

# Dream Deferred: Impact of Immigration Policy Changes on International Students in Canada

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## Introduction and Rationale

Among the various topics I considered during my brainstorming, such as teenagers with ADHD, parents of disabled children, pet owners etc, I finally chose to focus on international students. The reason is simple: I have stories to tell. As an international student, I know many of others who are suffering now. I've been closely followed the news about the immigration policies over the past year, and I feel deeply about the dramatic shifts and their significant impacts on international students, particularly those vulnerable ones.

The immigration policies are changing constantly, often influenced by public critics and subject to change during election year. As temporary residents, international student is a primary target for regulation under the policies. Many of us are desperate because the prospect have been completely changed.

**Voice to deliver:** the drastic turn in policy not only harms students but also negatively affects the economy and the reputation of Canada. Behind every policy change are broken hearts. Canada needs sustainable and consistent immigration policies that support both students and the country.

## Audience

My target audience includes policymakers, educational institutions, and the public who cares about immigration issues. I hope my story can influence policymakers to review their decision making process and to realize a clear expectation will benefit both the country and international students.

## Data Sources

I will utilize the following data to support my story:

- Number of international students over the last 10 years
- Changes in Canada's immigration policies over the last 10 years
- Countries of origin in International Students
- Students contribution to the economy
- Ranking of preferred destinations for international students

The data can be obtained from sources like Statistics Canada, IRCC website etc.

## Methods and Iterations

There are too many things can be involved when talking about immigration policies, such as housing, job markets, inflation, and political topics. To maintain focus and clarity in my story, I will concentrate on the most relevant facts.

### **Iteration 1:**

I followed the approach we practiced in the class. First I brainstormed, then confirmed the character, theme, visual methods, datasets, and delivery format. (See screenshots below). I selected various visualization methods to present the data in a way that makes the story engaging and easily understandable. The datasets are readily available from public sources and news outlets. The visual methods may evolve as I progress in the course, as I seek better ways to illustrate the data. As to the delivery format, I believe that web page is the most suitable for the presenting of the visualization and it is easier to share on the internet.

### **Iteration 2:**

I hand-drew sketches for the draft of the storytelling. The idea is to first provide the audience with an overview of the immigration policies over the last 10 years and how students numbers have fluctuated alongside them. A heat map illustrates the countries students are coming from. I will then focus on the number of students impacted by recent policy changes, using an icon array to visualize the number rejected applications. A personal story about a student will show the uncertainty faced by those still in Canada. Finally, a diagram will highlight the economic and repetitional impacts, illustrating that the consequences beyond the students themselves.

