



CONESTOGA



2nd. Edition 2024

GLOBAL INITIATIVES NEWSLETTER

Unveiling a World of Opportunities:
Conestoga's Global Initiatives Take Flight



CONESTOGA



CONNECT LIFE AND LEARNING

Disclaimer: This brochure is designed for general informational purposes. While we make efforts to maintain accuracy, the content is subject to change without prior notice. Please refer to our website for the most up-to-date information.

At Conestoga College, we welcome students from around the corner and around the world, and we are honoured to have students from over 98 countries studying with us.

We are committed, not just to bringing the world to Conestoga, but also to bringing Conestoga to the world. Through our global collaborations we enable our students and faculty to develop skills and competences that will be vital to their success in an interconnected world. The Office of Global Initiatives is committed to supporting international learning and engagement opportunities that allow our students to have an international learning experience, in some cases, without even leaving home.

In this latest edition of the Global Initiatives Newsletter, you will learn more about how we are taking the world to Conestoga through our diverse exchange opportunities, leadership in Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL), and faculty mobility initiatives. With a significant number of post-secondary partnerships across the globe, we indeed are able to not just showcase the exceptional work happening in our classrooms but also support our goal of making Conestoga a true destination college.

Thank you for your continued support in making Conestoga College an international learning and engagement hub.



Gary Hallam

Gary Hallam
Senior Vice President,
Academic and Students



Paula Gouveia, Ph. D
Vice-President,
Academic



**CONNECT
LIFE AND
LEARNING**

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GLOBAL INITIATIVES

Conestoga offers students many opportunities to enhance their experience through global learning.

The Global Initiatives office can help students explore these opportunities and travel the world, making lifelong friends and connections. Studying abroad, by spending a semester abroad on exchange, a summer abroad, or by participating in a faculty-led study trip, are all great ways to help students learn more about themselves, become more independent, resilient, and add an international edge to their credentials. Global learning helps shape the lives and careers of students worldwide. Please visit our website (QR Code above) to explore global opportunities!



CONESTOGA & OUR PARTNERS



Conestoga College actively engages in numerous global partnerships, providing opportunities for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the sharing of best practices. These partnerships allow us to closely examine common trends and challenges impacting higher education institutions worldwide. Over the last year, we were honoured to host various delegations on our campuses, fostering a spirit of contribution and collaboration within our international education network.



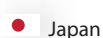
Tee Dymond, Associate Director, NTU Global, of Nottingham Trent University (NTU), England visited Conestoga to meet with the academic team from our School of Creative Industries. Through these discussions, we have solidified pathways from Conestoga programs to programs at NTU.



An academic delegation from South Korea, including leaders from several South Korean post-secondary institutions, explored potential collaborations, knowledge-sharing, and academic partnerships with Conestoga.

OTHER VISITORS & PARTNER VISITS

TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY
OF LIBEREC



OUTBOUND EXCHANGE STUDENTS



Conestoga students are travelling the globe! With over 80 exchange programs available through a variety of partners, our students have the opportunity to study abroad for one or two semesters. Featured here are our outbound exchange students. Their experiences abroad were not just academically enlightening, but also changed the way they see the world and themselves! Their time abroad allows them to immerse in new cultures and gain invaluable global perspectives. For more information about exchange opportunities, please visit our website at www.conestogac.on.ca/global-opportunities or contact us at global@conestogac.on.ca.



Saad, Mechanical Systems Engineering
Semester Abroad, Technical University of Liberec
 Czech Republic



Agustina, Mechanical Systems Eng.
Semester Abroad, Technical University of Liberec
 Czech Republic



Anya, IT Innovation & Design
Semester Abroad, University of Strathclyde
 Scotland



Ben, Bachelor of Computer Science (Honours)
Year Abroad, Ewha Women's University
 South Korea



Jordan, Bachelor of Computer Science (Honours)
Year Abroad, Ewha Women's University
 South Korea



John, BBA - IBM
Dual Degree, South East Technological University
 Ireland



Ruby, BBA - International Business Management
Semester Abroad, London Metropolitan University
 United Kingdom

INBOUND EXCHANGE STUDENT



Welcome to Canada! We have been busy hosting exchange students at Conestoga's campuses! This year we have hosted students from Netherlands, Austria, France, Czech Republic, and Colombia! Additionally, two students from the Philippines joined us as scholarship recipients of the Government of Canada's Canada-ASEAN Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development (SEED) program.

