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Employability in COVID-19

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Project Summary

Knowledge Mobilization & Impact



Western
Education

Student Employability in COVID-19

Background

The impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic on higher education could be seen in education in early 2020. Significant labour market disruptions places students among the group experiencing the heaviest burden from layoffs and work insecurity during this time. Higher education institutions also face financial uncertainty, bracing for shifts in enrolment and tuition revenue, particularly related to international student cohorts. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on student employability are on the radar of policymakers, university faculty and administrators, employers, and students alike.

The Research

The rising concerns about student economic insecurity have the attention of government, non-government, and private interests in education. Technology-based education plans have been developed by major global actors such as The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank, and The Organization for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD).

Online social media platforms have bolstered their educational offerings, allowing free access to their programs, often through partnerships with higher education institutions, with educational technology companies quickly moving in to fill gaps.

In Canada, higher education institutions and employers have strengthened ties through work-integrated learning partnerships, provincial ministries have developed platforms for post-secondary student job matching, and the federal government has invested in the Canada Emergency Student Benefit and the tentative Canada Student Service Grant, engaging private organizations in delivering service programs for Canadian students to support economic recovery. The growing network of policy actors involved in student employability in the midst of COVID-19 deserves attention to understand this rapidly shifting dynamic of government, non-government, and private interests in educational governance.

The Project

The purpose of this review is to ask: What policies are currently in place, and which actors are addressing student employability both in Canada and globally?

In this project we will use a framework of networked governance and controversy mapping to frame the actors and discourses about student employability from different actors. This project will involve a broad scoping review to identify academic studies being conducted about student employability following COVID-19, and identify grey literature, including policies and programs aimed at addressing student employability both in Canada and globally.

Researchers

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