

Enrolment Trends



I. Canada

From 2010-20, Canadian universities have seen enrolment increase from 918,000 to 1.1 million, with full-time enrolment increasing more than 18% and part-time enrolment declining almost 8%^{1, 2} (Figure 1). Since 2010, international student numbers have more than doubled and represent 17% of full-time and part-time students studying in Canadian universities (Figure 2) while enrolment by gender has remained stable over time (i.e., 43% Male and 57% Female in 2010/11 and 2019/20)³.

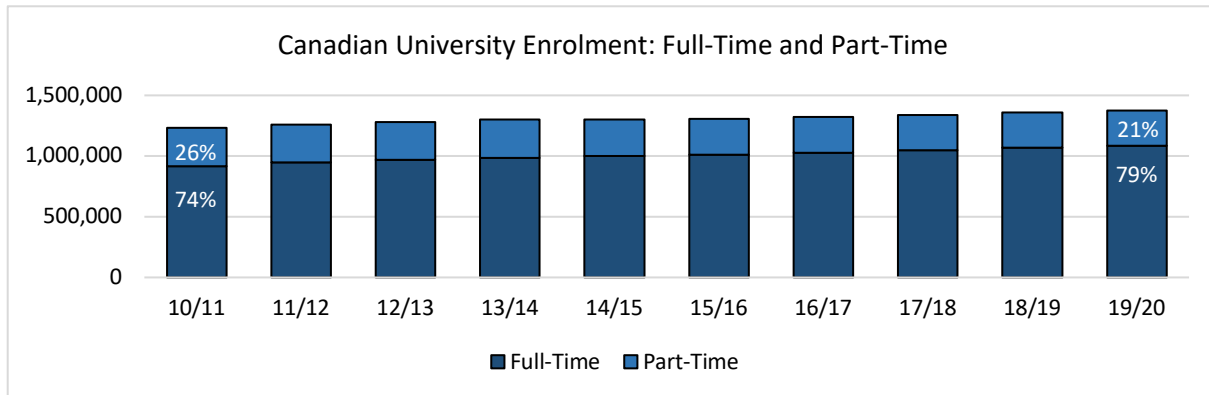


Figure 1

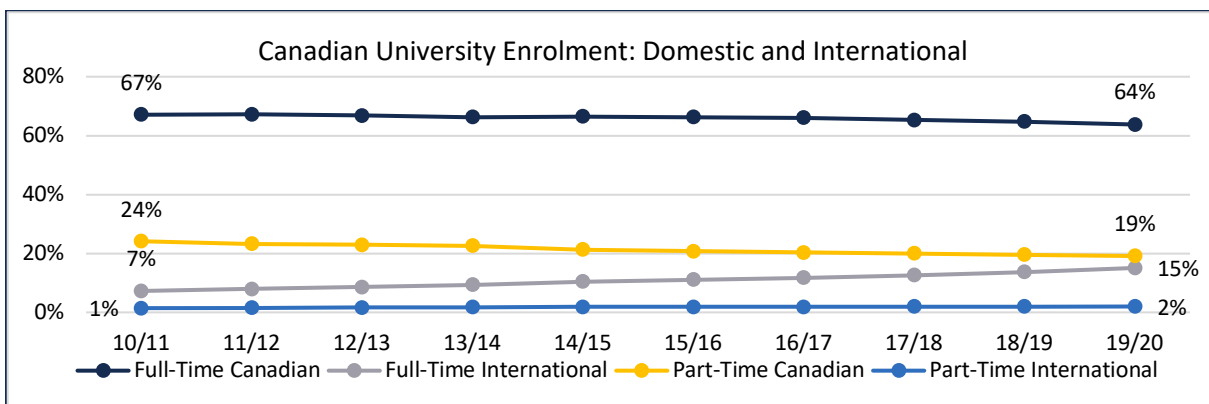


Figure 2

¹ Statistics Canada. Table 37-10-0182-01. Postsecondary enrolments, by detailed field of study and International Standard Classification of Education. doi: <https://doi.org/10.25318/3710018201-eng>

² University enrolment is a Fall snapshot

³ Statistics Canada. Table 37-10-0018-01 (formerly: CANSIM 477-0019): Postsecondary enrolments, by registration status, institution type, status of student in Canada and gender. doi: <https://doi.org/10.25318/3710001801-eng>

II. Ontario

Between 2010 and 2020, Ontario universities have seen enrolment increase from 484,000 to 556,000, with full-time enrolment increasing more than 20% and part-time enrolment declining almost 12% (Figure 3). The part-time decline in Ontario was higher than in Canada overall.