These students studied in programs at our college and explored the KW region, Southern Ontario, and beyond during their exchange semester. Our exchange students had great things to say about Conestoga and Canada! For more information about exchange opportunities, please visit our website at conestogac.on.ca/global-opportunities or contact us at global@conestogac.on.ca.



Alliyah (Philippines) Aviona (Philippines).

"Studying in Canada was just an unreachable dream for me before, and I'm really thankful that I was able to reach it, to experience studying in a different country."

Inbound Exchange Student



Tereza (Czechia), Camila (Colombia), Margaux (France), Gabriel (Austria), Rafael (Austria).

I am very excited for the opportunity to study in Canada. I've met so many great people there I'm happy to be able to travel around Canada and experience the beauty of the Canadian countryside. It's amazing that I could try and compare the type of study in Canada and Czech Republic - the teachers in Canada are amazing.

Inbound Exchange Student

I had a wonderful time here at Conestoga at the Waterloo campus. I am really glad I chose Canada (and KW) as the destination of my exchange and I wouldn't have picked anything else.

Inbound Exchange Student

FACULTY MOBILITY



[Learn More](#) 

At Conestoga College, we are committed to faculty mobility, recognizing its immense value in fostering academic excellence and global collaboration. Faculty mobility opportunities allow our educators to engage with international peers, exchange innovative teaching practices, and gain fresh perspectives that enrich our academic environment. By participating in global exchanges (virtual and in person), our faculty members bring back diverse insights and experiences that enhance the learning experience for our students. This commitment to faculty mobility not only strengthens our international partnerships but also ensures that our educational offerings remain dynamic, relevant, and globally informed. Check out the faculty mobility experiences from 2024, and be sure to learn more about their experiences on our YouTube channel (scan QR Code above).



HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCE PROFESSORS

WINDESHEIM UNIVERSITY, NETHERLANDS

Our Health and Life Sciences professors, Andrea Miller, Judah Oudshoorn, and Laura Turner travelled to our Dutch partner, Windesheim University of Applied Sciences, Zwolle, Netherlands for their International Health Week. Throughout the week they lectured and attended keynote sessions and workshops. During their day-to-day interactions faculty were provided multiple opportunities to learn about the local culture and connect with other participants from around the world. These conversations sparked discussions focusing on innovation in teaching and global partnerships. Faculty were able to envision the possibilities of cross-border relationships however, it was the students who demonstrated the essence and importance of their international connection.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

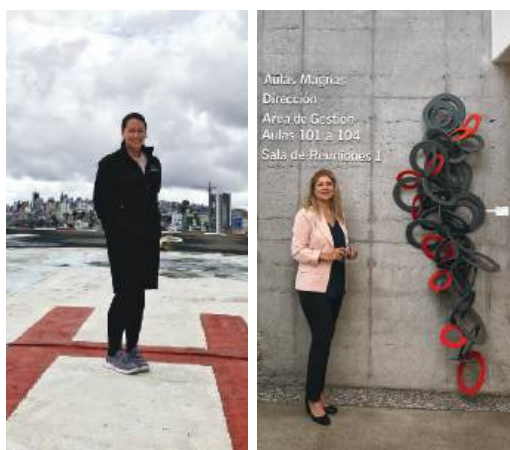
UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE MANIZALES, COLOMBIA

Our Colombian partner, Universidad Católica de Manizales (UCM), invited Conestoga professors to participate in a funded faculty mobility opportunity in Colombia. English language professors, Lindsay Kasch and Ban Al-Saffar visited Colombia for five weeks and taught English to students and members of the community in Manizales, Colombia. We are extremely appreciative to be invited to be part of this opportunity with UCM and hope to continue to strengthen our partnerships with them in the coming years.



BUSINESS PROFESSORS HANZE UNIVERSITY, NETHERLANDS

School of Business professors, Redwan Siddiqui and Kiranjot Kaur travelled to the Netherlands to attend the International Week at our partner institution Hanze University of Applied Sciences. There they lectured students on sustainable supply chain management and global value chain. More than 800 students were able to attend the Hanze International Week this year where 17 guest lecturers from 13 partner universities from 10 countries presented their lectures. Professor Siddiqui and Professor Kaur also participated in the Hanze International Conference 2024 and a Study Abroad Fair representing Conestoga College.



