

ENROLMENT SUMMARY WINTER 2025 — IPE recently released a summary of TRU enrolment for Winter 2025. The data highlight key shifts in student numbers across TRU's campuses and Open Learning programs.

The most significant change is a sharp decline in new international enrolments, down 59% compared to last year. This drop is a direct result of federal policy changes affecting study and post-graduate work permits, leading to an overall 19% decline in international student numbers on the Kamloops campus.

In contrast, domestic enrolment remains stable or growing. Kamloops campus has seen a 4% increase in domestic students, while Williams Lake campus enrolment is up 23%. Open Learning continues to expand, with domestic enrolment increasing by 7%.

Program demand has also shifted. The Bob Gaglardi School of Business and Economics, which previously saw high enrolment from international students, has experienced a significant decline, particularly at the post-baccalaureate level. Meanwhile, Science, Nursing, and Trades programs have shown growth, likely reflecting changing student interests and workforce needs.

Open Learning remains a critical component of TRU's enrolment strategy, with a 45% increase in international students and a 7% increase in domestic enrolment. This growth suggests that Open Learning could play an increasingly important role in attracting students, particularly those seeking flexible study options.

Indigenous student representation continues to strengthen, particularly in Williams Lake, where 37% of domestic students now self-identify as Indigenous. This increase aligns with TRU's commitment to accessibility and support for Indigenous learners in the region.

NOMINEES FOR TRU HONORARY DEGREES — The honorary degree is the highest form of recognition offered by TRU. You are invited to nominate a distinguished individual for an honorary degree, in accordance with [Honorary Degree Policy ED 16-2](#). The nomination deadline for candidates to be considered for the 2026 Convocation ceremonies is Aug. 31, 2025.

Recipients of honorary degrees must be distinguished, with achievements both relevant and appropriate to TRU. Eligibility for nomination is restricted to persons of provincial, national or international stature. By nominating a worthy candidate, this is your opportunity to:

- Profile your discipline or field within our university

- Highlight and raise awareness of important issues in society
- Bring national attention to our university and our community
- Forge a relationship that could benefit your faculty or school
- TRU employees, students, alumni and members of the Board of Governors are invited to nominate candidates for consideration.

Visit the [Honorary Degree Nomination Process OneTRU site](#) to get started. Contact the [Secretariat](#) with any questions.

AVP GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH APPOINTED — Dr. Brian Roy has been named as TRU's new Associate Vice-President, Graduate Studies and Research.

Brian comes to TRU from Brock University, where he was associate dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs for the past four years. He joined Brock's kinesiology department in 2002 and was department chair from 2015 to 2018. His leadership roles at the university also include senator, chair of the Bioscience Research Ethics Board and director of the Centre for Bone and Muscle Health.

As the recipient of multiple grants and awards as a sports and clinical scientist, Brian's research focuses on the regulation of integrated physiological responses and muscle metabolism during physical activity and dietary manipulations. In 2023 he was co-investigator on a CHIR Project Grant valued at \$573,752, "The Can-IIHSS: A Canadian integrated platform for injury and concussion prevention." He won the CCIP Award for Collaborative Excellence in 2022 for "Concussion Awareness Training Tool (CATT) for High-Performance Athletes." He is the author of more than 80 peer-reviewed articles and chapters in six books.

Brian holds a Bachelor of Physical Education and an MSc in Kinesiology from McMaster, and a PhD in Work Physiology from the University of Waterloo. He returned to McMaster as a CIHR Research Fellow in the Department of Medicine.

VP INTERNATIONAL NOMINATED TO CBIE BOARD — Congratulations to Baihua Chadwick, Vice-President International, who has been nominated to the board of directors for the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE).

CBIE is the national voice advancing international education in Canada, bringing together leaders from institutions across the country to shape policies, share expertise, and support student success. Baihua's nomination recognizes her leadership in international education, her commitment to fostering inclusion and diversity and her ability to navigate complex policy landscapes.

TRU OPEN LEARNING RECEIVES FUNDS TO IMPROVE MICRO-CREDENTIAL ASSESSMENT —

TRU has received \$321,359 for the third phase of its work creating a process to assess micro-credentials for additional credit options.

A micro-credential is a short, stand-alone, competency-based learning program that fits with labour market or community needs. It is assessed and recognized for employment or further learning.

As part of phase 3, TRU is assessing up to 50 micro-credentials for possible academic credit. This includes provincially funded and independently developed micro-credentials. Phase 3 builds on the success of phases 1 and 2, which created a repeatable micro-credential assessment process.

TRU is also working with the B.C. Council on Admissions & Transfer (BCCAT) to house and share the assessment results through the online Transfer Credit System. Sharing assessment results allows institutions across B.C. to identify potential credit paths within their own institution.

