

Looking at Numbers: International Students in

Ontario and Quebec

A Comparative Analysis

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Objectives and Data Sources

Objectives

The study compares the flow of ISs and their social characteristics and transition between Ontario and Quebec.

Data Sources

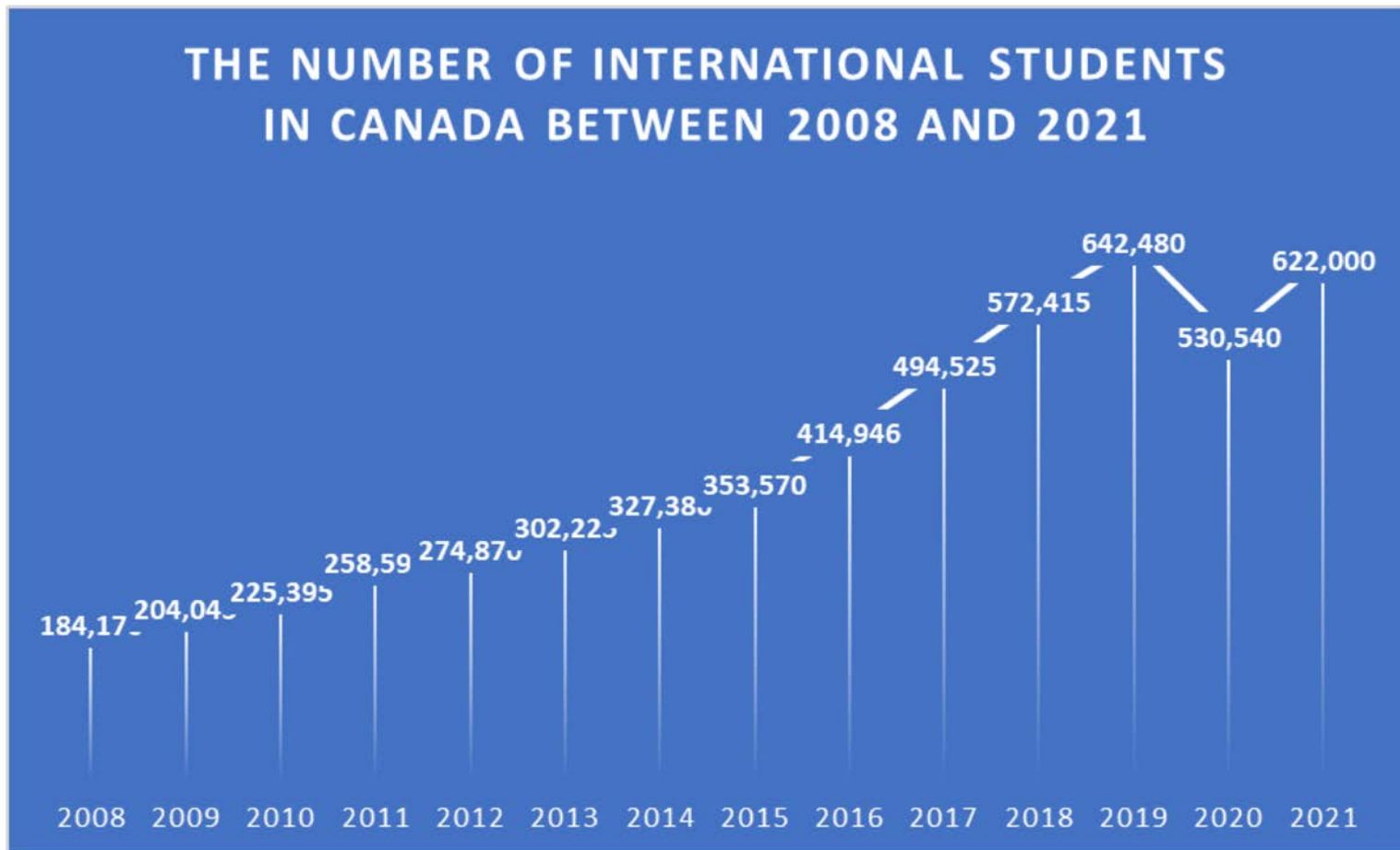
- Non-Resident File (NRF), 1980-2015
 - Migrants who entered Canada with a non-permanent resident visa.
- Integrated Permanent and Non-Permanent Resident File (PNRF), 1980-2015
 - ISs who became permanent residents
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)
- The Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE)

