



ARUCC Groningen Project Update – April 2019

Creating a national data exchange network for Canada

Welcome!

We are pleased to provide this update for the ARUCC Groningen & Student Mobility Project, which is an initiative focused on creating a ‘Made for Canada’ national student data exchange network. Significant progress has been made since the last update.

- ✓ The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), a subcommittee for the Project, is hitting the ground running to support creation of the RFP. With international and pan-Canadian representation, the members of TAC bring extensive expertise in data exchange, data security, systems architecture design, identity management, and more. This group began meeting in January and connects every three weeks. Its [terms of reference](#) encompass providing advice to the Steering Committee, ARUCC, and its partners, [PCCAT](#), [CUCCIO](#), and [CanPESC](#), regarding the technical aspects of the coming RFP for the network. Utilizing their unique expertise, and based on the findings from the Project research, they are helping to finalize the prioritized use cases, technical information flows, risk assessment, and other developmental requirements for the national network.
- ✓ Fundraising continues...with a special thanks to ARUCC members, Campus Manitoba, PCCAT, BCCAT, and ONCAT for their support to date. It’s not too late to join!
Deliverables supported by funding: additional consultation and research with the Canadian higher education community; committee and research support for the Technical Advisory Group, Steering, and other committees; fundraising; communications; business case and RFP development; hiring additional supports including legal and privacy expertise; overseeing and executing the RFP process

The registrarial leadership encouraged the Project Steering Committee to examine long-term governance for the National network. The Steering Committee and ARUCC need your input to ensure a long-term operational framework for the Network that is member-owned and led. Focused conversations with registrarial leadership have begun and will continue throughout the spring and summer across Canada using online webinar formats and sessions at conferences and registrarial meetings across Canada.

HOT OFF THE PRESS: NATIONAL & STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS ENDORSING THE PROJECT



**Universities
Canada.**



View the full endorsee list [online](#).



Current Governance

ARUCC is heading the Project under the leadership of its current President, Romesh Vadivel (McGill). The Association is a federally incorporated entity with a Board of Directors and appropriate insurance in place for a Project of this scale. It is supported by learned Canadian higher education leaders and three national associations along with a strategic and operational support team. Here's a snapshot:

- National Project Steering Committee with 11 members from across Canada - This group meets bi-weekly to oversee the Project; it is co-chaired by Charmaine Hack (Registrar, Ryerson; former President of ARUCC – 2016-2018) and Dr. Rob Fleming (Director, PCCAT; Co-Chair and Executive Director, BCCAT)
- Project partnerships with three national associations – PCCAT, CUCCIO, and CanPESC – Two representatives from each association sit on the Steering Committee.
- 15-member national Technical Advisory Committee – Members reflect the range of systems expertise and higher education knowledge needed for a Project of this scale. Other committees will be struck as the Project unfolds.
- Executive lead, Joanne Duklas (former Registrar and Assistant Vice President, former President of ARUCC - 2012)
- Operations support team which includes consulting staff and financial support from McPherson Management.
- Additional expertise will be hired as needed and includes experts in accounting, law, privacy, technical system design, and more.

We continue to connect with assistant and deputy ministers responsible for education portfolios from across Canada to capture support for the Project. Your endorsements are critical to this process. Therefore, we urge you to share this Bulletin with your leadership and, if you haven't yet, consider providing a formal, [written endorsement](#) for the Project. Thus far we've accumulated over 70 endorsements from student groups, institutions, allied organizations, and government including Universities Canada and Colleges and Institutes Canada.

All projects remain on track with a goal to conduct an RFP in spring/summer 2019, an activity that represents our next major milestone. This winter/spring, we will continue to review the findings, compile the business requirements and RFP, and seek additional seed funding to support moving towards the RFP including seeking out support from friends, allied organizations, and government. We need your help to continue this important work.

We extend our thanks to you for your guidance and support. For ongoing updates, visit our project site [online](#).