FMPBP GRANT GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA AWARD CONESTOGA PROFESSORS

The Government of Canada's Faculty Mobility for Partnership Building Program (FMPBP) grant was awarded by Global Affairs Canada to Professor Sara Connelly, Nursing, and Professor Homeira Ekhtari, Business. This grant provided Professor Connelly the incredible opportunity to travel to our partner institution, Universidad Católica de Manizales, Colombia, while Professor Ekhtari had the privilege of visiting our partners Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez, Mexico and Universidad Siglo21, Argentina.



BUSINESS PROFESSORS Y SCHOOLS, FRANCE

Professors Fatih Yegul and Kevin McDermott visited our partner institution, Y Schools, South Champagne School of Business during their International Teaching Week in Troyes, France. They lectured

on various topics, sharing their expertise and insights with students and faculty. Professor Yegul taught a case study on the experiences of a Toronto company regarding purchasing and sustainability, while Professor McDermott lectured about blockchain technology and described his own research looking at how blockchain is used in Canadian supply chains. Additionally, they had the opportunity to network with colleagues from around the world.



Learn More 

NEW PARTNERS

Conestoga College is proud to expand its global partnerships, fostering international collaboration and providing our students with unparalleled opportunities to learn and grow worldwide. Our new partners include prestigious institutions from around the globe. We actively work with our partners on initiatives such as faculty mobility, student exchange programs, summer schools, Erasmus+ projects, and COIL virtual exchanges. These partnerships enable our faculty and students to participate in various global activities that enhance their global perspectives, and build valuable international networks that will benefit them throughout their careers. Our interational collaborations create enriching experiences and knowledge exchanges for both students and faculty, promoting a truly global educational environment. For a full list of partners, scan or click on the QR code above!





CONESTOGA CELEBRATES 2 YEARS OF COIL

Conestoga College is nearing the end of its two-year COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) / virtual exchange pilot program, a cutting-edge initiative aimed at fostering cross-cultural understanding and collaboration. This innovative program connects students and faculty from Conestoga with their counterparts at partner institutions around the globe. Through a blend of online synchronous and asynchronous learning activities, participants engage in joint projects, discussions, and assignments, allowing them to gain valuable international perspectives and skills without leaving their home country.

The COIL virtual exchange program is designed to enhance students' global skills and competencies by providing them with the opportunity to work in diverse global teams, develop intercultural communication skills, and understand different academic and cultural contexts. Faculty members embark on collaborations with international colleagues, sharing best practices, and creating enriching global learning experiences for their students in their classrooms. The pilot program includes partnerships with institutions from all around the world, as far as Argentina, Ireland, and Japan!



↑  COIL PILOT PROGRAM		
PILOT YEAR	1	2
CONESTOGA PROFS	9	15
GLOBAL PROFS	14	23
GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS	12	21
COUNTRIES	5	11
COIL INITIATIVES	11	18+
CONESTOGA STUDENTS	300+	500+

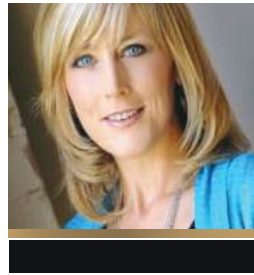
COIL PROJECTS

Faculty and students in the COIL program engage in activities such as virtual group projects, interactive workshops, guest lectures, and cultural exchange sessions. These activities are carefully designed by our professors in collaboration with their global partner professors to encourage meaningful interactions and build lasting connections among participants. Over the last two years, Conestoga has brought this program to over 800 students through approximately 30 COIL courses. Check out our 2024/2025 COIL professors, without whom our COIL pilot would have never been possible. If you see them around campus, ask them about their COIL collaborations. Truly incredible!



Professor Eric McQuiggan

Partner Institutions: Fontys
University of Applied Sciences,
Universidad SIGLO21.



Professor Trish Stevenson

Partner Institution:
Universidad de Sonora.



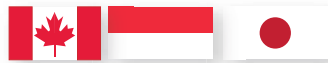
Professor Arlene Garrick

Partner Institution:
Universidad Autónoma de
Ciudad.



**Professor Osaro
Igbinomwanhia**

Partner Institution:
Universidad Autónoma de
Guadalajara.



**Professor Margaret
Strawbridge**

Partner Institutions:
Uniwersytet Ekonomiczny w
Krakowie, Kansai University.



Professor Andrea Hein

Partner Institution:
Trier University of Applied
Sciences.



Professor Vickie Quigg

Partner Institution:
Kansai University.



Professor Andre Plante

Partner Institution:
CETYS University System.

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Professor France Fontana Hart

Partner Institution: Universidad Catolica de Manizales.