Limitations

- NRF contains very limited information
- NRF and PNRF are dated
- All numbers are rounded to multiples of 50

International Students: Policy Targets

The number of ISs in 2017 surpassed the Government of Canada's goal of receiving 450,000 ISs by 2022. Between 2017 and 2019, ISs increased by 30%.



Post Graduate Work Permits (PGWP)

- From 2015 to 2020 , the annual number of PGWP holders grew nearly 4 times in size, from 33,580 to 121,285 (IRCC 2020).
- From 2008 to 2018, the annual number of new PGWP holders grew more than six times in size, from 10,300 to 64,700. (Eden Crossman, Yuqian Lu and Feng Hou, January 18, 2022).
 - ❖ The share of male PGWP holders was consistently larger than that of female PGWP holders throughout the period.
 - ❖ By age, the share of PGWPs obtained by those aged 24 and younger has trended upwards over time, and made up almost half (49%) of all PGWPs signed in 2018.
 - ❖ In contrast, the share signed by those aged 25 to 34 trended downwards, falling from 56% in 2008 to 46% in 2018, although their number rose continuously from 5,800 to 29,400.

International Students: Countries of Origin

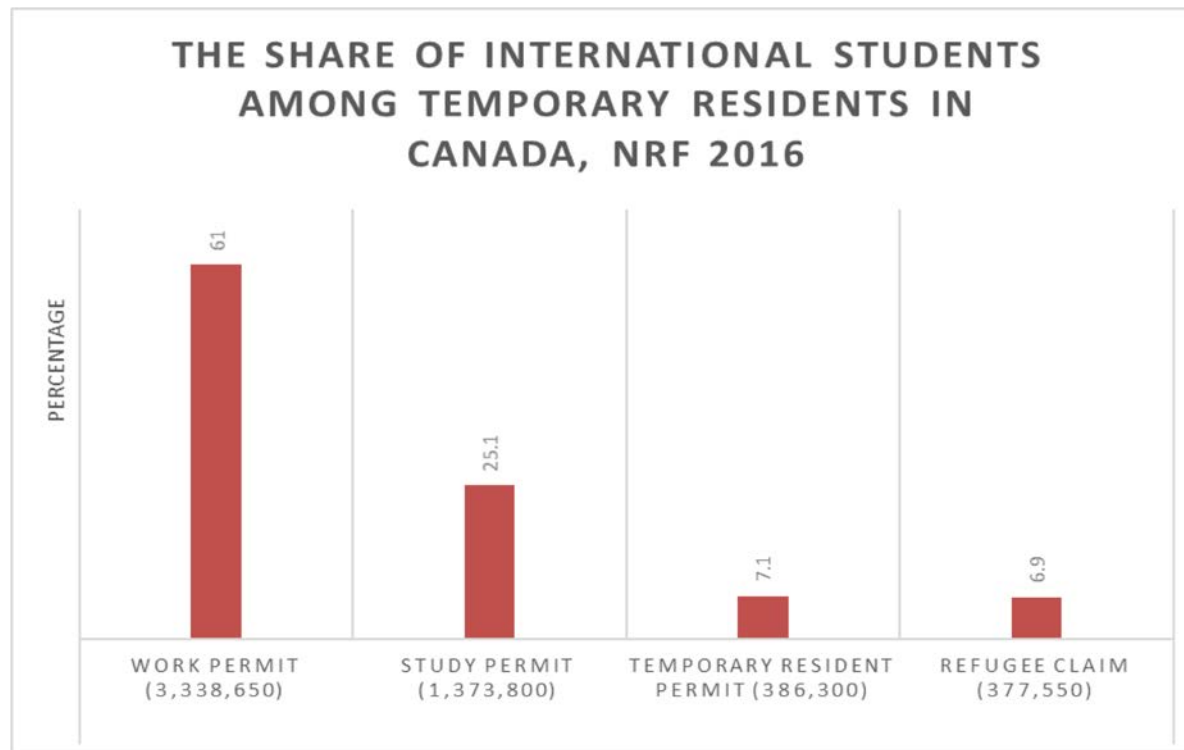
Diversity among ISs has declined in recent years with 85 percent of all ISs coming from the top five countries of citizenship.

