

TRENDS IN MARITIME HIGHER EDUCATION

Volume 20 Number 1

-Annual Digest-

January 2023

UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT 2021-2022

In 2021-2022, **71,911** students were enrolled in Maritime universities, an increase of 1.9% over the previous year and 8.7% over five years. The increase was present both at the undergraduate (+0.7%) and graduate (+8.4%) levels. In 2020-2021, a widespread temporary shift towards part-time enrolment was observed as many universities switched to online delivery or delayed admissions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The shift reversed in 2021-2022 as full-time enrolment increased by 3.7% across the region, and part-time enrolment decreased by 6.6%. Enrolment increased in all fields of study, except *Humanities* (-0.6%) and *Architecture, engineering, and related technologies* (-8.1%).

New Brunswick saw an enrolment increase of 2.2% to 19,020 students (+0.9% over five years). Enrolment of NB residents and students from the other Maritime provinces decreased (-1.5% and -5.0% over one year, respectively). These decreases were more than offset by the growth in enrolment of Canadian students from outside the Maritimes (+1.7%) and international students (+25.3%).

Nova Scotia experienced an enrolment increase of 1.6% to 47,659 students (+10.6% over five years). Enrolment increased for NS residents (+2.6%), students from the other Maritime provinces (+3.9%), and Canadian students from outside the Maritimes (+6.6%), but decreased for international students (-5.5%).

Prince Edward Island continued to experience strong enrolment growth, increasing 4.1% to 5,232 students (+24.7% over five years). Enrolment increases were observed across all student categories: home province residents (+0.8%), students from other Maritime provinces (+7.9%), Canadian students from outside the Maritimes (+1.3%), and international students (+9.8%).

In 2021-2022, Maritime universities saw a continued influx of Canadian students from outside the region: compared to the previous year, enrolment of students from Ontario increased by 5.4%, and enrolment of other Canadians by 5.8%. International enrolment has not fully rebounded from the drop observed in 2020-2021, and remained largely flat (+0.9%), likely due to continued travel disruptions related to COVID-19. Regionally, enrolment of NB and PEI residents slightly decreased (-0.2% and -0.1%, respectively). Enrolment of NS residents increased (+2.3%), partially driven by a one-time bump in the number of high school graduates in 2021. In 2008, Nova Scotia changed its Grade Primary cut-off age, resulting in about 2,100 additional students becoming eligible to start school a year earlier.

New Brunswick

Change Over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total Enrolment	▲ 2.2%	▲ 0.9%	▼ -14.1%
NB Residents	▼ -1.5%	▼ -2.1%	▼ -21.8%
Other Maritimers	▼ -5.0%	▼ -17.2%	▼ -25.5%
Other Canadians	▲ 1.7%	▼ -4.0%	▲ 0.4%
International	▲ 25.3%	▲ 37.3%	▲ 34.5%
Home Province Participation Rate	▼ -0.2 pp	▼ -0.3 pp	▼ -1.9 pp

Nova Scotia

Change Over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total Enrolment	▲ 1.6%	▲ 10.6%	▲ 9.4%
NS Residents	▲ 2.6%	▲ 5.3%	▼ -5.3%
Other Maritimers	▲ 3.9%	▲ 7.4%	▲ 0.9%
Other Canadians	▲ 6.6%	▲ 5.3%	▲ 3.9%
International	▼ -5.5%	▲ 32.8%	▲ 84.1%
Home Province Participation Rate	▲ 1.0 pp	▲ 0.6 pp	▲ 0.3 pp

Prince Edward Island

Change Over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total Enrolment	▲ 4.1%	▲ 24.7%	▲ 16.3%
PEI Residents	▲ 0.8%	▲ 7.4%	▼ -18.6%
Other Maritimers	▲ 7.9%	▲ 6.1%	▲ 23.1%
Other Canadians	▲ 1.3%	▲ 23.3%	▲ 61.9%
International	▲ 9.8%	▲ 90.1%	▲ 210.5%
Home Province Participation Rate	▲ 0.3 pp	▼ -2.4 pp	▼ -5.3 pp

Maritimes

Change Over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total Enrolment	▲ 1.9%	▲ 8.7%	▲ 2.5%
NB Residents	▼ -0.2%	— 0.0%	▼ -17.5%
NS Residents	▲ 2.3%	▲ 3.9%	▼ -6.3%
PEI Residents	▼ -0.1%	▲ 2.6%	▼ -19.1%
Other Canadians	▲ 5.6%	▲ 4.2%	▲ 4.6%
International	▲ 0.9%	▲ 37.9%	▲ 78.0%
Maritime Participation Rate	▲ 0.5 pp	▼ -0.3 pp	▼ -1.2 pp