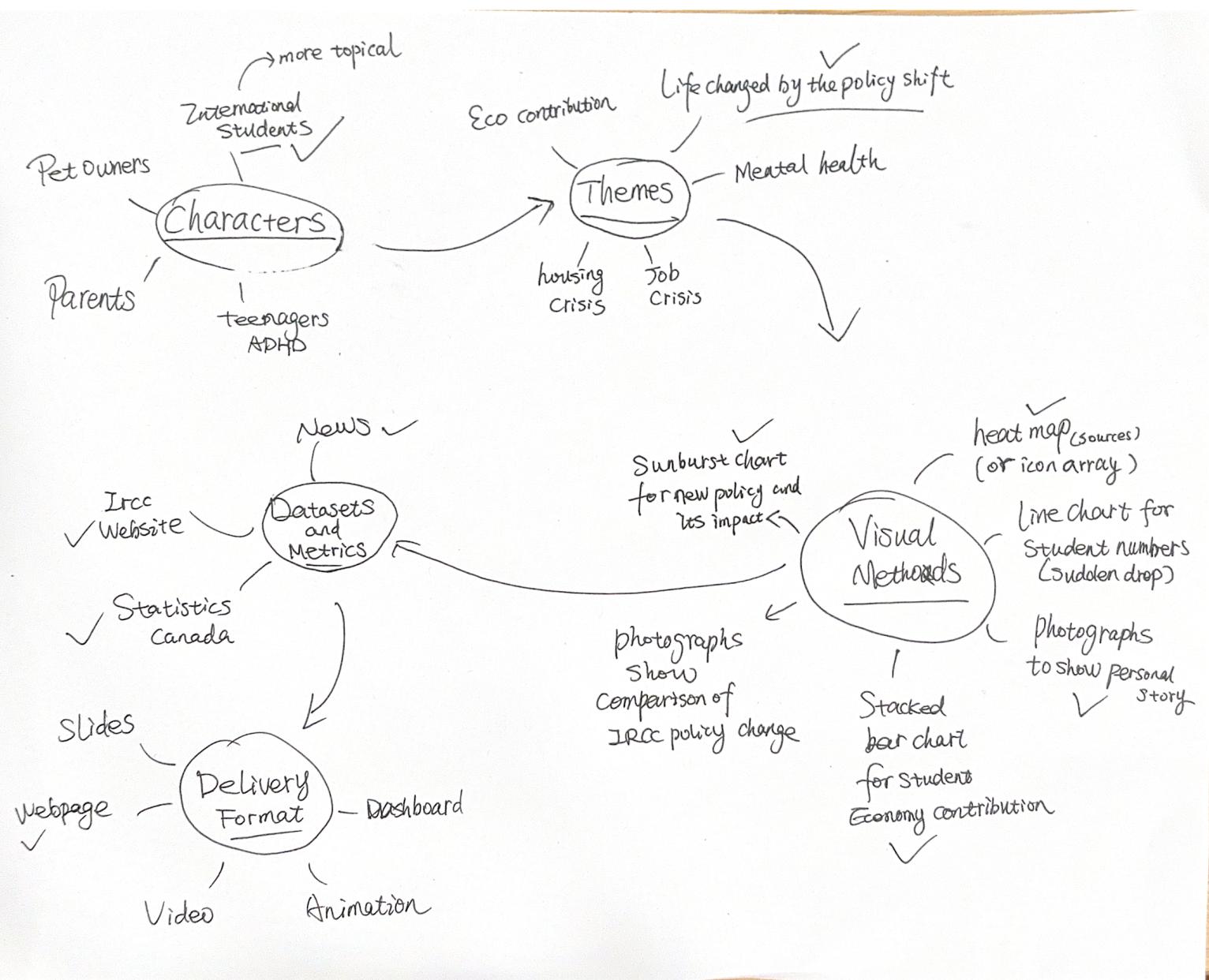
### **Iteration 3:**

This storyboard has been created in Google Slides. The diagram are placeholders, demonstrating how they will look in the final version. Part 1 and part 3 can be made interactive, allowing the audience to access more information by highlighting certain areas. Part 5 will share a personal story, which could be extended with scroll-triggered animation on the web page to create a more compelling narrative.

## Conclusion

Unlike my previous work experiences, these three iterations have guided me in deciding the theme and methods steps by steps. By the time I began working on the final piece, I clearly understood what I wanted to create. Iteration 2 helped me remove those irrelevant ideas and narrow my focus on character driven storytelling. In the next, I will be focusing on data collection and refining the visualization methods used in my story to make it more powerful and compelling.

# Iteration 1

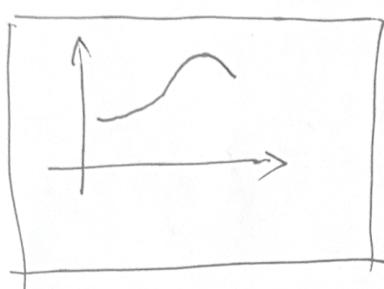


## Iteration 2

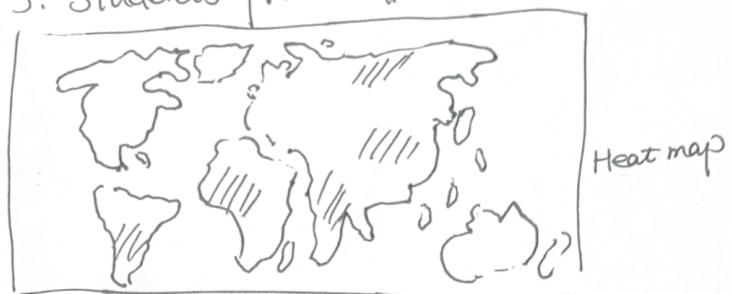
1. Canada's immigration policies have shifted dramatically in a short period.