The top 10 international student source countries (by number of study permit holders on December 31, 2021)		
India	48%	217,410
China	23.2%	105,265
France	5.9%	26,630
Iran	3.7%	16,900
Vietnam	3.6%	16,285
South Korea	3.5%	15,805
The Philippines	3.4%	15,545
United States of America	3.2%	14,325
Nigeria	3%	13,745
Mexico	2.5%	11,550

International Students: IMDB

1,373,800 migrants entered Canada with a study permit between 1980 and 2015.

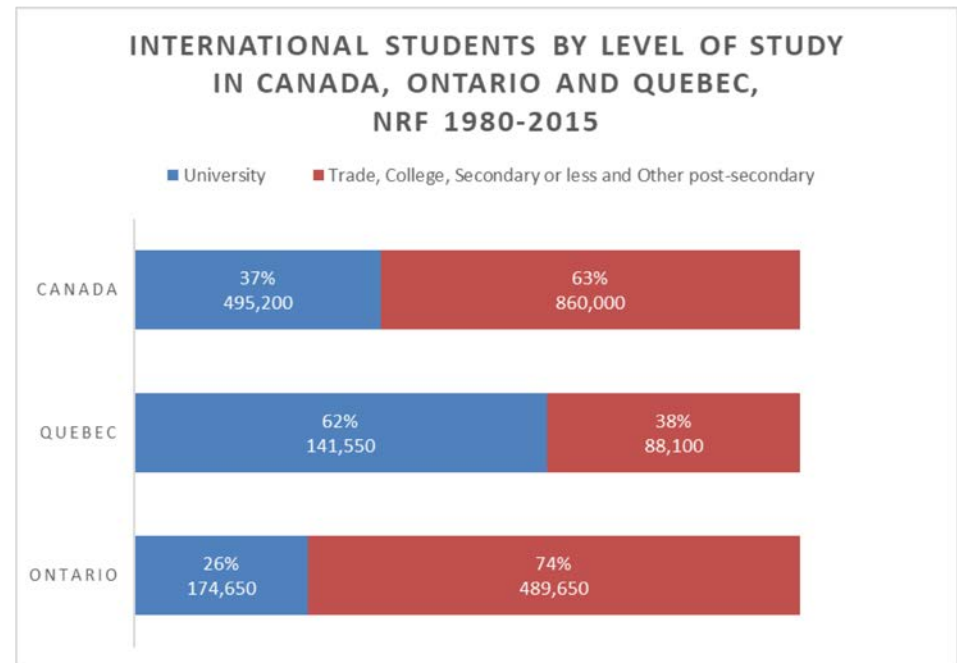
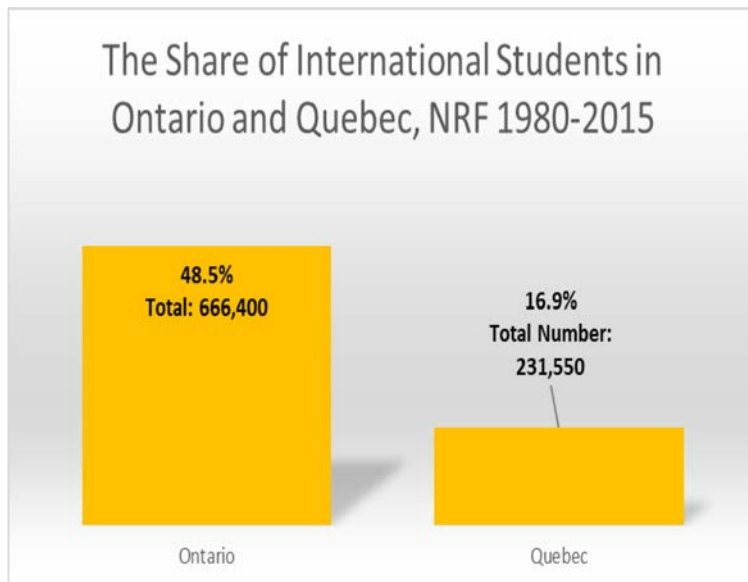
Study permit holders comprised one quarter of all temporary residents (5,476,300) entering Canada between 1980 and 2015.