ENROLMENT BY REGISTRATION STATUS		UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT				GRADUATE ENROLMENT				TOTAL ENROLMENT			
		Enrolment 2021-2022	Change Over			Enrolment 2021-2022	Change Over			Enrolment 2021-2022	Change Over		
			1 year	5 years	10 years		1 year	5 years	10 years		1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick	Total	16,394	▲ 0.1%	▼ -1.3%	▼ -16.1%	2,626	▲ 17.3%	▲ 17.7%	▲ 0.9%	19,020	▲ 2.2%	▲ 0.9%	▼ -14.1%
	Full-time	14,708	▲ 2.3%	▲ 0.1%	▼ -12.7%	1,816	▲ 23.8%	▲ 31.0%	▲ 19.1%	16,524	▲ 4.2%	▲ 2.8%	▼ -10.0%
	Part-time	1,686	▼ -15.4%	▼ -12.3%	▼ -37.4%	810	▲ 4.9%	▼ -4.3%	▼ -24.9%	2,496	▼ -9.8%	▼ -9.9%	▼ -33.8%
Nova Scotia	Total	38,622	▲ 0.6%	▲ 7.5%	▲ 5.4%	9,037	▲ 6.4%	▲ 26.3%	▲ 30.6%	47,659	▲ 1.6%	▲ 10.6%	▲ 9.4%
	Full-time	33,562	▲ 2.1%	▲ 6.2%	▲ 4.7%	5,845	▲ 8.5%	▲ 31.3%	▲ 44.8%	39,407	▲ 3.0%	▲ 9.3%	▲ 9.2%
	Part-time	5,060	▼ -8.7%	▲ 16.9%	▲ 10.6%	3,192	▲ 2.6%	▲ 18.0%	▲ 10.8%	8,252	▼ -4.6%	▲ 17.3%	▲ 10.6%
Prince Edward Island	Total	4,715	▲ 4.1%	▲ 25.9%	▲ 13.0%	517	▲ 4.2%	▲ 14.4%	▲ 57.1%	5,232	▲ 4.1%	▲ 24.7%	▲ 16.3%
	Full-time	4,295	▲ 7.5%	▲ 30.7%	▲ 23.7%	513	▲ 5.1%	▲ 15.0%	▲ 78.1%	4,808	▲ 7.2%	▲ 28.8%	▲ 27.8%
	Part-time	420	▼ -21.3%	▼ -8.3%	▼ -39.8%	4	*	*	*	424	▼ -21.8%	▼ -8.6%	▼ -42.6%
Maritimes	Total	59,731	▲ 0.7%	▲ 6.1%	▲ 0.1%	12,180	▲ 8.4%	▲ 23.8%	▲ 23.7%	71,911	▲ 1.9%	▲ 8.7%	▲ 2.5%
	Full-time	52,565	▲ 2.6%	▲ 6.0%	▲ 2.7%	8,174	▲ 11.3%	▲ 30.1%	▲ 39.8%	60,739	▲ 3.7%	▲ 8.7%	▲ 4.3%
	Part-time	7,166	▼ -11.2%	▲ 6.8%	▼ -15.3%	4,006	▲ 3.0%	▲ 12.6%	▲ 0.1%	11,172	▼ -6.6%	▲ 8.8%	▼ -6.7%

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS (FALL TERM)	FTE 2021-2022	Change Over			
		1 year	5 years	10 years	
New Brunswick	17,174	▲ 4.0%	▲ 2.5%	▼ -10.7%	
Nova Scotia	41,357	▲ 2.9%	▲ 9.9%	▲ 9.4%	
Prince Edward Island	4,879	▲ 6.7%	▲ 28.3%	▲ 25.7%	
Maritimes	63,410	▲ 3.5%	▲ 9.0%	▲ 4.1%	

Table 1: Total Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Registration Status

Table 2: Total Undergraduate Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Registration Status

Table 3: Total Graduate Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Registration Status

Table 4: Total Fall Term Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) by Province, Institution and Registration Status

