

I’d like to take this opportunity to welcome all back to campus for the Fall 2022 semester. It is extremely rewarding to again see our campus fully buzzing with activity, and to feel the energy that students bring!

ENROLLMENT SUMMER / FALL 2022

In summary, TRU is seeing small declines in domestic student numbers and noticeable increases in international student numbers. Here is IPE’s analysis of on-campus course registrations, applications, and admissions for the Fall 2022 term.

This was IPE’s final report on Fall 2022 course registrations and applications/admissions. The deadline for students to add or drop courses was September 20. IPE intends to release its Fall 2022 final enrolment reports in early October, and will begin reporting on Winter 2023 Course Registrations/Applications and Admissions going forward.

Course Registrations

Fall 2022 on-campus courses started on September 6. As of September 27, on campus (Kamloops and Williams Lake) course registrations and student headcount for Fall 2022 were greater than last year at the same time (both up 3%). Domestic registrants (headcount) were down 5% (4,997 last year vs. 4,770 this year) and international registrants were up 15% relative to the same time last year (3,309 last year vs. 3,802 this year).

Fall 2022 Course Registrations and Registrants Kamloops and Williams Lake (excludes Trades)



Data as of **September 19, 2022** with comparisons to data from the same week last year.
(Latest Registration on September 19, 2022)

Course Registrations Summary					Registrants Summary				
	Last Year to date	Last Year total	This Year to date	This Year to date % of Last Year Total		Last Year to date	Last Year total	This Year to date	This Year to date % of Last Year Total
Domestic	20,542	20,538	19,629	96%	Domestic	4,997	4,992	4,770	96%
International	12,291	12,313	14,244	116%	International	3,309	3,317	3,802	115%
Total	32,833	32,851	33,873	103%	Total	8,306	8,309	8,572	103%

Compared to last year at the same time, there are:

- 110 more new international registrants (782 last year vs. 892 this year) at Kamloops campus.
- 111 fewer new domestic registrants (1,234 last year vs. 1,123 this year) at Kamloops campus.

- More course registrations in all course divisions at Kamloops campus with the exception of Arts (down less than 1%) and Nursing (up less than 1%).
- More course registrations in all course divisions at Williams Lake campus with the exception of Nursing, where the Health Career Access program is running at lower capacity than it did last year.

For Fall 2022 (excludes Trades):

- Registrations in the Faculty of Student Development are up 46%, mostly due to growth in international Co-Op course registrations.
- International students enrolled in a BGSoBE program are taking an average of 3.7 courses, which is up slightly from 3.6 last fall. As a result, international course registrations in BGSoBE courses (by students in any program) are up 17% while international registrants in BGSoBE programs are up 13%.
- International registrants are up 26% at the graduate level (493 last year vs. 620 this year), up 22% at the post-baccalaureate level (1,089 last year vs. 1,329 this year), and up 6% at the undergraduate level (1,738 last year vs. 1,835 this year). International graduate registrants are up in all program divisions except for Nursing.
- Domestic registrants are up 35% at the graduate level (128 last year vs. 174 this year), up 44% at the post-baccalaureate level (18 last year vs. 26 this year), and down 6% at the undergraduate level (4,791 last year vs. 4,509 this year). The growth in domestic graduate registrants is primarily in BGSoBE with smaller increases in Nursing and Science, and there are 15 registrants in the new Master of Arts in Human Rights and Social Justice.

Applications and Admissions

Total applications and admissions (excluding Nursing, Trades, and Law) ended up higher than last year's numbers at this time and higher than three years ago (Fall 2019; the most recent pre-pandemic year), while total registrants are flat compared to last year and down from pre-pandemic numbers.

Applications are up 9% overall (Domestic: -4%; International: +21%), and admissions are up 19% overall (Domestic: +6%; International: +32%). The number of Fall 2022 applicants who have registered is very similar to this time last year (less than 1% difference overall) and is down compared to Fall 2019 numbers at the same point in time (-9% overall).

To date, the conversion rate for domestic students is down relative to both last year and pre-pandemic rates (49% this year vs. 57% last year and 59% two years ago at this time). International conversion rates are down slightly from last year and down relative to pre-pandemic rates (25% this year vs. 29% last year and 54% two years ago to-date).