Total Numbers and Level of Study in Quebec and Ontario

Destination of almost half of ISs was Ontario, while only 17% reported Quebec as their destinations.

Most ISs in Ontario attended non-university institutions, while the majority in Quebec attended universities.



International Students: Transition to Permanent Residence

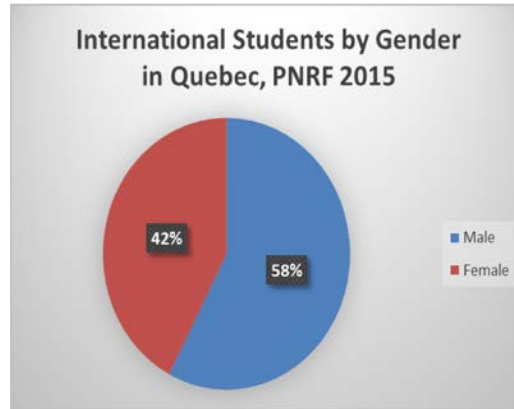
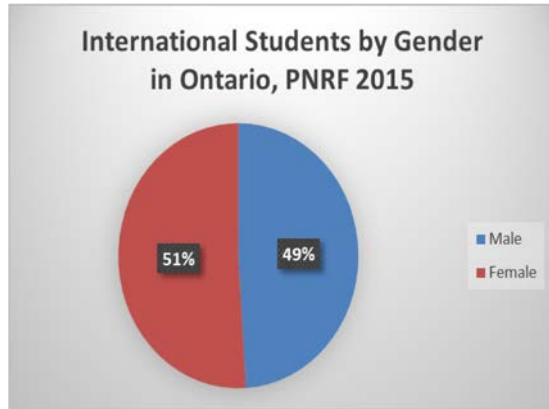
IMBD:

- Of 1,373,800 ISs who entered between 1980 and 2015, 525,300 (38%) became permanent residents.
- About half (51%) of ISs who gained PR status resided in Ontario.
- Only 16% lived in Quebec.

More Recent IRCC data:

- ❖ A survey by the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) reveals that 60% of international students planned to acquire permanent status in 2018 (CBIE 2018).
- ❖ Only about one-fifth (19%) of international students who entered Canada with a study permit between 1990 and 2014 obtained permanent status within ten years of receiving their study permits (Lu and Hou 2015).
- ❖ Only 30% of students who arrived Canada after 2000 transitioning to permanent residency within 10 years of receiving their first study permit (Choi, Crossman and Hou 2021).

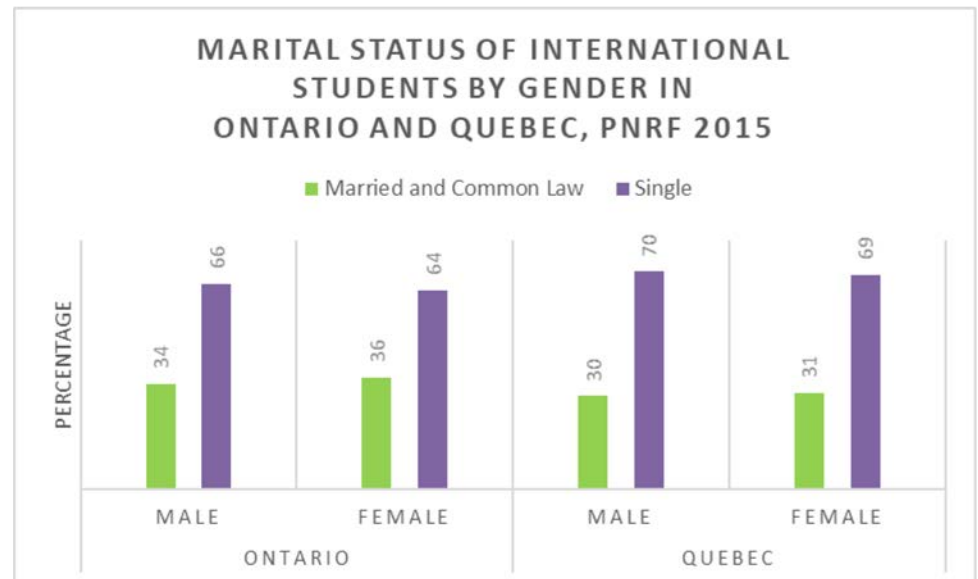
International Students who Received PR: Gender