ENROLMENT BY GENDER		Enrolment 2021-2022	Change Over					
			1 year		5 years		10 years	
New Brunswick	Female	11,145	▲	1.6%	▲	4.3%	▼	-12.7%
	Male	7,662	▲	2.5%	▼	-5.7%	▼	-18.3%
	Diverse / Not reported	213	▲	21.7%		*		*
Nova Scotia	Female	26,766	▼	-1.1%	▲	7.2%	▲	5.7%
	Male	18,348	▼	-5.1%	▲	1.3%	▲	0.9%
	Diverse / Not reported	2,545	▲	392.3%		*		*
Prince Edward Island	Female	2,780	▼	-1.1%	▲	7.6%	▼	-1.8%
	Male	1,816	▼	-3.8%	▲	12.5%	▲	8.8%
	Diverse / Not reported	636	▲	94.5%		*		*
Maritimes	Female	40,691	▼	-0.3%	▲	6.5%	▼	-0.6%
	Male	27,826	▼	-3.0%	▼	-0.1%	▼	-4.8%
	Diverse / Not reported	3,394	▲	233.1%		*		*

Table 10: Total Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Gender

Table 11: Total Enrolment by Province, Major Field of Study, and Gender

FULL-TIME ENROLMENT BY AGE GROUP ¹		Enrolment 2021-2022	Change Over					
			1 year	5 years	10 years			
New Brunswick	19 or younger	4,988	▼	-2.1%	▼	-2.6%	▼	-14.1%
	20-24 years old	8,394	▲	4.2%	▲	1.6%	▼	-11.2%
	25 or older	3,142	▲	16.2%	▲	16.6%	▲	1.2%
Nova Scotia	19 or younger	10,738	▲	9.0%	▲	11.2%	▲	8.3%
	20-24 years old	19,410	▲	0.3%	▲	1.9%	▲	2.1%
	25 or older	9,259	▲	2.5%	▲	26.0%	▲	29.8%
Prince Edward Island	19 or younger	1,278	▲	2.3%	▲	23.7%	▲	14.5%
	20-24 years old	2,494	▲	11.8%	▲	38.6%	▲	31.6%
	25 or older	1,036	▲	3.3%	▲	15.2%	▲	38.1%
Maritimes	19 or younger	17,004	▲	5.0%	▲	7.5%	▲	1.0%
	20-24 years old	30,298	▲	2.2%	▲	4.1%	▼	-0.2%
	25 or older	13,437	▲	5.5%	▲	22.8%	▲	22.3%

¹Students with age "not reported" are excluded.

Table 12: Full-time Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Age Group

How to read the tables

Enrolment statistics are reported at the provincial and Maritime level for the 2021-2022 fall term. The percent change over one, five and ten years (change since 2020-2021, 2016-2017 and 2011-2012, respectively) is provided to illustrate major trends. *Percent change is not reported for cells with small *n*. Below each summary table is the title of a corresponding table on the MPHEC website with a breakdown by university and other variables available at: <http://www.mphec.ca/research/maritimeuniversitystatistics/enrolment.aspx>

University enrolment is calculated from data in the MPHEC Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS), which contains detailed information on demographics, programs and courses for all students enrolled in 15 publicly-funded Maritime universities. Definitions and notes for each variable are available here: <http://www.mphec.ca/research/maritimeuniversitystatistics/definitions-notes.aspx>

