered need to be paid in full.

All of the above calculations are based on 100% participation. Below are the participation rates and the needed fee amount to keep the program healthy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Fee Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>2.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>3.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>4.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>4.88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since this is an optional fee, it is the opinion of the Federation of Students’ Accounting Department that the Students’ Council should planning for a worst case of fee opt-outs, and should recommend the Board of Directors approve an increase of the current fee to a total of $4.88 per assessment for Full-Time undergraduate students. However, the SRP program can reasonably cover costs and potentially support expanded programming with $4.82 recommended in the accompanying report. Please note that the values presented exclude administrative overhead for the management, accounting, and budget review of the fund. Administrative overheads on all administered funds of the Federation of Students is currently set by the Federation’s Board at 2.5% of premiums (for $4.82 fee this equates to a floor of $0.12, ceiling of $0.13) in additional costs.
August 11th, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of World University Service of Canada (WUSC) regarding the Student Refugee Program (SRP) and the sponsorship offered at the University of Waterloo every year. In the evolving landscape of the Ontario higher education ancillary fee policy, we want to provide information about WUSC and the SRP more broadly, stress the pressing financial needs for the 2019-2020 academic year, and highlight the longstanding relationship between WUSC and the University of Waterloo as well as the positive contribution of the institution towards the SRP since 1989.

World University Service of Canada is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that works on international development issues. WUSC is also a Sponsorship Agreement Holder that holds a legal agreement with the Government of Canada, which allows us to operate the SRP and sponsor refugees. The Student Refugee Program is the only program of its kind in Canada that combines resettlement with opportunities for higher education in safe and supportive environments. This program, unique to Canada, provides financial aid to resettled refugees for a minimum of 12 months at 93 postsecondary institutions each year, including the University of Waterloo. In most institutions, the funds for this program are collected through a student levy, which provides financial sustainability for the SRP on campuses across the country. The levy is democratically voted on within the student body and exists on your campus because the student population voiced their desire to have this levy in place. We hope the levy at the University of Waterloo will be maintained to allow the WUSC Local Committee to keep changing lives by providing higher education to refugee youth we resettled through our program.

At the University of Waterloo, the student levy covers the majority of the funds required for the sponsorship of young refugees, such as housing, food, clothing, living allowances, and repayment of the travel loan. As a result of this secured funding through the student levy, the University of Waterloo has committed to sponsoring 1 student refugee until August 2020, who will be resettled to Canada as a permanent resident and will begin their studies in 2 weeks. Over the last 30 years, the University of Waterloo has provided 17 refugee youth with the unique opportunity to pursue their education and reach their full potential. We hope that the University of Waterloo will be able to meet its responsibility towards this individual by continuing its tradition of demonstrating leadership around the inclusion of vulnerable populations’ access to higher education through the SRP. The SRP at the University of Waterloo also has a positive impact on the Canadian volunteers who support the integration of refugee students and raises awareness on campus. These volunteers benefit from a hands-on, cross-cultural learning experience that contributes to their identities as global citizens. Through their involvement with WUSC and the SRP, many
Waterloo students and alumni have been inspired to volunteer with WUSC overseas and pursue careers in international development.

I would be happy to discuss this request in more detail, either in person or over the phone to allow me to answer any questions you may have, provide more context, and offer any support towards a strategy. Please feel free to contact me with your most convenient availability.