In Ontario, percentages of male and female students that become permanent residents are almost equal.

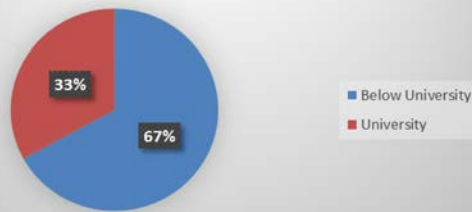
In Quebec, male students are a larger proportion of ISs that land.

The majority of men and women who gained PR status is single in both provinces.



International Students' Educational Qualifications at Landing by Gender

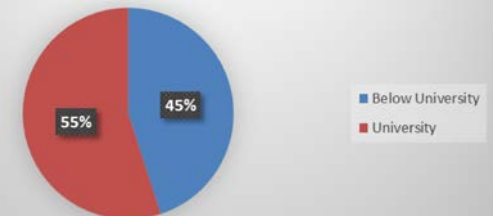
Educational Qualification of International Students at Landing in Ontario, PNRF 2015



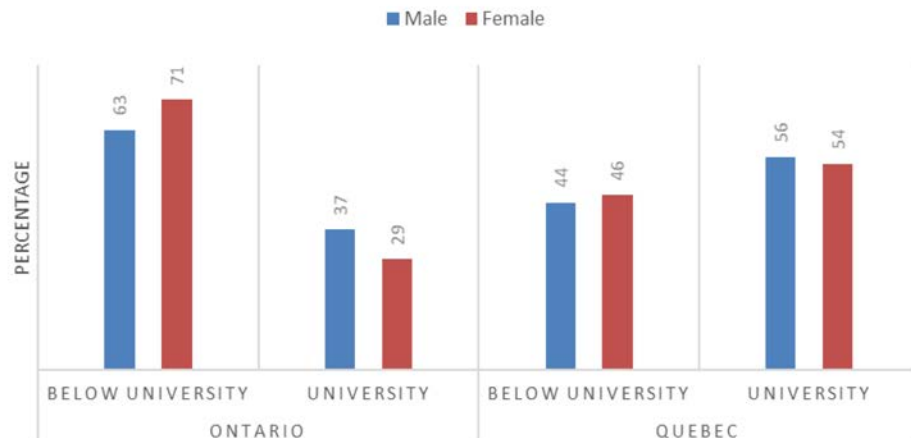
More than half of all ISs who became permanent residents in Quebec were university educated.

Only one third in Ontario had been enrolled at a university.

Educational Qualification of International Students at Landing in Quebec, PNRF 2015