ENROLMENT BY STUDENT ORIGIN	UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT					GRADUATE ENROLMENT					TOTAL ENROLMENT				
	Enrolment 2021-2022	Change Over				Enrolment 2021-2022	Change Over				Enrolment 2021-2022	Change Over			
		1 year	5 years	10 years			1 year	5 years	10 years			1 year	5 years	10 years	
New Brunswick	16,394	▲ 0.1%	▼ -1.3%	▼ -16.1%		2,626	▲ 17.3%	▲ 17.7%	▲ 0.9%		19,020	▲ 2.2%	▲ 0.9%	▼ -14.1%	
Home Province Residents ²	10,882	▼ -2.1%	▼ -2.3%	▼ -21.5%		1,204	▲ 4.3%	— 0.0%	▼ -24.8%		12,086	▼ -1.5%	▼ -2.1%	▼ -21.8%	
Other Maritimers	1,462	▼ -6.0%	▼ -19.0%	▼ -26.9%		141	▲ 6.8%	▲ 7.6%	▼ -7.2%		1,603	▼ -5.0%	▼ -17.2%	▼ -25.5%	
Other Canadians	1,830	▲ 0.5%	▼ -4.8%	▼ -3.0%		376	▲ 7.4%	▲ 0.5%	▲ 20.9%		2,206	▲ 1.7%	▼ -4.0%	▲ 0.4%	
International ³	2,220	▲ 17.3%	▲ 26.6%	▲ 24.4%		905	▲ 50.1%	▲ 73.0%	▲ 67.9%		3,125	▲ 25.3%	▲ 37.3%	▲ 34.5%	
Nova Scotia	38,622	▲ 0.6%	▲ 7.5%	▲ 5.4%		9,037	▲ 6.4%	▲ 26.3%	▲ 30.6%		47,659	▲ 1.6%	▲ 10.6%	▲ 9.4%	
Home Province Residents	18,621	▲ 2.3%	▲ 3.0%	▼ -7.6%		3,498	▲ 4.3%	▲ 19.3%	▲ 8.9%		22,119	▲ 2.6%	▲ 5.3%	▼ -5.3%	
Other Maritimers	2,718	▲ 2.6%	▲ 4.4%	▲ 0.1%		647	▲ 9.7%	▲ 22.1%	▲ 4.2%		3,365	▲ 3.9%	▲ 7.4%	▲ 0.9%	
Other Canadians	9,018	▲ 8.1%	▲ 3.7%	▲ 0.5%		2,430	▲ 1.5%	▲ 11.3%	▲ 18.8%		11,448	▲ 6.6%	▲ 5.3%	▲ 3.9%	
International	8,265	▼ -10.1%	▲ 25.9%	▲ 72.6%		2,462	▲ 14.1%	▲ 62.7%	▲ 137.0%		10,727	▼ -5.5%	▲ 32.8%	▲ 84.1%	
Prince Edward Island	4,715	▲ 4.1%	▲ 25.9%	▲ 13.0%		517	▲ 4.2%	▲ 14.4%	▲ 57.1%		5,232	▲ 4.1%	▲ 24.7%	▲ 16.3%	
Home Province Residents	2,420	▲ 0.7%	▲ 8.0%	▼ -20.0%		221	▲ 2.3%	▲ 0.9%	▲ 1.8%		2,641	▲ 0.8%	▲ 7.4%	▼ -18.6%	
Other Maritimers	518	▲ 6.1%	▲ 5.5%	▲ 18.0%		57	▲ 26.7%	▲ 11.8%	▲ 103.6%		575	▲ 7.9%	▲ 6.1%	▲ 23.1%	
Other Canadians	363	▲ 2.0%	▲ 21.0%	▲ 46.4%		113	▼ -0.9%	▲ 31.4%	▲ 145.7%		476	▲ 1.3%	▲ 23.3%	▲ 61.9%	
International	1,414	▲ 10.4%	▲ 98.0%	▲ 208.7%		126	▲ 4.1%	▲ 31.3%	▲ 231.6%		1,540	▲ 9.8%	▲ 90.1%	▲ 210.5%	
Maritimes	59,731	▲ 0.7%	▲ 6.1%	▼ -1.0%		12,180	▲ 8.4%	▲ 23.8%	▲ 23.7%		71,911	▲ 1.9%	▲ 8.7%	▲ 2.5%	
New Brunswick ⁴	13,251	▼ -1.0%	▼ -0.5%	▼ -17.5%		1,675	▲ 6.2%	▲ 4.0%	▼ -17.1%		14,926	▼ -0.2%	— 0.0%	▼ -17.5%	
Nova Scotia	20,037	▲ 1.9%	▲ 1.5%	▼ -8.6%		3,642	▲ 4.4%	▲ 19.0%	▲ 8.9%		23,679	▲ 2.3%	▲ 3.9%	▼ -6.3%	
Prince Edward Island	3,333	▼ -0.9%	▲ 1.2%	▼ -20.8%		451	▲ 5.9%	▲ 13.9%	▼ -3.8%		3,784	▼ -0.1%	▲ 2.6%	▼ -19.1%	
Other Canadians	11,211	▲ 6.5%	▲ 2.7%	▲ 0.9%		2,919	▲ 2.1%	▲ 10.4%	▲ 21.5%		14,130	▲ 5.6%	▲ 4.2%	▲ 4.6%	
International	11,899	▼ -3.8%	▲ 31.7%	▲ 69.2%		3,493	▲ 21.2%	▲ 63.8%	▲ 116.2%		15,392	▲ 0.9%	▲ 37.9%	▲ 78.0%	

² Students enrolled within their permanent province of residence declared at admission; ³ Excludes students enrolled in offshore programs; ⁴ Provincial residents enrolled at all Maritime universities.