Kind regards,

Marilyne
Program Officer, Student Refugee Program
613-761-3670 | mtremblay@wusc.ca
## Student Refugee Program: 
Funding across Canada (2019-2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>British Columbia</th>
<th>Prairies</th>
<th>Ontario</th>
<th>Quebec</th>
<th>Atlantic</th>
<th>Total (national)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of sponsoring groups</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of students sponsored</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg # of students sponsored per campus</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of campuses that provide support beyond the 12 month sponsorship</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% with student levy</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg undergraduate student levy amount</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$5.70</td>
<td>$5.62</td>
<td>$3.04</td>
<td>$5.62</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max levy amount</td>
<td>$3.70</td>
<td>$11.47</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min levy amount</td>
<td>$7.50</td>
<td>$0.96</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>$0.78</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
<td>$0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% with tuition waiver</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% with residence waiver</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% with meal plan waiver</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% with bookstore credit</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% that repay travel loan (at least partially)</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence and/or rent and utilities</td>
<td>$9,468.82</td>
<td>$8,601.92</td>
<td>$9,114.00</td>
<td>$8,186.57</td>
<td>$7,688.75</td>
<td>$8,552.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Meal Plan</td>
<td>$3,577.31</td>
<td>$5,940.59</td>
<td>$4,450.70</td>
<td>$4,493.22</td>
<td>$4,264.35</td>
<td>$4,586.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial settling in</td>
<td>$446.62</td>
<td>$408.50</td>
<td>$497.50</td>
<td>$611.11</td>
<td>$423.08</td>
<td>$473.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing and accessories</td>
<td>$993.10</td>
<td>$835.00</td>
<td>$863.75</td>
<td>$968.33</td>
<td>$857.69</td>
<td>$899.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal</td>
<td>$1,546.55</td>
<td>$1,871.67</td>
<td>$1,585.00</td>
<td>$1,706.11</td>
<td>$1,556.15</td>
<td>$1,656.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$310.55</td>
<td>$287.20</td>
<td>$211.50</td>
<td>$461.11</td>
<td>$125.38</td>
<td>$278.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial support for subsequent years - % that provide</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Student Refugee Program Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Waterloo</th>
<th>Ontario</th>
<th>Total (national)</th>
<th>Notes (o)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avg # of students sponsored per campus</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of campuses that provide support beyond the 12 month sponsorship</td>
<td>Yes, 33,000$ per student</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% with student levy</td>
<td>$55,000 – which represents 64% of the revenue for the sponsorship</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg undergraduate student levy amount</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>$5.62</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max levy amount</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min levy amount</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>$0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% with tuition waiver</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% with residence waiver</td>
<td>9,250</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% with meal plan waiver</td>
<td>6,635</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% with bookstore credit</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<td>88%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>$497.50</td>
<td>$473.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing and accessories</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$863.75</td>
<td>$899.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal</td>
<td>$4,200</td>
<td>$1,585.00</td>
<td>$1,656.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>$211.50</td>
<td>$278.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Of the 72 institutions sponsoring in 2019-2020, 36% sponsor 2 students or more, up to 9 students a year.
- The average value provided by sponsoring group for subsequent year after the 12 months of sponsorship is $33,000.
- $42,866 is collected on average per institution through student levy.
- The highest amount collected through the student levy is $267,540 per year – which represents 50,000 students contributing for the sponsorship of 9 students.
- The lowest amount collected is $2,000 per year for the sponsorship of 1 student, which represents 1,000 students contributing to the sponsorship of one student every year (other funding is required in this case).
- Nationally, $12,239 is provided every year by the school administration of postsecondary education for tuitions.
WUSC’s Student Refugee Program (SRP) is the only program of its kind to combine opportunities for resettlement and higher education. Operating since 1978, the SRP has supported more than 1,700 young refugees from 39 countries of origin to resettle and study at over 80 universities, colleges, and CEGEPS across Canada. The SRP rests upon a unique peer-to-peer model which engages young global citizens on Canadian campuses to welcome and facilitate the integration of newly arrived students.
In 2016 alone, the number of students supported grew by 63%.

This growth was supported in large part by a renewed sense of urgency among the Canadian post-secondary community and broader Canadian public to accelerate Canada’s response to the global refugee crisis.