Latest Application On			ADMISSIONS					REGISTRANTS				CONVERSION		
Residency	3 Years Ago to date*	Last Year to date	Last Year total	This Year to date	To-date % diff (last yr)	This Year to date % of Last Year total	3 Years Ago to date	Last Year to date	This Year to date	To-date % diff	3 Years Ago to date	Last Year to date	This Year to date	
Domestic	3,164	3,125	3,125	3,310	+6%	106%	1,861	1,770	1,613	-9%	59%	57%	49%	
International	2,181	3,402	3,402	4,475	+32%	132%	1,169	997	1,133	14%	54%	29%	25%	
Total	5,345	6,527	6,527	7,785	+19%	119%	3,030	2,767	2,745	-1%	57%	42%	35%	

Latest Application On			ADMISSIONS					REGISTRANTS				CONVERSION		
Residency	3 Years Ago to date*	Last Year to date	Last Year total	This Year to date	To-date % diff (last yr)	This Year to date % of Last Year total	3 Years Ago to date	Last Year to date	This Year to date	To-date % diff	3 Years Ago to date	Last Year to date	This Year to date	
Domestic	3,205	3,224	3,224	3,357	+4%	104%	1,781	1,700	1,599	-6%	56%	53%	48%	
International	3,182	3,563	3,563	4,620	+30%	130%	1,159	953	1,095	15%	36%	27%	24%	
Total	6,387	6,787	6,787	7,977	+18%	118%	2,940	2,653	2,693	2%	46%	39%	34%	

BACK TO CAMPUS

With the Fall 2022 semester well underway, we know that COVID-19 (and other communicable diseases) are on the minds of many people in our community, including at TRU. Providing a safe working and learning environment continues to be a priority. To keep our campus safe, there are safety measures in place but there are also expectations of all of us who come to campus.

TRU, along with all other universities in B.C., continues to follow guidance and direction from BC's Provincial Health Office and Chief Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry. TRU will continue to:

- Provide a mask-friendly environment.
- [Regularly clean](#) educational spaces, public spaces and high-touch areas and maintain supplies of sanitizer throughout the campuses.
- Operate our HVAC system under ASHRAE COVID-19 best practices and frequently replace MERV air filters that are installed throughout campus.
- Work with AEST, Public Health, and other BC post-secondary institutions, along with and other health experts to ensure we are taking the appropriate steps to best protect our community.

At the same time, we expect that everyone who comes to campus will:

- Assess themselves and stay home if sick. People are encouraged to visit our [Illness Management](#) page if faced with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Test when necessary. Check [Interior Health's website](#) (or the [First Nations Health Authority website](#) for our Indigenous community members).
- Support everyone's choice to wear or not wear a mask.
- Continue to regularly wash and sanitize our hands.
- Get vaccinations and boosters if able and eligible.
- If travelling, follow appropriate travel requirements.

If there are changes to our shared responsibilities and expectations, we will update the [COVID-19 page](#) on our website, share on TRU Connect, and on our social media channels. We are excited to have new students experience TRU for the first time, welcome back returning students and for everyone to have a safe and successful year ahead.

The following link from the Vancouver Sun highlights the provincial discussion around B.C.'s universities and COVID-19: <https://vancouversun.com/health/local-health/university-mask-vaccine-policies-fall-semester>

INTEGRATED STRATEGIC PLANNING

The work of integrated strategic planning at TRU continued through the summer. Our new provost, who arrived on campus on July 4, has made ISP a high priority. Dr. Balfour spent important time looking at the significant amount of work done by the ISP project team and steering committee to date, as well as past planning initiatives at TRU, and deciding on timeframes and direction for next steps.

Dr. Balfour also consulted with groups and individuals at TRU, including the President's Leadership Group, around next steps and development of an implementation schedule. A full report on ISP and its progress is expected before the Board by the end of the year.

ENSURING A VALUES-BASED WORKPLACE CULTURE

TRU's university-wide conversation about our workplace culture, led by VPs Brian Daly and Baihua Chadwick, will be an opportunity for employees to talk to each other about how we all interact in the workplace. Our hope is that sharing our perspectives and ideas about how best to reflect TRU's values, such as creating a sense of belonging and respecting all people, will impact and improve our daily interactions with each other.

Raj Dhasi from [Turning Point Resolutions](#), who is TRU's facilitator for this initiative, has been consulting with our community through the summer to gather input about the design of the listening phase of this initiative. That initial work is coming to an end, and the next phase — when we begin to have deep and authentic dialogue about workplace culture — will get underway before the end of the year.

Raj is an expert in conflict resolution with experience supporting various sectors, including post-secondary. Her work also includes designing listening processes that address power and privilege, with a focus on equity and ensuring safety.

After the listening phase is complete, Raj will help us design an action and implementation plan that will bring about real results. The result of all this effort with Raj will not be a report or a set of recommendations that sit on a shelf. Our commitment is that these conversations will result in initiatives that continue to build a strong workplace culture at TRU.

LEADERSHIP

I'm pleased to introduce TRU's new AVP of People & Culture. Shayne Olsen started in the role on August 2. He comes to TRU from School District 73, where he served as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. Shayne is a highly qualified HR professional with significant experience in education, and I am sure he will have an impact on TRU in the future.

STUDENT HOUSING

TRU students (including our international community) have fared comparatively well this fall regarding housing. We have not seen the significant shortages of housing for students like we did last year when wildfires across B.C. concentrated evacuees in communities like Kamloops and put considerable pressure on the availability of short-term and rental housing.