Charmaine Hack, Chair

Dr. Rob Fleming, Vice Chair

COMING SOON!

ARUCC will be holding webinars to gather your advice regarding the operating structure for the national data exchange network.

Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.



Research Highlights

The project team received tremendous participation in the fall 2018 research and consultation exercise from the national higher education community. After speaking with close to 250 leaders across Canada on several occasions and conducting a national, bilingual survey, the team is now turning its attention to evaluating and analysing the data to support the RFP development and creation of two research studies which will be published for [ONCAT](#) and [BCCAT](#), the project funders.

STUDENT MOBILITY & CAPACITY CHALLENGES

The research indicates significant gaps exist across the country. The community says we can and must do more to support mobile students, enhance institutional efficiencies, and address document fraud.

- Most electronic exchange of domestic student information is limited to specific provinces. Where it does exist, it focuses on the front end of the application process and intra-provincial transcript exchange to support admissions.
- Only a select few application centres and institutions engage to a limited extent in inter-provincial electronic exchange. An even smaller subset maintains established connections with trusted international organizations.
- Many institutions rely on manual effort to support students moving between institutions and beyond.
- Significant gaps exist to support internationally educated students coming to study in Canada.

GROWING EVIDENCE OF DOCUMENT & IDENTITY FRAUD

Increases in document and identity fraud impact post-secondary academic document exchange.ⁱ The risks and implications include erosion of the Canadian high education brand and lost enrolments .

INCREASING VOLUME PRESSURES

Growing service volumes across all fronts are challenging Canadian post-secondary institutions and negatively impacting students, resulting in delays, inefficiencies, and frustrations.

- 47% increase in international study permits from 2015 to 2018 alone (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada)
- 11% increase in graduating students from 2012 to 2016 (Statistics Canada)
- Increasing demands for official student status confirmations – sample: 37% increase in RESP related requests since the program's inception (Employment and Social Development Canada)

CANADIAN POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS AND SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS NEED A NATIONAL STUDENT DATA EXCHANGE NETWORK TO ENSURE SCALABLE SUPPORT FOR THE MOBILE LEARNERS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW.

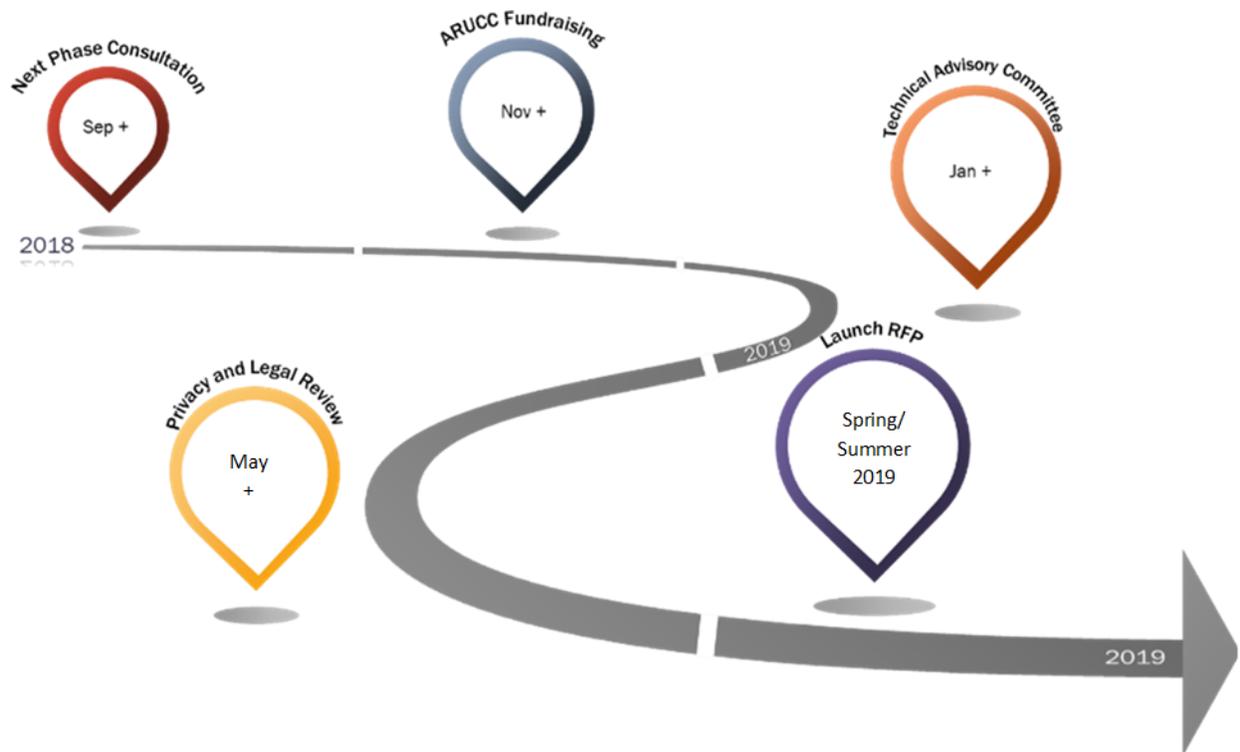
Footnote 'i' WENR: <https://wenr.wes.org/2017/12/academic-fraud-corruption-and-implications-for-credential-assessment/>; Canadian Bankers Association: <https://cba.ca/embracing-digital-id-in-canada>



