

INTERNATIONALIZATION AT A CANADIAN UNIVERSITY - AN UNCONVENTIONAL APPROACH

*Keynote Speaker:
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Thompson Rivers University started internationalizing over 25 years ago when it was still a College. Over the subsequent years, it has developed an unconventional approach by establishing a standalone centralized division TRU World, to coordinate and facilitate international initiatives & activities for the university. TRU World has a dual reporting function through the Provost and Vice President Academic and the Vice President Administration and Finance. It concentrates expertise in internationalization which provides for sound planning, strategy development, and consistency in the management of:

1. International student recruitment
2. Enhanced international student services (“Gold Standard of Service”)
3. Evolving transnational education delivery:
 - a. Offshore Delivery: TRU programs at partner institutions.
 - b. Articulation: Transfer credits towards a TRU degree.
 - c. Pathway: Pathway towards a TRU degree.
 - d. Visiting Students: study abroad experience at TRU.
4. International mobility for domestic students (study abroad)
5. International training programs (International Training Centre)
6. Increasing Intercultural Understanding

The presentation will elaborate on 1-6 giving explanations, statistics and examples. The alignment of TRU’s internationalization with the university’s five strategic priorities will be described. The relationship of internationalization with the city of Kamloops and its economic impact on the city will be presented.