Of all full-time enrolment, more than 14% of students were in Business, 11% in Engineering, 9% in Social Science and 8% in Health Professions, including Biology and Biomedical Sciences. The fastest-growing fields of study were Computer and Information Systems, with large increases in Engineering. Significant declines are seen in the Social Sciences (e.g., Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology) and Humanities (e.g., History, Literature, Languages, Philosophy).

International student enrolment has grown more than 2.5 times since 2010/11, and 2019/20 made up 16% of the total full-time and part-time students studying at universities in Ontario (Figure 4). Enrolment by gender has remained stable (i.e., 45% Male, 55% Female, 1% Unknown in 2010/11 and 2019/20)⁴. All degree levels have seen increases in full-time enrolment. Within the full-time Master's enrolment, 43% of students studied Business, Health Professions and Engineering. At the Ph.D. level, 46% of full-time students were in Engineering, Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Health Professions and Social Sciences.

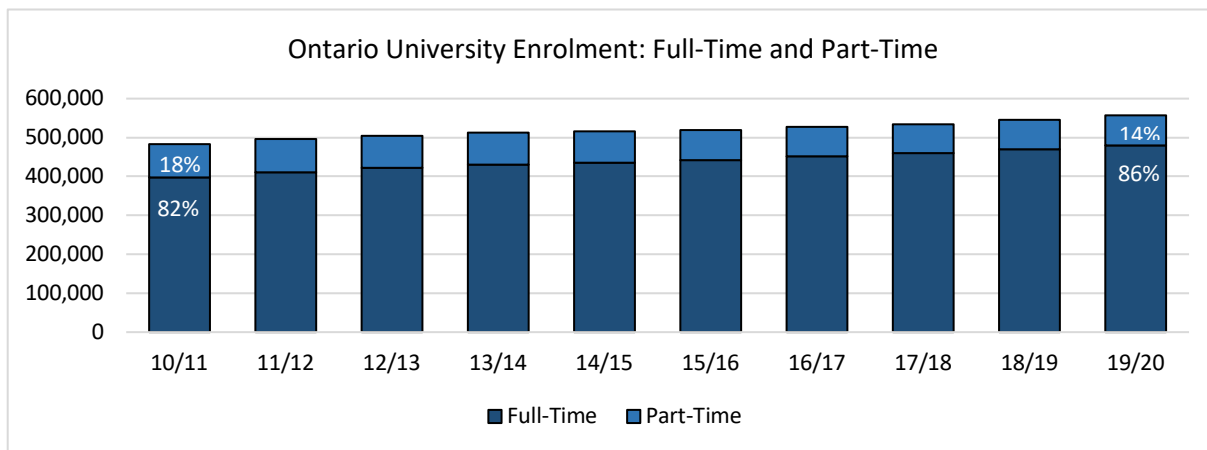


Figure 3

⁴ Statistics Canada. Table 37-10-0163-01: Postsecondary enrolments, by International Standard Classification of Education, institution type, Classification of Instructional Programs, STEM and BHASE groups, status of students in Canada. doi: <https://doi.org/10.25318/3710016301-eng>