Country of Origin
Afghanistan
Angola
Argentina
Bhutan
Bosnia & Herzegovina
Burma
Myanmar
Burundi
Comores Islands
Congo
Czech Republic*
DRC
El Salvador
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Ghana
Guatemala
Iran
Iraq
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Malawi
Palestine
Rwanda
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Sudan
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Syria
Uganda
*Current name

Country of Asylum
Botswana
Djibouti
Gambia
India
Jordan
Kenya
Lebanon
Malawi
Malaysia
Pakistan
Rwanda
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Sudan
Swaziland
Syria
Thailand
Uganda
Zaire/DRC
Zimbabwe

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Students sponsored through the SRP arrive in Canada as permanent residents. This status enables them to access various funding options to continue their studies after their first year of sponsorship, including financial aid, awards, and employment. These are the same options commonly accessed by Canadian students.

The majority of those who pursue further education enrol in diploma, undergraduate, or master’s degree. 66% say their education is related to their field of employment.
Nearly 66% of the respondents are satisfied with their jobs.

8 in 10 hold Canadian citizenship.

93% felt a sense of belonging to Canada.

Job satisfaction increases as more time is spent in Canada:
- >20 years: Agree
- 10-20 years: Agree, Neutral
- <10 years: Agree, Neutral, Disagree

Family sponsorship and remittances:
- 29% of former students sponsor family members.
- 33% of former students plan to sponsor family members in the future.

Mental health:
- Since arriving in Canada, mental health has:
  - 54% became better
  - 29% stayed the same
  - 7% became worse
  - 5% has been inconsistent
  - 7% prefer not to say

Connectedness to Canada:
- 8 in 10 hold Canadian citizenship.
- 68% experienced racism.
- 60% experienced discrimination.
- 60% reside in a different city.
- 30% reside in a different country.
- 60% reside in the city of original sponsorship.

WUSC (World University Service of Canada) is a Canadian non-profit organization improving education, employment, and empowerment opportunities for youth. We engage a diverse network of students, skilled volunteers, development agents, institutions, governments, and businesses. Together, we foster youth-centred solutions to overcome inequality and exclusion around the world.

Thank you to our funders:
Our work is possible only with the generous support of our funders.

For a complete list, please visit srp.wusc.ca

WORLD UNIVERSITY SERVICE OF CANADA
1405 Scott | Ottawa, ON | Canada | K1Y 4M8
Charitable Registration Number: 11930 4848 RR0001

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Active on more than 80 campuses across Canada, WUSC Local Committees are campus-based groups of students, faculty, and staff who mobilize support for global development and foster more welcoming communities for refugees and newcomers. Through awareness raising events, fundraising, and the sponsorship of refugee youth to Canadian colleges, universities, and CEGEPS, WUSC Local Committee members deepen their understanding of sustainable development while shaping more global thinkers around them.

**About the Outcomes**

The figures presented here are compiled from the results of an online survey, conducted in October/November 2017, which sought to capture the experiences of WUSC Local Committee members and how their involvement with WUSC influenced their decisions later in life. The survey was sent by WUSC to alumni for whom WUSC had email addresses (991 individuals, 353 of whom responded). The survey was anonymous, voluntary, and none of the questions were mandatory to complete.
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WUSC SRP Testimonial - Ifrah

The WUSC Student Refugee Program (SRP) is a one of a kind program in Canada that strives to empower refugee youth in providing resettlement and opportunities in higher education. It is a unique program since it is the only youth to youth sponsorship program that engages youth in Canada to volunteer their time in raising funds and awareness through their local WUSC SRP committees on university campuses. One of the major challenges faced by SRP students is the cultural difference. There are language barriers, different norms and practices as well as different food and weather; however, the local WUSC SRP committees allow SRP students to meet new students and communicate with them, this allows them to critically think and have the exposure of different perspectives. This program will have local committees to help SRP students to overcome these differences by discussing with them about these changes and supporting them in times of need. The committee offers emotional and social support for 12 months to each SRP student, by providing opportunities of introducing their community, university, and the Canadian culture. This will contribute to allowing SRP students to be independent and think constructively about their future. This committee will allow SRP students to experience new activities and learn new skills; moreover, they will be introduced to the different services available on campus, such as the International Students Office and the clubs/societies on campus. This program is important as it allows students to gain an education and socially integrate towards their community by receiving support from their local WUSC SRP committees, meeting new peers and fostering long-standing relationships. This committee is vital as having a support system for the SRP students is important to overcome socio-cultural barriers and taking care of mental health. The local committee is involved in helping the SRP students to settle in their first few weeks, with their income tax returns and immigration affairs.

