



EduCanada™
A world of possibilities
Un monde de possibilités



Education sector opportunities in Costa Rica

Languages Canada conference 2024

Alexander Leon

Trade Commissioner

Canadian Embassy to Costa Rica,
Honduras and Costa Rica

2024 02 29



cmeC
Council of
Ministers
of Education,
Canada

Conseil des
ministres
de l'Éducation
(Canada)

Canada

2. Social, economy and politics



Social:

- 5.2 million, 50% in Greater San Jose
- Education free and compulsory (English included)
- Highest number of university graduates in LA

Economy:

- Middle income country: **\$14,733 (nominal, 2023) \$26,422 (PPP, 2023)**, 3.2% growth Currency revaluation, stable inflation
- Open economy to Intl trade, tourism and investment attraction

Politics:

- Democracy, elections in 2026
- 75 years stability



Common views: Canada and Costa Rica

- **Shared vision in many áreas** entre ambos países
- **Interest for applied research and Innovation**
- Interest for technical transfer
- **Innovation and technology seen as a need to keep competitiveness**
- Limited English language skilled labor force
- **Strong perception for Canada**
- Interest in increased entrepreneurship



Trends:

- increasing number of Costa Rican students in Canada
- increasing number of Canadian students traveling on short programs to Costa Rica
- increasing number of IEC applicants to Canada



3. Education ecosystem

Regulators:

- Primary, secondary, technical/vocational:
Ministry of Education www.mep.go.cr
- Private universities:
CONESUP www.conesup.mep.go.cr
- Public universities:
CONARE www.conare.ac.cr

Promotion:

- Global Edu: Private universities and English language institutes
- PROCOMER: Export promotion Agency
- www.universidades.cr (equiv to educanada.ca)

Cultural trends:

Primary and high school students do not study abroad (boarding schools)

Remarks:

Only one university offers bilingual programs
Opportunity on language training for professors

Technical education:

- Public high schools (223)
- INA (63)
- Colleges (21)

60 universities
5 public
55 private

High schools :

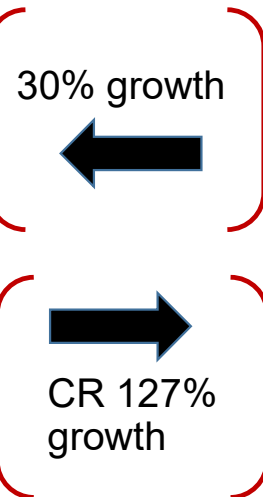
- Public (740)
- Private (380)
- IB (50) mix



4 Costa Rica- students choosing Canada as destination

New enrollments of Costa Rican students by host region

Rank	Destination Country	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	All	2830	3070	3359	3392	3675
1	North America and Western Europe	2207	2373	2515	2631	2910
2	LATAM and Caribbean	522	579	716	619	610
3	Central and Eastern Europe	19	16	23	34	64
4	Asia	66	87	2	12	3
5	Africa	3	2	3	3	3



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics - <http://data.uis.unesco.org/#/>

Costa Rican holders of a study permit in Canada

Canada – Study Permit Holders with a valid Permit by Country of Citizenship, 2007 - 2022						Growth 22-21
Country of Citizenship	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Costa Rica	240	260	225	290	375	29%
Honduras	325	375	350	445	625	40%
Dominican Republic	515	570	490	755	1,090	44%
Ecuador	1,600	1,850	1,660	2,415	3,260	35%
El Salvador	585	635	545	565	715	27%
Panama, Republic of	530	595	335	475	715	51%

Canada's market share of CRNs studying abroad

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	4.6%	5.4%	5.2%	5.5%	4.2%	5.4%	7.0% *

*based on a projected growth from results on 2020



Regional students in Canada

Holders of a study permit in Canada

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Source: EduCanada

New enrollments of Honduran students by host region to the world

year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Studying abroad	4538	4670	4903	4953	5122
Studying in Canada	325	375	350	445	625
Market share	7%	8%	7%	9%	12%

* 2022 estimation based on previous 4 year average increase

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics - <http://data.uis.unesco.org/#/>



4. Scholarships and loans available in CR to study locally and abroad



CONAPE

- Public institution
- Very low interest rate
- 6000 loans
- USD 85 million in loans to study locally or abroad,
- Language learning included, institutional learning, open to all kind of programs. CONAPE.