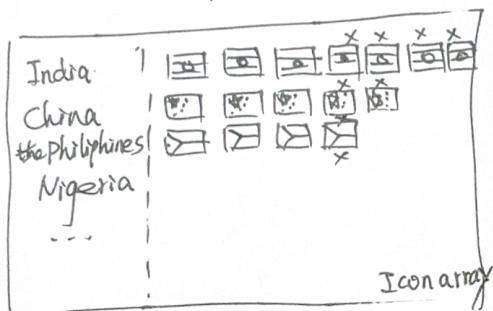
2. Students number



3. Students from different countries



4. How many International students will be impacted.



5. Personal story of a student

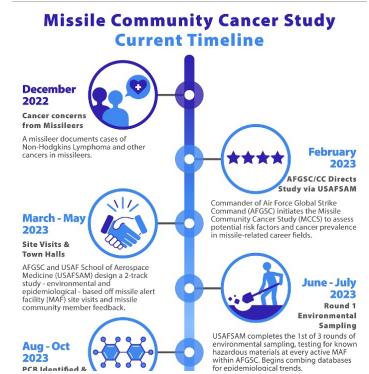


6. Economy impact and reputation impact



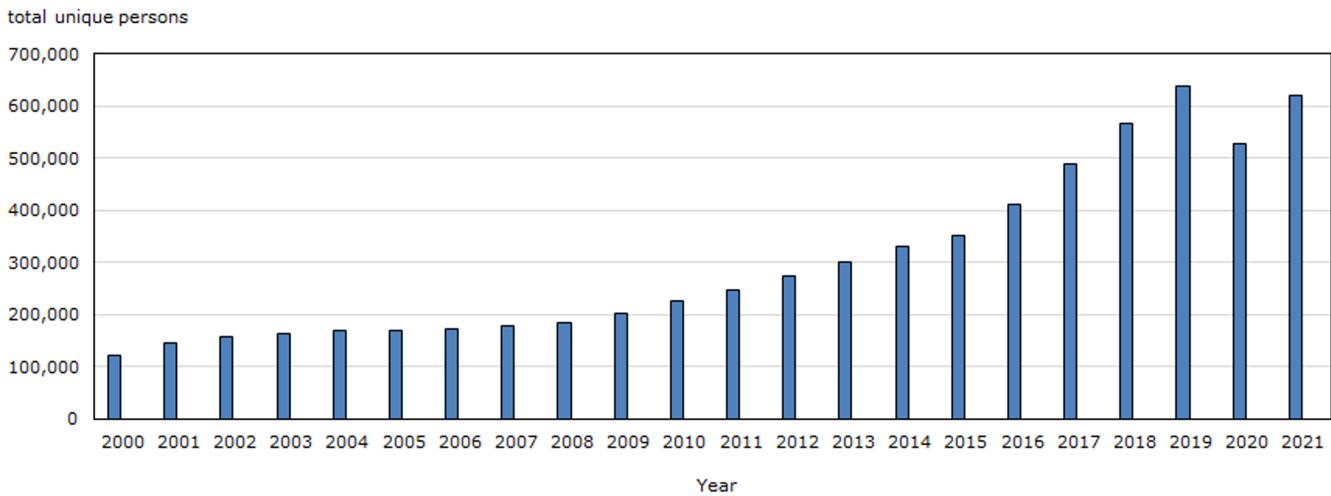
## Iteration 3

Canada's Immigration Policies have shifted dramatically in a short period