Next Steps

This current phase runs until the end of June 2019 and focuses on the following items:

- Finalizing the ONCAT and BCCAT research studies and reports
- Reviewing and analyzing all the data from the consultation and research
- Engaging the higher education community in consultation regarding the long-term operating structure of the national Network
- Seeking additional funding from friends, allied organizations, and government to support the long-term goals of the Project
- Continuing to keep the membership and higher education community informed about the Project's progress
- Hiring additional expertise to support the Project
- Creating the RFP
- Reviewing the RFP with technical, legal, and privacy experts
- Submitting the RFP draft to the ARUCC Groningen & Student Mobility Steering Committee for the initial review and approval by the [representative members](#) of ARUCC, [PCCAT](#), [CUCCIO](#), and [CanPESC](#)
- Submitting the RFP draft for final approval to the ARUCC executive committee.





Detailed Project Status Update

The work of the project steering committee and its team continues! Here's a sample summary of activities in this phase.

December 2018 to April 2019 – current and anticipated

- ARUCC fundraising continues – First round of invoices delivered in December 2018; second round in Winter/Spring 2019.
- ARUCC reaches 61% of its fundraising goal in February 2019.
- The Technical Advisory Committee nomination process unfolds (November to December 2018).
- The successful members of the Technical Advisory Committee are notified and oriented to the project (December 2018 to January 2019).
- Technical business requirements development and review begins via the Technical Advisory Committee (January 2019 and forward).
- Further outreach occurs to federal and provincial/territorial ministers in winter 2019.
- Review of the findings and data from the national survey and consultation with close to 250 Canadian higher education leaders continues; a process that is anticipated to continue from January to June.
- Creation of the final research studies for ONCAT and BCCAT occurs (March/April 2019).
- Development of the RFP begins (February 2019).
- Friends and allied organizations are approached for additional funding (December through to June 2019).
- Consultation on long-term operating model for the national Network begins (February 2019).
- Charmaine Hack and Joanne Duklas deliver a session at the OURA 2019 Conference to begin consultations around operating frameworks (February 2019).
- Dr. Rob Fleming presents the project update and extends the consultation and fundraising outreach to PCCAT Board members (February 2019).
- Additional governance consultation occurs throughout the spring at various national and regional conferences and meetings (CUCCIO, PCCAT, WARUCC, OURA, Groningen Declaration Summit, registrarial regional meetings).
- Planning for, writing, and hiring of additional expertise for the RFP unfolds (spring 2019).