No Gvmt scholarships

- Public universities offer scholarships
- High school scholarships based on low income
- Both for studies locally



5. Education agreements.

- 40 agreements CND-CR in place. None with Honduras.
- Most of them focus on framework, mobility and research
- Many include ELAP
- Over 100 ELAP students, 260 IEC (es



Agreements are an excellent way of developing stronger ties and working on opportunities.



Opportunities for Costa Ricans to come to Canada. ELAP... (ELAP Costa Rica)

Results:

15 agreements include ELAP

110 Costa Rican students in Canada

In 2022 and 203 TEC, UCR, UNA, and Ucreativa sent students to:

- Lakehead University,
- Medicine Hat College,
- Memorial University of Newfoundland,
- Sault College,
- Simon Fraser University
- Université de Montréal,
- Université du Quebec a Trois-Rivieres, y
- Université Laval
- University of British Columbia
- University of Windsor



Opportunities for Canadians to come to Costa Rica (Faculty mobility program and GSO)

FACULTY MOBILITY FOR PARTNERSHIP BUILDING PROGRAM

- Only one professor

GSO- Global Skills Opportunity

- **Very succesful program. CR is a top destination.**
- Academic experiences with the opportunity of short time experiences.
- Benefits groups of students.



6 Areas where greater collaboration would be possible.

- Bilingualism: government priority. Teachers training. Capacity building for universities, program transfer, partnerships, , transferencia de programas, atención de prioridades - país
- Joint research
- Capacity building for profesor
- Shared classrooms (COIL)



As an example:

Authorities emphasize importance of:

7. - **improving English language skills beyond reading**, for problem solving and teamwork in areas such as mathematics and technology, and within a model which integrates education and work simultaneously,
- **strengthen opportunities** for more young people to enter **STEM programs**
- develop **labor capacity in the semiconductor industry** within the framework of the *Law of Chips and Science* or [Chips Act](#) .

(Costa Rica will benefit from \$13.8 million for semiconductor training granted by the US) which was awarded to Arizona State University (ASU) to develop workforce training programs for the semiconductor industry in the region, including Costa Rica.

Recently, the Ministry of Science, Innovation, Technology and Telecommunications (MICITT) signed a MOU with ASU that includes the design of educational programs linked to the technology industry, such as the case of semiconductors.

This MOU proposes **joint work with Costa Rican technical and professional training institutions** through bilateral agreements to be signed later, the planning of training programs, the search for funds to train the workforce in the field of semiconductors.



1,618



7. Events in education sector with participation of Costa Rican delegation (2024)

- Feb 29th. **Languages Canada Conference (Vancouver).**
- March 11th to 20th. **Central American College Tour 2024 (18th in CR, 15-16th in Honduras).**
Organizer: APDE schools.
- May 15th -25th. **Vente a Canada fair (Tegucigalpa).**
TC will organize a B2B with local colleges, agents and universities
- May 28th -31st, 2024. **NAFSA (New Orleans).**
TC will attend. A Costa Rican delegation participates.
- Aug 12th-15th **Outcall trip with Caldo Consortium members (Costa Rica and Honduras).**
- Nov 3rd to 6th **CBIE (Ottawa).**
TC will attend. A Costa Rican delegation participates.
- Noviembre 2025- **CAEI Conference (San José, Costa Rica).**
A large delegation from Costa Rica will attended.



THANK YOU

Learn more

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✉ Alexander.leon@international.gc.ca

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