TRU's wait list for on-campus residence dropped significantly by September 6, from a high of 250 in late August. Many students have chosen high-density, lower-cost housing in the city rental market and choosing those options instead of staying in residence. We continue to develop a new student housing project along Summit Drive that will add many new spaces for students in January.

Despite the slightly more optimistic situation this year, we have been told that many individuals have still struggled to find suitable housing. We will continue to monitor the situation and will work with individuals as needed to help them find suitable living arrangements while studying at TRU.

WAR IN UKRAINE

As the war in Ukraine continues to disrupt the lives of millions in Europe and elsewhere, TRU remains committed to help those in our community who have been affected by the ongoing violence.

This semester, we have 21 students from Ukraine and 49 from Russia. Ten of the Ukrainian students are new students, and are eligible for domestic tuition rates under the federal government's Canadian-Ukrainian Authorized for Emergency Travel (CUAET) program, which was announced in May. TRU World is working with our 11 continuing Ukrainian students to help them access the program, if possible, as well.

TRU is also providing financial support to all students from these war-affected areas based on individual need. TRU World's international student advisors maintain regular contact with students to assess and assist those who need help.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge and thank TRU instructor and member of Senate Oleksandr (Sascha) Kondrashov, who has been helping organize and promote events through the summer to raise awareness of those affected by the war, and to provide avenues for Kamloops to **#StandWithUkraine**.

CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT

The following is a brief list of some of the activities through the summer and early fall that allowed me to connect with and engage with stakeholders, government leaders, and other post-secondary organizations. I also meet and converse regularly with T'kemplúps te Sécwepemc, T'exelc, officials of the Ministry of Advanced Education Skills Training, and other provincial and federal agencies.

Significant events:

- AEST Funding Formula Review Team (Don Wright) came to TRU for an institutional visit as part of his consultation efforts with PSIs across B.C.
- Hosted AEST Funding Review Regional Roundtable, *Challenges of Post-Secondary Education in the Southern Interior*. Present for the roundtable, which was hosted virtually, were representatives of UBC-Okanagan, Okanagan College, NVIT, Selkirk College, and College of the Rockies.
- A President's Circle meeting on 12 September recognized dozens of community leaders who have generously supported TRU students.
- Orange Shirt Day — September 29
- TRUSU's Pride Parade — October 4
- Attended Indigenous Education Centre Site Blessing
- I also attended alumni events in Vancouver, Victoria, and Calgary.

Meetings with the following individuals or groups:

- Executive Director of Innovative Programs & Partnerships (Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery & Innovation)
- RUCBC presidents' meetings
- AEST Minister Anne Kang, at Williams Lake Campus
- Universities Canada Research Committee

Upcoming Events:

- I will be joining a small TRU team in Ottawa later this month to meet with federal government officials about the possibility of developing an institute at TRU for research related to wildland fire and emergency management. This is an exciting opportunity for TRU to develop expertise and reputation in a field that continues to rise in prominence in B.C. and across Canada.

Last June, I made an online presentation to B.C.'s Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. The final report from the committee has been submitted to government. References to our presentation can be found within the report, notably the request for stable and predictable public funding. The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services' [report on the Budget 2023 consultation is found here](#).

UNIVERSITY NEWS

[TRU Gaglardi receives international award for Indigenous collaboration](#) — The Bob Gaglardi School of Business and Economics was the sole Canadian recipient of the 2022 Innovations That Inspire awards presented by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). In 2022, AACSB's Innovations That Inspire focused on efforts to elevate diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in business education, and 24 schools were recognized worldwide. TRU Gaglardi, the only Canadian recipient, was selected for the Splatsin-TRU Business Development Project.

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, TRU Gaglardi endeavoured to increase collaboration with Indigenous communities and the businesses within to develop educational programs that respond to regional needs. The Splatsin-TRU Business Development Project provided an opportunity for the school to support the inclusion of Indigenous people in education and economic environments.

[TRU researchers awarded over \\$500,000 through Discovery Grants](#) — Three TRU researchers received \$590,000 through the federal [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council \(NSERC\) Discovery Grants Program](#), announced in late June by the Government of Canada.

Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry François-Philippe Champagne has [announced an investment of more than \\$506 million in new funding](#) to provide 4,216 science and engineering leaders with the means to pursue world-class discovery work.

Dr. Eric Bottos, from the Department of Biological Sciences, has been awarded \$252,500 over five years, which includes an [Early Career Researcher supplement](#) as well as a [Northern Research Supplement](#), to predict permafrost microbial community responses to thaw based on pre-thaw ecosystem characteristics.

Dr. Nelaine Mora-Diez, from the Department of Chemistry, received a \$180,000 Discovery Grant to focus on the theoretical studies of biochemical and environmental relevance.

Dr. Muhammad Hanif, from the Department of Engineering, has been awarded \$157,500, which also includes an Early Career Researcher supplement, to study reconfigurable intelligent surfaces-based future wireless communications.