The number of international students has grown rapidly

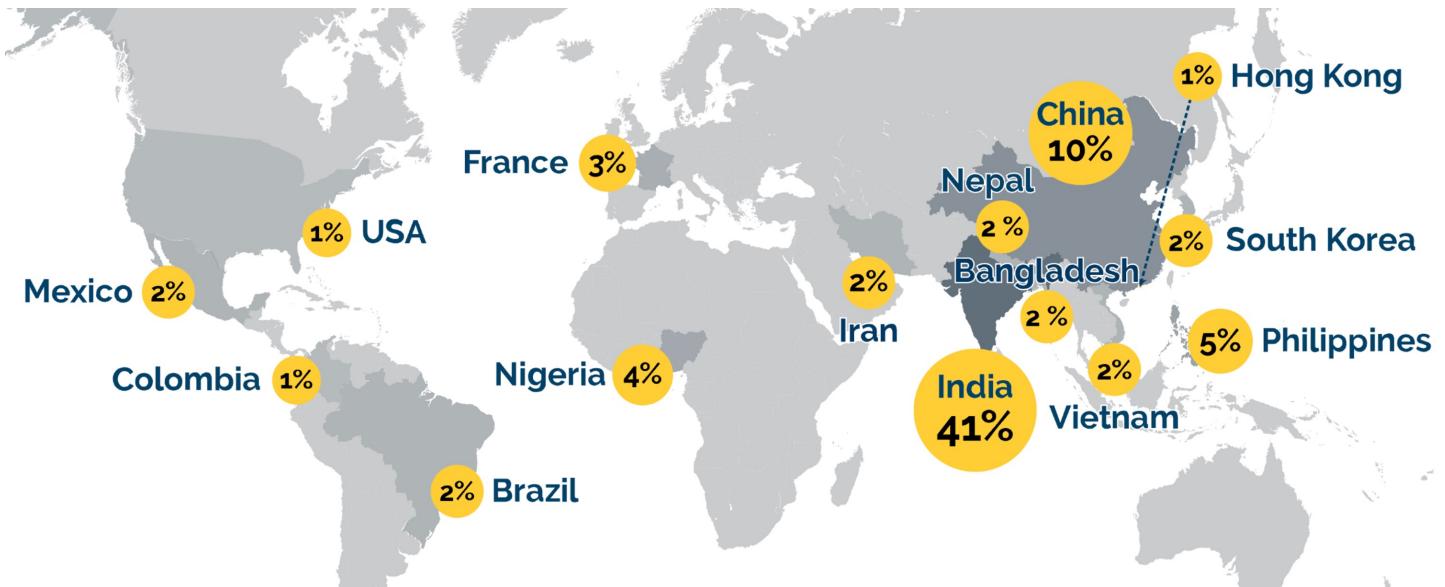
**Chart 1**  
**Study permit holders in Canada with a valid permit on December 31st, total unique persons, 2000 to 2021**



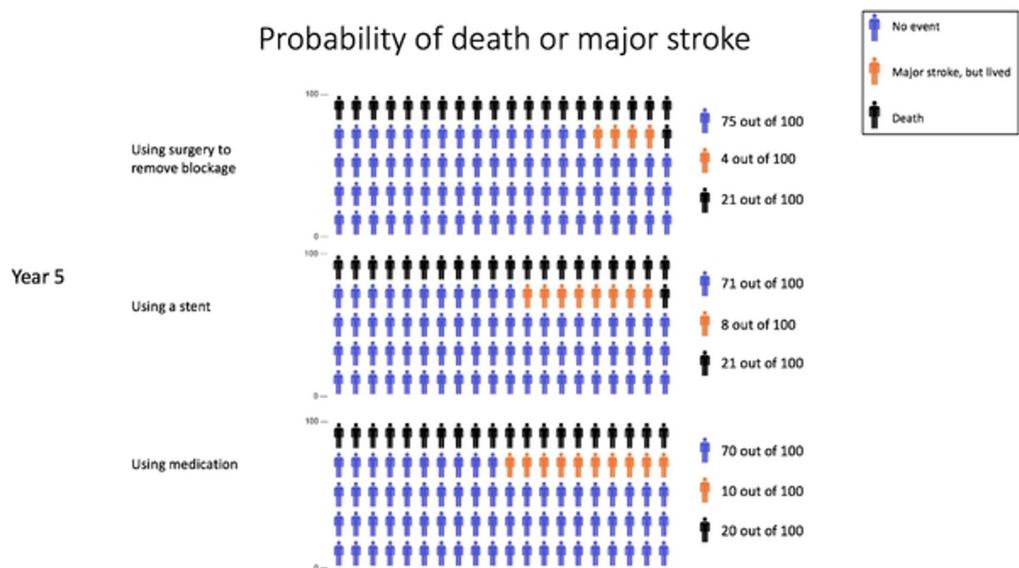
**Note:** Data are preliminary estimates and are subject to change.