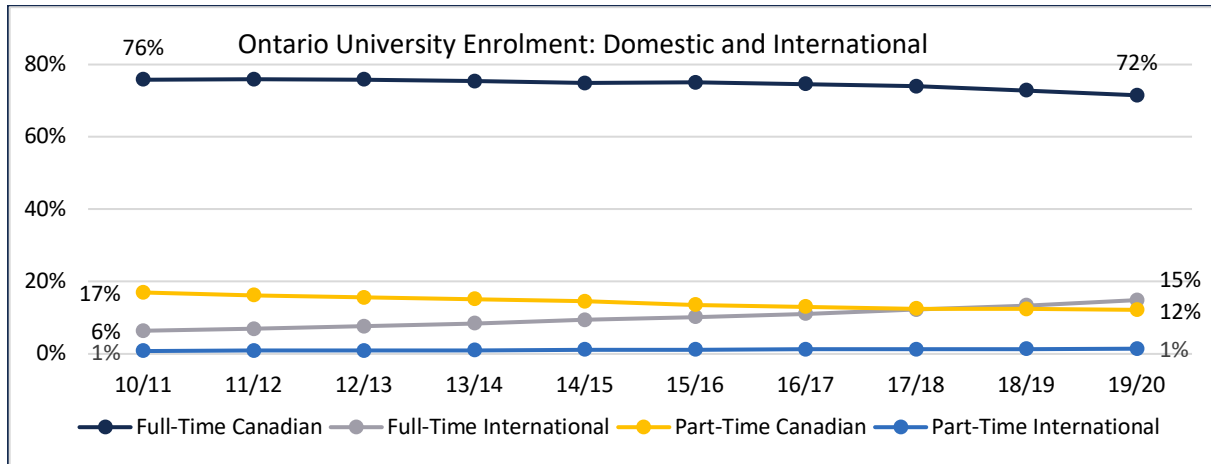


Figure 4

III. UWindsor

Full-time enrolment over ten years from 2010/11 to 2019/20 increased by 11% and part-time enrolment declined by 32%⁵. As a result, part-time students make up a smaller proportion of enrolment with 90% of all enrolment now full time. The increase in full-time enrolment was not seen across all levels as full-time undergraduate enrolment declined by 8% and graduate enrolment increased by 144% (Figure 5). Enrolment by gender has remained stable over the years (i.e., 47% Male, 50% Female, 1% Another Gender, 2% Not Reported).

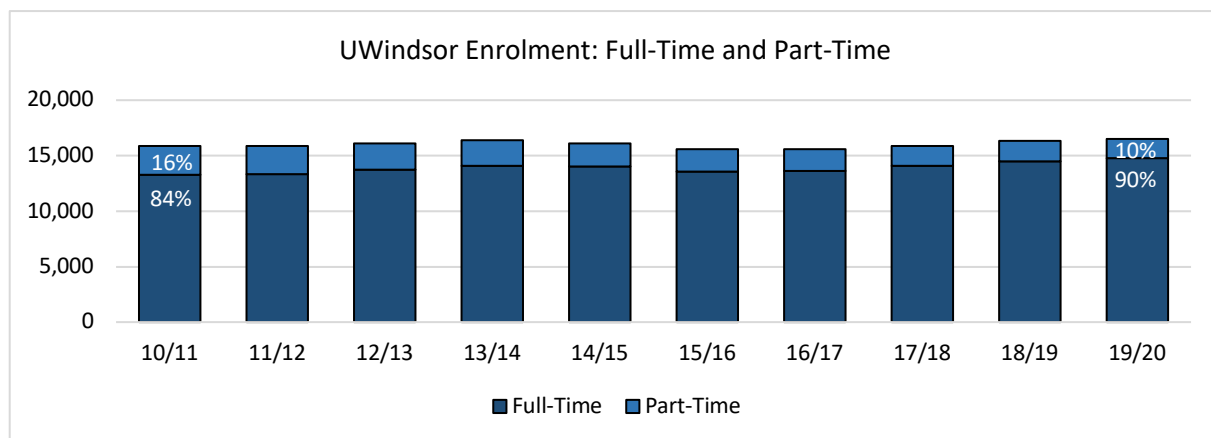


Figure 5

⁵ Office of Institutional Analysis. UWindsor historical headcount by level. https://www.uwindsor.ca/institutional-analysis/sites/uwindsor.ca.institutional-analysis/files/spring_11-20_ug_hc_prog.pdf

Figures 6 and 7 show overall trends in UWindsor enrolment by the level of study and citizenship. The proportion of international students at the University of Windsor has grown from 10% to 22%, with all the growth at the graduate level—primarily Masters⁶.