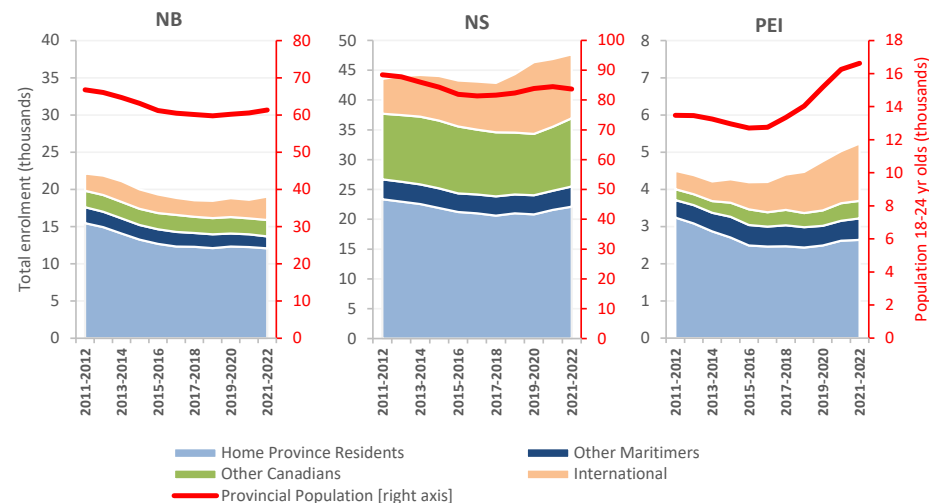
Table 5: Enrolment of International Students by Province, Institution, Reg. Status, and % of Total Enrolment

Table 9: Total Enrolment by Province of Study, Immigration Status, Province of Residence and Level of Study

UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATION		2021-2022	Change Over		
			1 year	5 years	10 years
Home Province Participation	NB	16.9%	▼ -0.2 pp	▼ -0.3 pp	▼ -1.9 pp
Number of students enrolled full-time in a university in their province of residence, divided by the provincial population aged 18-24 ⁵ .	NS	21.6%	▲ 1.0 pp	▲ 0.6 pp	▲ 0.3 pp
	PEI	14.2%	▲ 0.3 pp	▼ -2.4 pp	▼ -5.3 pp
Maritime Participation					
Number of Maritimers enrolled full-time in a university in the Maritimes, divided by the Maritime population aged 18-24.		22.1%	▲ 0.5 pp	▼ -0.3 pp	▼ -1.2 pp

⁵ Provincial population data: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex available at: <https://doi.org/10.25318/1710000501-eng>. Statistics Canada updates population estimates from time to time, therefore previously published participation rate calculations may change.

KEY TRENDS IN DEMOGRAPHICS AND UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT BY STUDENT ORIGIN



ENROLMENT BY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY ⁶	Enrolment 2021-2022	Change Over			
		1 year	5 years	10 years	
New Brunswick					
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	466	▲ 0.6%	▲ 12.6%	▲ 47.9%	
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	1,731	▼ -3.6%	▼ -15.7%	▼ -17.8%	
Business, management and public administration	3,244	▲ 14.4%	▲ 9.1%	▼ -7.2%	
Education	1,672	▲ 17.3%	▲ 41.7%	▼ -4.0%	
Health and related fields	2,508	▲ 3.4%	▲ 4.0%	▼ -16.7%	
Humanities ⁷	2,612	▼ -8.0%	▼ -14.2%	▼ -42.9%	
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	915	▲ 2.8%	▲ 25.3%	▲ 65.8%	
Physical and life sciences and technologies ⁸	1,851	▼ -1.2%	▼ -2.9%	▼ -11.2%	
Social and behavioural sciences and law	2,633	▼ -0.7%	▲ 9.1%	▲ 21.8%	
Visual and performing arts	340	▲ 0.6%	▲ 6.9%	▼ -8.4%	
Other/Not Applicable ⁹	1,048	▼ -3.2%	▼ -25.3%	▼ -39.4%	
Nova Scotia					
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	1,223	▼ -0.5%	▲ 3.8%	▼ -8.8%	
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	3,494	▼ -11.2%	▼ -4.1%	▲ 22.9%	
Business, management and public administration	9,917	▼ -0.5%	▲ 11.0%	▲ 19.1%	
Education	3,145	▲ 8.8%	▲ 39.2%	▲ 17.5%	
Health and related fields	7,458	▼ -1.3%	▲ 4.7%	▲ 13.0%	
Humanities	4,984	▲ 3.9%	▼ -2.4%	▼ -32.3%	
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	3,046	▲ 9.9%	▲ 98.8%	▲ 193.7%	
Physical and life sciences and technologies	5,795	▲ 3.4%	▲ 6.9%	▲ 11.8%	
Social and behavioural sciences and law	5,639	▲ 5.5%	▲ 11.2%	▲ 9.0%	
Visual and performing arts	977	▲ 2.1%	▲ 5.5%	▼ -21.8%	
Other/Not Applicable	1,981	▲ 7.1%	▲ 3.8%	▲ 13.1%	
Prince Edward Island					
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	134	▲ 17.5%	▲ 235.0%	*	
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	283	▲ 8.0%	▲ 53.8%	▲ 172.1%	
Business, management and public administration	987	▲ 3.1%	▲ 33.7%	▲ 20.7%	
Education	353	▼ -3.0%	▲ 3.5%	▼ -8.8%	
Health and related fields	1,045	▲ 3.1%	▲ 14.2%	▲ 40.8%	
Humanities	276	▼ -4.2%	▼ -32.5%	▼ -67.6%	
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	372	▲ 12.7%	▲ 163.8%	▲ 257.7%	
Physical and life sciences and technologies	738	▲ 5.1%	▲ 12.0%	▼ -4.0%	
Social and behavioural sciences and law	923	▲ 6.7%	▲ 65.4%	▲ 113.7%	
Visual and performing arts	33	*	*	*	
Other/Not Applicable	88	▼ -11.1%	▼ -48.2%	▼ -64.2%	