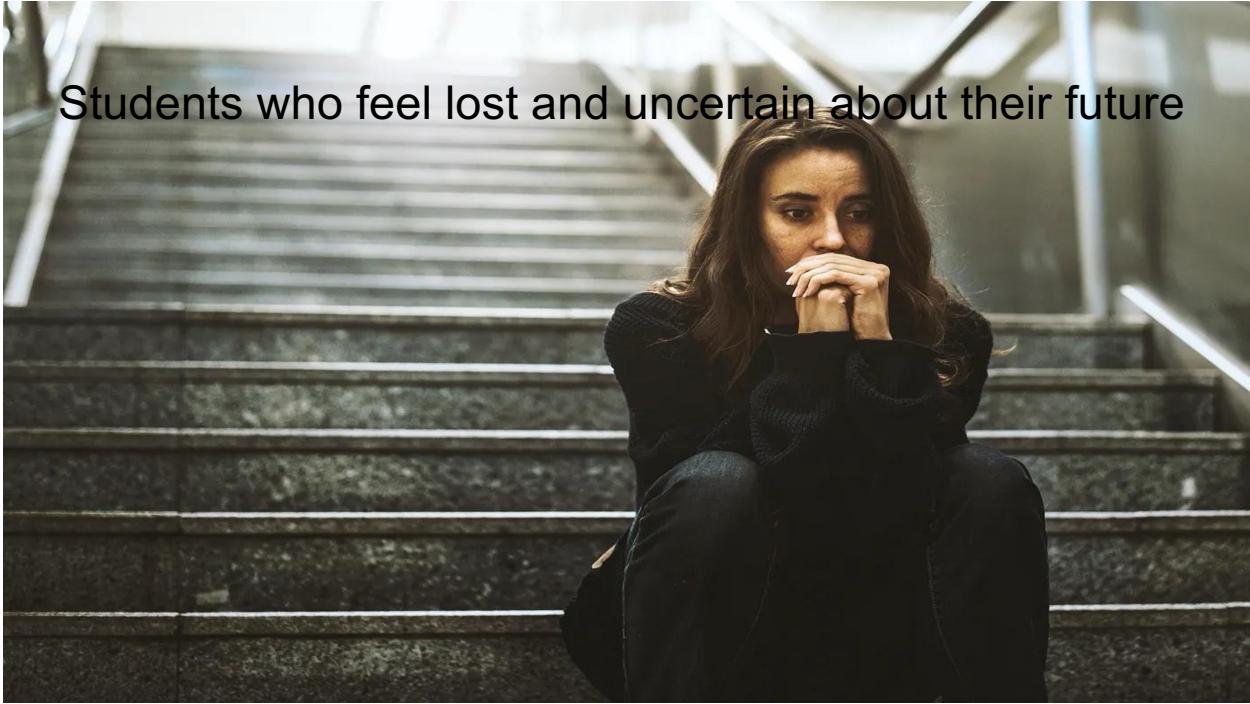
**Source:** Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Study permit holders on December 31st by province/territory of intended destination and

## Students are from different countries

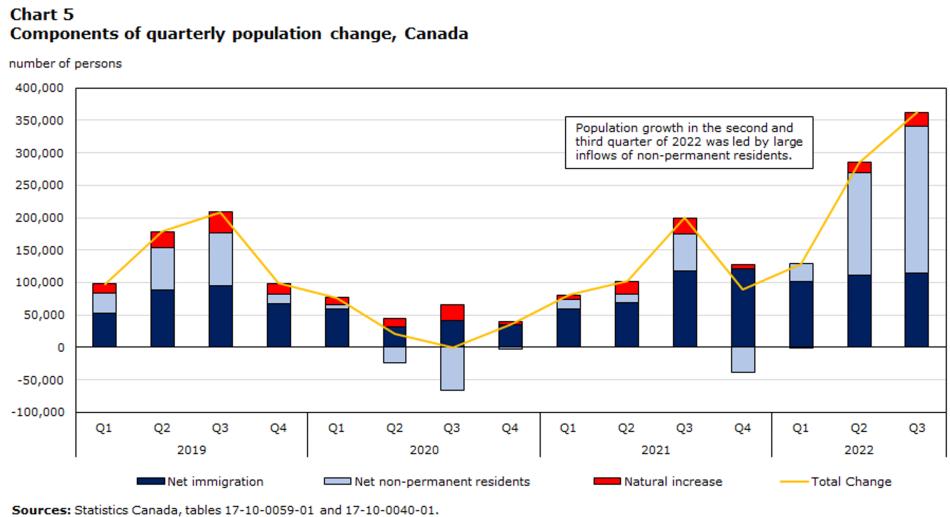


## How many international students will be impacted





## Impacts on economy and reputation of Canada



# Resources

## Data

<https://www.statista.com/topics/2917/immigration-in-canada/#topicOverview>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/reports-statistics/statistics-open-data.html>

## Images:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-631-x/11-631-x2023004-eng.htm>

<https://medium.com/@jshetty1/5-ways-to-stop-worrying-about-the-future-9deab424a85b>

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0253644>