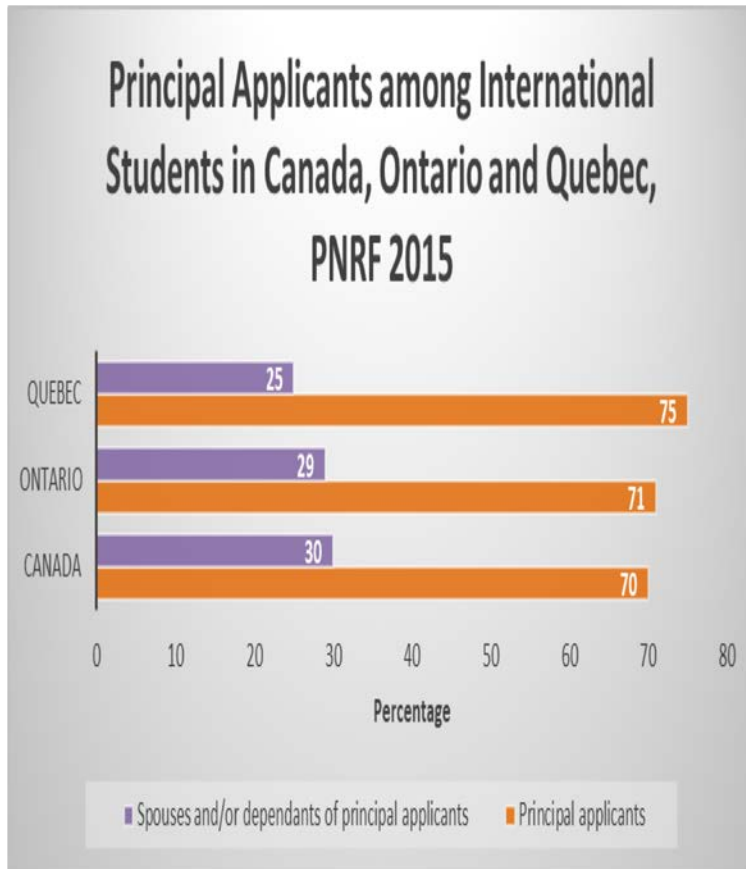


EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY GENDER, ONTARIO AND QUEBEC, PNRF 2015



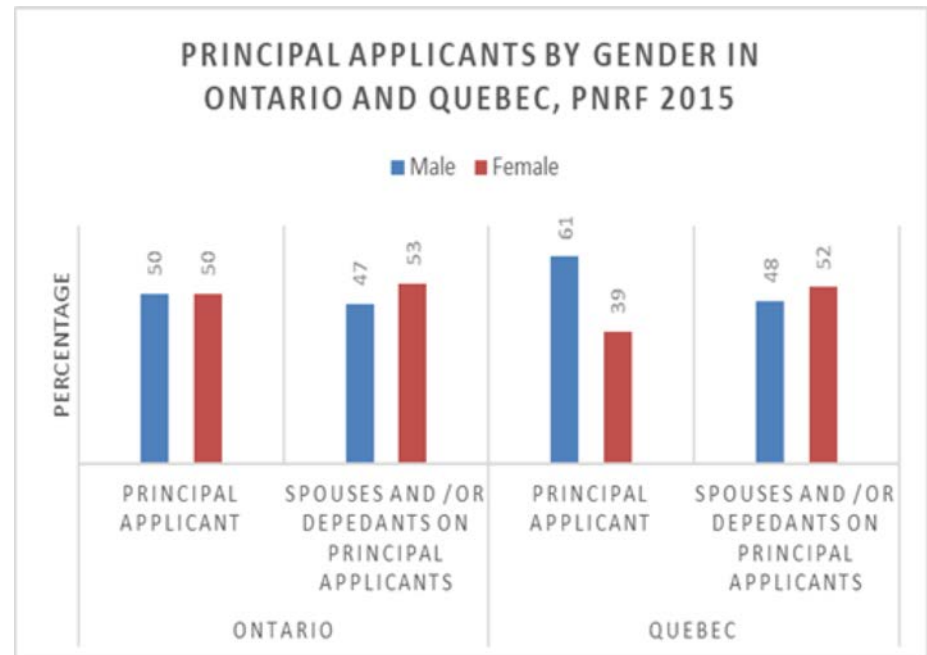
Male ISs are more likely to be university educated than their female counterparts in both provinces, but the gender gap is larger in Ontario than in Quebec.