Through the committee, they are able to meet new people from different backgrounds and expand their social network, as research shows that often when arriving to a new country there is a possibility of feeling isolated. This can negatively affect your mental health; however, being a part of a community with a strong support from fellow peers provides an easier pathway to success in education and life. It also sponsors students for a year and provides them basic financial aid. This financial aid covers their tuitions and accommodation fees, and allows them to focus on their studies to be successful and settle in their community. The program socially affects the SRP students by allowing them to grow their self-esteem and social skills in integrating with their community. A sense of belonging is vital to SRP students for their education; therefore, this program brings a sense of awareness to the Universities and its community, and in return, students provide the necessary support for boasting self-confidence and acceptance to the SRP students when they arrive to different environments. This program assists SRP students before their arrival to Canada, through an intensive process of language training, academic preparation and pre departure session. All of this contributes to their success upon arriving to Canada and adjust easily in school and life. Since 1978, this program has supported more than 1,600 SRP students from a wide range of countries. The WUSC SRP program has been successful in providing an innovative pathway in integrating their students, there is a study in 2007 that states about 85% SRP students received employment after they graduated.

I have the privilege and wonderful opportunity to co-chair this upcoming year 2019-2020, Waterloo WUSC committee. I have been volunteering with this committee since 2017, and by 2018, I have been more active as I met more SRP students and heard about their stories and seeing their joy and perseverance have inspired me to spend my time in helping and possibly making a difference that
could positively impact current and future SRP students. Being able to be a friend, mentor, and welcoming community member to SRP students once they arrive, and seeing how it influences them has been a driving factor as to why I have chosen to be an active member of Waterloo’s WUSC SRP local committee.
SRP Program Testimonial – Leonard Honore

The student refugee program is a life changing opportunity for myself and the many other beneficiaries that I know. The trip was not easy, and it was my first time on the plane heading into a foreign country, the first time away from family. But my faith in the host country and the only peer to peer program in the world gave me excitement for the trip and thus could not wait to get here and call Canada home. It is obvious that the SRP provides the opportunity for refugee students to pursue their post-secondary studies across Canadian post-secondary institutions. A rare and golden opportunity for the millions of refugee students across the globe. I firmly assert the above statement because I know how I strived with the many others who did not make it for the shortlist of the students to come to Canada in my year. There are options in Canada when applying for universities after high school. Unfortunately for the refugee students there is not. Many students are stuck after high school and even when they get the chance to enroll in online studies in their respective refugee camps, they do not get work permits thus cannot put their knowledge to use. Alas, how do you earn a living without working? Secondly, the SRP provided me and the many others a place to call home. I left my country of origin when I was very young that I can barely remember anything. I could have called the camp home but the restrictions and limited opportunities available made it not feel like home.

It is amazing what a dollar can do to change someone’s life. The University of Waterloo has graduated a number of SRP students all through the earlier one-dollar student levy over the years. The recent graduates being Gloire Gatabazi and Oswald Buhendwa class of 2019. I neither can emphasize my gratitude enough nor can I make you understand how a dollar from one’s tuition, which can neither buy a coffee nor a chocolate bar at a convenient store, transforms someone’s life to a degree holder, a potential Canadian citizen and most likely a model citizen because they have learned how it feels not to have.

I am currently the SRP Student Coordinator for the incoming students. I have been a part of the SRP Committee since my arrival at UW. I believed I had the expertise that the committee did not possess here. I have first-hand information on how the incoming students feel, what they have been through and probably what they need to adapt and integrate into the diverse Canadian society. Furthermore, it is the least I can do as a service to the program that gave me a lifetime opportunity that my family and I will forever be grateful for.