

Hosting a Joint Canadian Higher Education Event for Counselors in Doha

On Tuesday, March 5, 2020 as part of the International ACAC Opportunities Grant fund, we hosted a Canadian institution seminar and networking event for guidance counsellors in Qatar. There has been a significant increase in interest to Canada from the region, but counsellors are still unfamiliar with information and processes for Canada that are different than historically popular sending destinations such as the UK and the USA. This event was a professional development opportunity for counsellors at both international and national high schools.

The following Canadian universities participated: Carleton University, Concordia University, Dalhousie University, Ontario Tech University, Ryerson University and York University. 13 guidance counsellors from Doha registered for the event. In addition the Trade Commissioner for the Embassy of Canada also attended and was able to speak to counsellors about immigration related matters such as study permit processing.

The event was a working breakfast, and featured workshop topics include:

- Canada Calling: Why Is Canada Top of Mind? Learn All About Canada as a Study Destination
- The Nuts and Bolts: Everything You Need to Know About Application and Admissions
- Money, Money, Money: What Your Students Need to Know About Scholarships and Financial Aid

The event also provided an opportunity for speed networking which allowed every counsellor time with each university. The feedback from the counsellors was overwhelmingly positive as it gave them an opportunity to learn directly from Canadian institutions about the process of applying to Canada and the details they otherwise were not familiar with. In addition, we heard from the counsellors that the format also allowed them to develop their peer network within Doha as they had not all met each other prior to the event.

