



CONFERENCE

18TH – 19TH JUNE 2019

BERLIN



THE STUDENT REFUGEE PROGRAM

An innovative, youth-led, peer-to-peer support model

AT A GLANCE

- World University Service of Canada (WUSC) is a Canadian non-profit organization dedicated to improving education, employment, and empowerment opportunities for youth around the world. It has operated the Student Refugee Program (SRP) since 1978.
- The SRP's youth-to-youth refugee resettlement model combines durable solutions with opportunities for higher education. Canadian students form campus-based Local Committees that support the key aspects of refugee students' sponsorship and integration.
- SRP partners include Government of Canada, UNHCR, IOM, and government ministries and local NGOs in countries of asylum. In Canada, WUSC has partnerships with 95+ higher education institutions.

CORE OBJECTIVES

1. Provide durable solutions to refugee youth by combining immigration with higher education opportunities in Canada.
2. Empower Canadian youth to act as global citizens, support newcomer integration, and raise awareness of refugee issues.
3. Provide a sustainable, whole of campus approach to supporting refugee students financially, academically, and socially.

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- 130 Students sponsored annually
- 95+ participating universities, colleges and technical institutions
- 2,000 refugee students placed since 1978

LESSONS LEARNT

1. To overcome gender barriers, invest in refugee girls' education at the primary and secondary levels, and support flexible admissions requirements for young women.
2. Provide pre-departure support (language, skills training) for academic transition to Canada.
3. Work with campuses to institutionalize education initiatives and offer ongoing training and support to campus groups.
4. Ensure consistent annual funding and long-term sustainability of the program through a collaborative, shared costs model that includes small student levies and tuition and fee waivers.
5. Coordinate closely with UNHCR, IOM, embassies abroad, and the host-country governments to ensure the timely arrival of students for the beginning of classes.
6. Student volunteer groups can play an important role in countering xenophobia and anti-immigrant sentiments, if provided with resources and training to help them take action.

FURTHER INFO

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