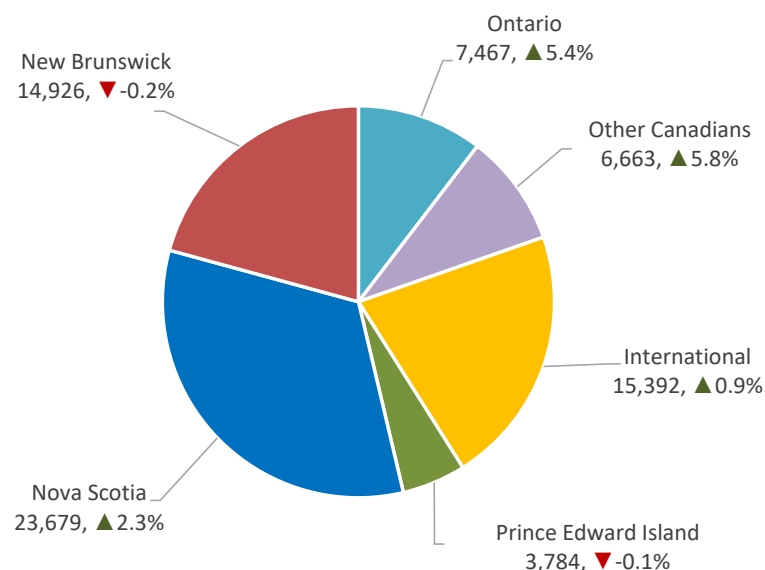
⁶ Major field of study categories are based on the Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Canada 2016 primary groupings available at: <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/subjects/standard/cip/2016/index>; ⁷ Includes General Arts;

⁸ Includes General Sciences; ⁹ "Not applicable" - courses or other educational activities that are not within a program.

ENROLMENT BY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	Enrolment 2021-2022	Change Over					
		1 year		5 years		10 years	
Maritimes							
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	1,823	▲	0.9%	▲	11.7%	▲	9.6%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	5,508	▼	-8.1%	▼	-6.3%	▲	9.0%
Business, management and public administration	14,148	▲	2.9%	▲	11.9%	▲	12.0%
Education	5,170	▲	10.5%	▲	36.8%	▲	7.6%
Health and related fields	11,011	▲	0.2%	▲	5.4%	▲	6.4%
Humanities	7,872	▼	-0.6%	▼	-8.0%	▼	-38.4%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	4,333	▲	8.5%	▲	80.3%	▲	155.9%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	8,384	▲	2.5%	▲	5.0%	▲	4.3%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	9,195	▲	3.8%	▲	14.3%	▲	18.4%
Visual and performing arts	1,350	▲	1.9%	▲	5.0%	▼	-18.6%
Other/Not Applicable	3,117	▲	2.8%	▼	-10.5%	▼	-16.3%

Table 7: Total Enrolment by Province, Major Field of Study, and Level of Study

TOTAL ENROLMENT BY STUDENT ORIGIN AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE SINCE 2020-2021



For further information, please contact:
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission

www.mphec.ca

Telephone: (506) 453-2844
E-mail: mphec@mphec.ca