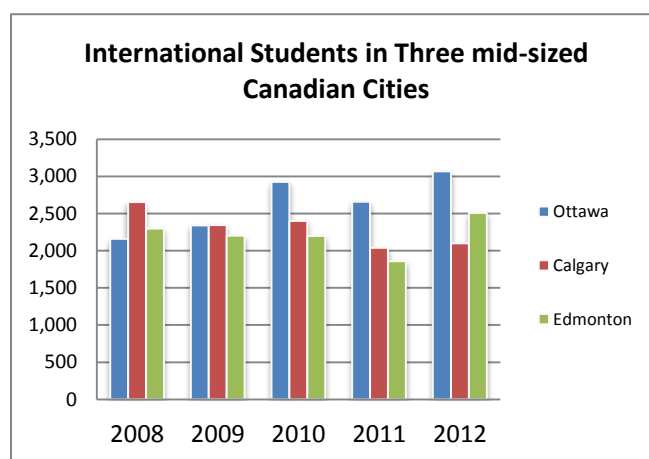
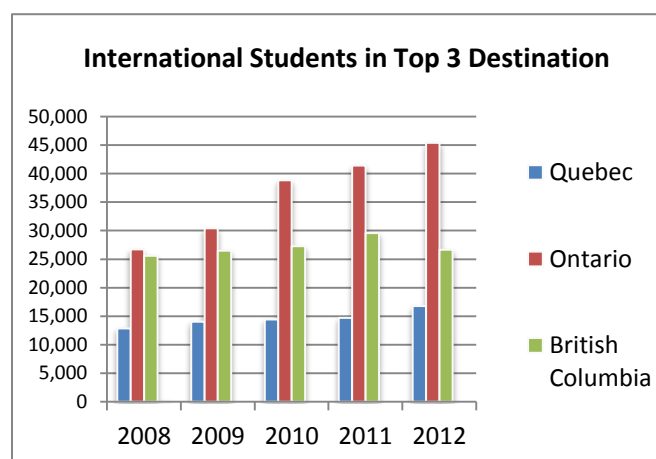


# International Students in Ottawa: Facts & Observations

## Recent Data on International Students in Ottawa

- In the last 5 years, the number of international students entering Ottawa has increased by 43%.
- Ottawa now gets half as many international students each year as it does immigrants (3067 vs. 6005). International students are, by far, the fastest growing flow of new arrivals.
- In fact, the number of active international student visas in force at the end of 2012, over 8,500, exceeded the intake of immigrants for that same year by some 2,500.
- In 2012, Ottawa was the 4<sup>th</sup> largest international student destination in Canada, after Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal, and the first - among the mid-sized Canadian cities.



### Key Observations:

- Students constitute THE major area of migration growth in Ottawa. As such, students potentially hold the key to meeting Ottawa's projected labour demands.
- Current domestic and international policy directions support the idea of students as a 'preferred' immigration stream and an ideal pathway for recruitment into Canada.
- Ottawa is extremely well positioned to capitalize on federal and provincial interest in promoting international student recruitment (both Anglophone and Francophone students); Ottawa is also extremely well positioned to retain both Anglophone and Francophone students by virtue of its bilingual character and bilingual institutions.
- There is sharp international competition to attract students. The US, the UK, Australia and New Zealand, along with many other countries, have recognized the potential advantages of recruiting and retaining international students. The quality of Ottawa's welcome will determine how it fares in this competition. This, in turn, will depend on the capacity and willingness of Ottawa's institutions to create a welcoming student 'eco-system'.

Data Source: Preliminary tables – Permanent and temporary residents, 2012; *Facts and Figures*, Citizenship and Immigration Canada.