TRU continues to engage with a committee of senior post-secondary institution representatives to refine, scale and apply the assessment process. This committee will report on findings with recommendations for repeatable and sustainable processes that expand current skill validation in post-secondary institutions.

NEW CEREMONIAL MACE DEBUTS AT SPRING CONVOCATION — Tk'emlúps artist Ed Jensen has designed and carved a new ceremonial mace for the university featuring Coyote and stories of the Secwépemc people. The new mace replaces our old mace, which was damaged in transit in 2024.

The new mace prominently features Coyote, carved from a piece of. He sits atop a juniper staff carved with pictographs that represent the stories of the Secwépemc people as they live on the land. The staff is carved with pictographs depicting stories of the Secwépemc people. To emphasize their importance, Jensen painted them with red ochre.

Ed, who is a respected hunter, hunting guide and knowledge keeper among Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, says he is looking forward to seeing his art used in future convocation ceremonies.

[Read the full story of Ed and his work here.](#)

TRU RECOGNIZES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI — TRU is honouring three esteemed alumni with Distinguished Alumni Awards for outstanding achievements and dedicated service in the areas of health care, truth and reconciliation, and medicine.

Celebrating distinguished alumni has been a cherished tradition at TRU since the inception of the Alumni Association in 1995. This year's Distinguished Alumni Awards go to:

Frank Fiorenza, Distinguished Alumni Award, Health Care 2024 — As an experienced respiratory therapist and inventor of innovative medical devices, Frank (BHS '12) has significantly impacted the healthcare industry. His inventions have optimized mechanical ventilation, resulting in enhanced patient care and better protected healthcare workers. With more than 20 patents and patents pending for various devices related to respiratory therapy, his contributions are recognized globally. Fiorenza is president and CEO of Smart RS Inc. and vice president of sales, marketing and product development at McArthur Medical.

Annie Korver, Distinguished Alumni Award, Truth and Reconciliation 2024 — Annie (BTM '04) is the founder of Rise Consulting Ltd., a corporation that focuses on Indigenous inclusion and reconciliation in corporate Canada. Through her leadership at Rise Consulting, Korver facilitates the creation of sustainable relationships between corporations and Indigenous communities. Korver is a respected speaker as well, frequently sharing her insights at high-profile events on topics such as Indigenous inclusion, economic reconciliation and the empowerment of Indigenous women. By actively participating in initiatives that empower Indigenous women and youth, Korver provides guidance and inspiration to those who aspire to follow in her footsteps.

Dr. Elspeth McDougall, Distinguished Alumni Award, Medicine 2024 — Recognizing her outstanding achievements in the field of medicine, most notably her work in developing new techniques in laparoscopic renal surgery, Elspeth McDougall, MD, received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from TRU in 2010.

Now retired, she is a professor emerita at the University of British Columbia. McDougall is internationally recognized for her laboratory and clinical research in urologic laparoscopic surgery and teaching courses on fundamental and advanced endourological and laparoscopic techniques. McDougall has published well over 200 peer-reviewed journal articles and numerous book chapters, and she is the co-editor of two textbooks on laparoscopic surgery.

TRU ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING — TRU's Day of Giving is your chance to invest in education, training, research and scholarship that makes a difference in the lives of students. This year's goal is to raise \$50,000 in just 24 hours.

Building on the success of last year's campaign, which surpassed its 48-hour target of \$48,000, organizers are hopeful that the community will once again come together to make a powerful impact on students.

The 2025 Day of Giving kicks off at 12:01 a.m. on Feb. 27, and donors have 24 hours to choose a cause, either a featured fund or an area of their choice from across TRU's faculties and schools. Stay tuned for more on featured funds, challenges and on-campus activities. Choose your cause at tru.ca/givingday.

TRU AND UNIVERSIDAD EXTERNADO EXPLORE ACADEMIC COLLABORATION — I had the opportunity to meet with Externado University Rector Hernando Parra Nieto in Colombia earlier this month to discuss potential academic partnerships, including student exchanges and double-degree programs.

The discussion highlighted shared priorities such as faculty development and Indigenous inclusion. I also expressed interest in facilitating visits for TRU students and faculty to Externado and noted TRU's focus on in-person and virtual education.

The meeting was made possible through Juan Felipe Mejia, who is an Externado graduate and now Manager, Transnational Education, TRU World. Also representing TRU in Colombia were TRU World's ZiPing Feng, Chief International Enrolment Officer, and Aldo Mendizabal, Senior International Recruitment Consultant. Anyone interested in learning more is welcome to contact TRU World's Study Abroad Office, Norah Vander Haas (nvanderhaas@tru.ca 1-250-852-6312).