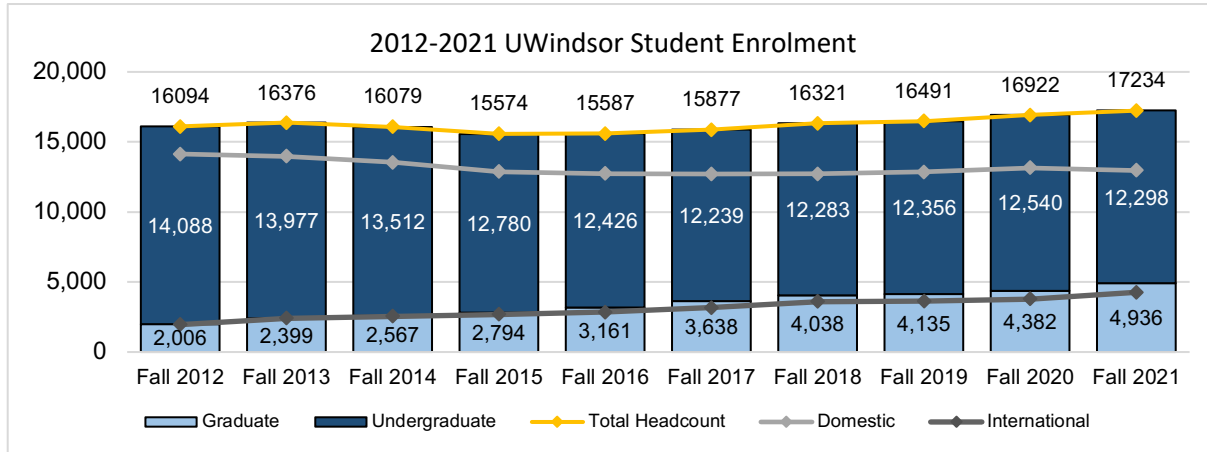


Figure 6

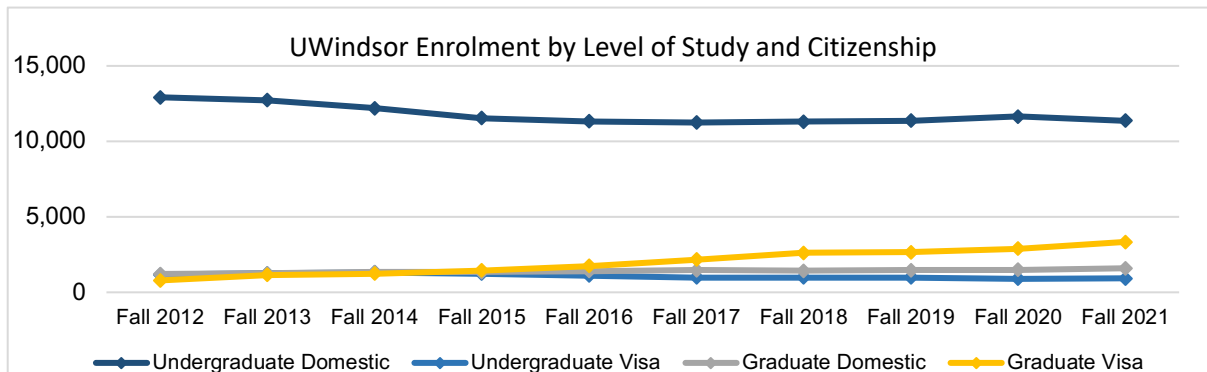


Figure 7

More detailed enrolment information for the University is available on the Office of Institutional Analysis [website](https://www.uwindsor.ca/institutional-analysis/sites/uwindsor.ca.institutional-analysis/files/fall_11-20 Ug_hc_visa_prog.pdf).

Thinking Questions

1. How can the university share in the increase in undergraduate students seen in Ontario?
2. Is there an optimal number and mix of students that the University should work toward (e.g., International/Canadian, Undergraduate and Graduate, mature learners, Indigenous, etc.)? What principles should guide the identification of an optimal mix?

⁶ Office of Institutional Analysis. UWindsor historical headcount for Canadian and Visa students. https://www.uwindsor.ca/institutional-analysis/sites/uwindsor.ca.institutional-analysis/files/fall_11-20 Ug_hc_visa_prog.pdf