International Students: Principal Applicants by Gender



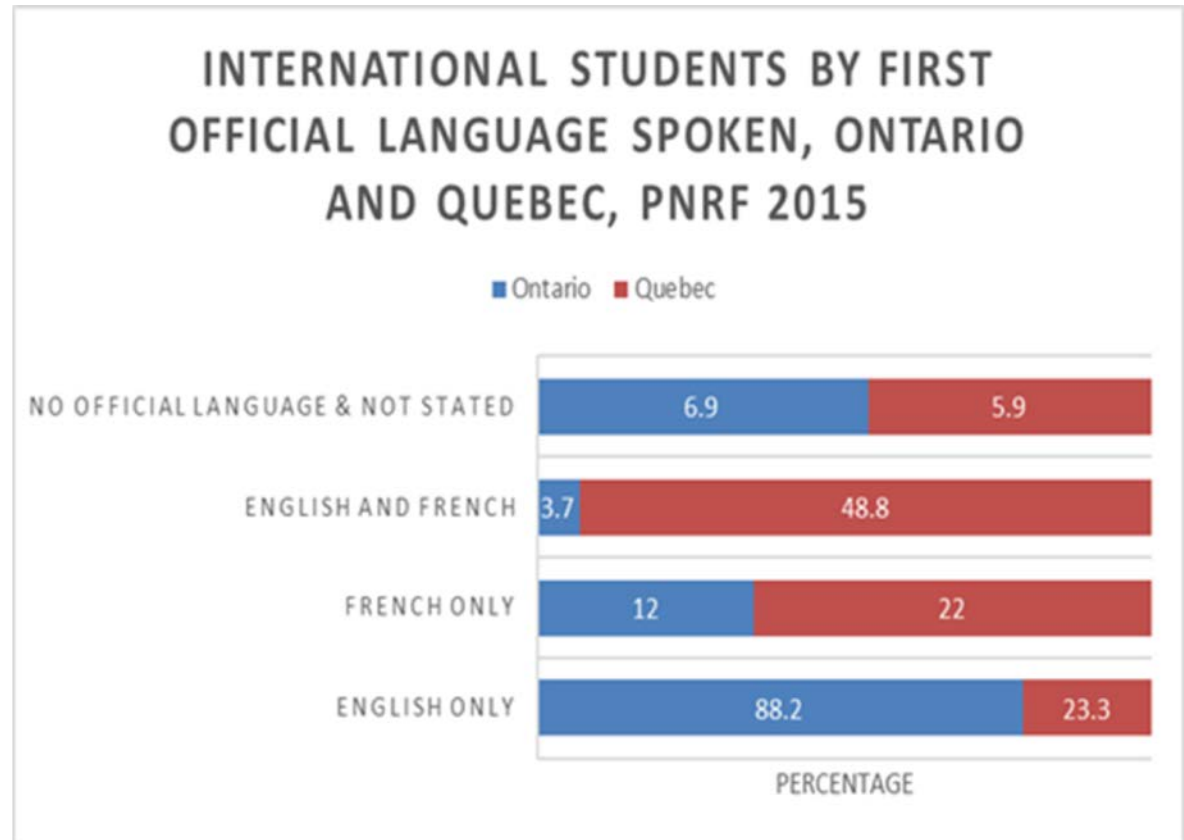
The majority of ISs in Ontario and Quebec landed as principal applicants.

Male ISs comprised a larger share of principal applicants than their female counterparts in Quebec.



International Students: First Official Language

Nearly half of international students in Quebec is bilingual.



Key Findings

- If international students were planning to become permanent residents, only 38% succeeded between 1980 and 2015.
- Place matters
 - International students are more likely to enroll at universities in Quebec than in Ontario.
 - Unlike in Ontario, men comprise the majority (58%) of ISs who became permanent residents in Quebec.
 - Male ISs comprised a larger share of principal applicants than their female counterparts in Quebec.
 - There is a gender gap among university-educated ISs with men more likely to enroll at universities and the gap is larger in Ontario than in Quebec.
 - Almost half of international students in Quebec is bilingual compared to only 3.7% in Ontario
- What do provincial differences mean for universities and settlement and immigrant-serving organisations during the Pandemic?

Building Migrant Resilience in Cities/Immigration et résilience en milieu



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