Professor Jeff Elliott

Partner Institution: Hanze University.



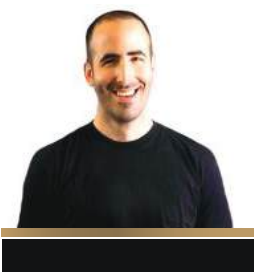
Professor Katie Stortz

Partner Institution: Nottingham Trent University



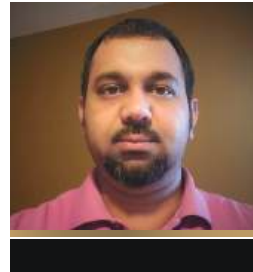
Professor Ezoo Nayyar

Partner Institution: Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juarez.



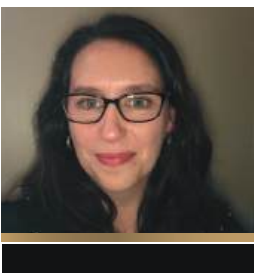
Professor Borko Popic

Partner Institution: Kherson University



Professor Tejram Basdeo

Partner Institution: Universidad de Guadalajara.



Professor Sara Connelly

Partner Institutions: Universidad Catolica de Manizales, University of Pittsburgh.

Scan to Watch Now!

Watch Professors Tejram and Sara's COIL videos on Youtube.



HEAR WHAT CONESTOGA PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT COIL VIRTUAL EXCHANGE

COIL provided my third-year marketing students with invaluable cross-cultural negotiation experience, collaborating with peers from two different cultures. This kind of global exposure equips our graduates with the skills and confidence they need to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.



Prof. Margaret Strawbridge



This virtual exchange not only fosters collaboration and cross-cultural understanding but also equips students with the global skills necessary for thriving in an interconnected world.



Prof. Dr. André Plante



“

COIL is an incredible learning experience, providing students with a real world opportunity to develop their teamwork and cultural negotiation skills. COIL is so impactful that several of my graduates have reached out after program completion to thank me for facilitating the COIL experience.



Prof. Sara Connelly



“

Working with people from other countries showed me different ways to solve problems and communicate. This experience improved my ability to adapt and understand different cultures, which is important for working in a global environment.

Student

”

It really broadens my perspectives on different cultures and taught me to be more patient because my patience got tested but it was all good due to the fact that this program was to learn about how various cultures in different countries are and how best to come together to work amicably.

Student



“

COIL creates a unique platform for students to collaborate across cultures, building global skills like communication and adaptability. I value COIL for fostering connections and preparing learners for an interconnected world. It equips graduates to thrive in a diverse, dynamic workforce.



Prof. Arlene Garrick



”

My partner faculty in Mexico has become a great professional connection as we collaborate on teaching and learning perspectives and successes. Many of our students have remained in touch with their global partners long after the project wrapped up. It is a semester highlight every year!



Prof. Trish Stevenson



“

It helped me to understand the importance of adaptability.

Student

“

It has helped me in working with culturally different people across the globe.

”

This program helped me see how negotiations apply globally with different approaches. I learned how cultural differences influence decision-making and teamwork. I also understood how to adapt strategies to different perspectives, which is an important skill for working with people from different backgrounds.

Student

”



FACULTY-LED TOUR: COSTA RICA

Conestoga College students embarked on an immersive faculty-led study tour to Costa Rica. Throughout the trip, the students visited multiple Indigenous communities, engaging in a wide array of activities that offered insights into the rich cultural tapestry of these communities. This experience provided students with a deep understanding of Indigenous cultures and their practices. The students had the opportunity to learn about traditional arts and crafts, delve into culinary experiences that highlighted Indigenous cuisine, and explore the use of medicinal plants. One of the significant aspects of the trip was learning about environmental responsibility and sustainability from an Indigenous perspective. The students participated in hands-on activities, such as preparing traditional meals, creating artworks, and understanding the medicinal properties of various plants. These experiences were facilitated by the local Indigenous people, who generously shared their knowledge and traditions.

Students described the experience as transformative, emphasizing that it left a lasting impact on their personal and academic lives. The trip not only provided a unique educational experience but also fostered a deep appreciation for the Indigenous cultures and their contributions to society. The students returned with a greater understanding of the importance of preserving and respecting diverse cultural heritages. This trip offered students an unforgettable opportunity to immerse themselves in Indigenous cultures, learn valuable life lessons, and gain a new perspective on happiness and sustainability.



