

Information release: Launch of the ARUCC PCCAT Transcript and Transfer Guide – guide.pccat.arucc.ca

Enhancing student mobility through national collaboration

The Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC) and the Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (PCCAT) are pleased to announce the launch of the national ARUCC PCCAT Transcript and Transfer Guide (the “**Guide**”).

The **Guide** is a one-stop, online resource for policy developers and practitioners. It contains a wealth of information about transcript standards, transfer nomenclature, and links to best practice resources, research, and scholarly literature. With the launch of the **Guide**, direct access to tools and research becomes achievable for postsecondary leaders when developing institutional credentials and transfer pathways.

The **Guide** results from extensive national research and consultation with postsecondary experts across Canada’s colleges, institutes, polytechnics, universities, and allied organizations.

Ensuring the Guide’s currency

To ensure the **Guide’s** ongoing currency and focus, ARUCC and PCCAT have endorsed the following principles which, taken together, are intended to steer future implementation and/or modification of its core content.

Future evolutions of the **Guide** and its contents should continue to

Sustain student-centered approaches in the support, creation and execution of transcription and transfer standards

To that end, changes to the content should be mindful of the need to support student retention, mobility, success and engagement in Canadian postsecondary education. This is true whether a student’s individual experience occurs within an institution or across multiple learning organizations.

Recognize institutional and provincial autonomy and authority

To that end, future changes to the Guide should be achieved through collaboration and dialogue informed by research.

Support the academic preeminence and quality of Canadian educational institutions.

To that end, any future changes need to support academic quality assurance standards and assessment practices related to transcription and transfer. Future changes to the Guide should be supported by practices and standards development that are informed by research; decisions regarding standards should be evidence-based and in keeping with academic principles.

Facilitate student mobility by supporting transparent and clear standards that are informed by best practice and research

Confusing language or practices and policies related to transcription and transfer should be avoided.

Respect governmental regulatory requirements such as those related to accessibility, privacy, and human rights

Moving pan-Canadian student mobility to the next level

The Guide represents one in a series of initiatives designed to improve inter-provincial student mobility and demonstrates the significant pan-Canadian interest in pursuing collaborative initiatives both within and across provinces and territories. Postsecondary institutions and allied organizations are coordinating efforts at all levels to improve student experiences and enhance educational pathways for students.

Examples of collaboration towards success

In spring 2012, ARUCC and PCCAT held Canada's first biennial joint conference on enrolment services and transfer in Ottawa focusing on strategic enrolment leadership, and student mobility and transfer.

In winter 2014, the [Pan-Canadian Association of Admissions and Transfer \(PCCAT\)](#) and the [Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada \(ARUCC\)](#) created a joint partnership to pursue research and development of transcript and transfer standards for the Canadian postsecondary community.

In spring 2014, ARUCC, PCCAT, and the Canadian Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (CanPESC) partnered to establish the ARUCC Groningen and Student Mobility Task Force focused on contributing to the international dialogue on achieving student mobility through enhanced and secure student data portability. This resulted in ARUCC becoming the first international signatory to the international [Groningen Declaration](#) in spring 2015.

In fall 2014, four councils on articulation/admissions and transfer signed an historic, interprovincial [memorandum of understanding \(MOU\)](#) that formally commits these allied organizations to enhanced collaboration. Their goals include developing student pathways, reducing barriers, and, ultimately, expanding opportunities for students. The four organizations include the Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer (ACAT), the British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT), the New Brunswick Council on Articulations and Transfer (NBCAT), and the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (ONCAT).

In September 2015, Universities Canada and Colleges and Institutes Canada signed a "[Framework for Collaboration](#)" which is "is designed to help Canada succeed in the global knowledge economy by addressing the need for advanced skills in all sectors" (CICan News release, 2015). This new framework reflects the commitment of universities and colleges across the country to further enhance collaboration within and among institutions. The Framework's principles amplify a focus on mobility, collaboration, and students.

In September 2015, the provincial councils on articulation/admissions and transfer came together in Vancouver to host Canada's [first summit](#) focused on exploring the inter-provincial transfer and student mobility agenda.

Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC)

Created in 1964, ARUCC's membership includes 182 postsecondary institutions and allied organizations from all regions of Canada. Its mandate focuses on providing best practice standards support, research and professional development for postsecondary personnel involved in registrarial services, enrolment services, advising, counselling, and admissions. ARUCC is an Associate Member of Universities Canada and of the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education (CCAEE) and a regional association of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO).

Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (PCCAT)

PCCAT is a national association with members from across Canada in both the public and private postsecondary sectors. Its mandate includes facilitating and supporting research in the areas of admissions and transfer and encouraging policies and practices that support student mobility both within and among provinces and territories. It maintains a particular focus on encouraging improvements in transfer credit recognition in order to improve access to postsecondary education in Canada. The leadership of all the provincial councils on articulation/admissions and transfer are members of PCCAT.