“While moving through their land, I didn’t realize we had moved into a natural forest. That experience gave me the hope that if people were to follow their dreams with all honesty, they could achieve it.

Aditya Charuduttbhai Gurjar



“ *This experience helped me be mindful about everything in life. One of the main teachings is that you don't need a lot in life to be happy, a little goes a long way.*

Natalie Martin



“ *This trip has been life-changing. I gained so much valuable experience.*

The selflessness of people in Costa Rica will stay forever with me.

Zainab Anwar



HYBRID COIL: FROM VIRTUAL TO IN-PERSON

After working on a COIL virtual exchange for many weeks, Conestoga College's Visual Merchandising Arts students had the opportunity to collaborate in person with professors and students from Trier University of Applied Sciences, Germany. Together they designed and created an immersive Nutcracker-themed display at TheMuseum in Kitchener. This project is part of the COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) program, which allows students to work on international projects virtually. The display featured interactive technology and European influences, providing an engaging experience for visitors. The German team comprising of three professors, and three students from Trier University of Applied Sciences travelled to Waterloo Region to assist with the installation, bringing their expertise in interactive technology and European holiday traditions to the project. This collaboration not only enhanced the display but also provided valuable cultural exchange and learning opportunities for students from both institutions.





FACULTY-LED TOUR: NEW YORK

After working on their holiday display in Kitchener, Conestoga Visual Merchandising Arts students and their German guests travelled on a Faculty-led study tour to New York City! The trip aimed to provide practical learning experiences by touring leading prop production houses and viewing window displays at iconic retailers like Tiffany & Co., Macy's, and Bloomingdale's. This hands-on exposure allowed students to gain valuable insights into the creative processes behind these elaborate displays.

The trip also included visits to Square Design Studio and Shop Cat fabrication studios in Brooklyn, where students studied recreations of designer Gene Moore's iconic window displays for Tiffany & Co. This experience not only enhanced their understanding of visual merchandising but also provided a clearer insight into how these displays contribute to marketing and business strategies. This trip was an excellent example of how a virtual collaboration can have endless possibilities.



GLOBAL INITIATIVES STUDENT SURVEY

The global initiatives team works closely with academic schools to create and promote global opportunities tied to learning outcomes and student interest. Wondering what our students have to say about studying and/or working abroad? Check out the results of our survey which went out with Conestoga's Annual Student Feedback survey.

53%

OF STUDENTS
are very
interested or extremely
interested in study
abroad programs.

OVER 60%

OF INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS
surveyed are very/extremely
interested in study abroad
programming.

34%

OF STUDENTS
surveyed ranked
work abroad
as their top option.

TOP CHOICES

WHERE OUR STUDENTS WANT TO TRAVEL



Australia



France



Germany



Italy



Ireland



Japan



Denmark



Norway



Sweden



Finland



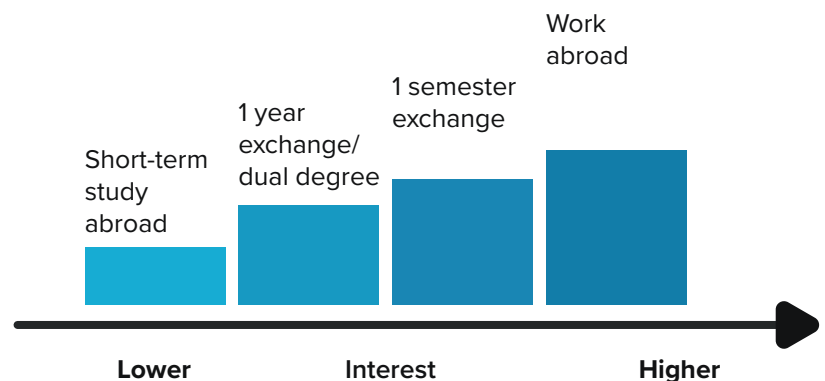
United
Kingdom



United States

80%

OF STUDENTS
surveyed said "financial barriers"
were the #1 barrier to participation
in study abroad programs (in line
with national data).





GLOBAL INITIATIVES TEAM

We are the global initiatives team. We would be happy to discuss all things global with you! We can provide information on COIL virtual exchange, faculty-led study tours, semester exchange, summer abroad, faculty mobility, and much more. Follow us on Social Media or contact us: global@conestogac.on.ca



Mariam Raza
Associate Director,
Global Initiatives &
Partnership Development



Jayne Roe
Manager,
Study Abroad



Thomas Campbell
Coordinator,
Global Initiatives

