

TRENDS IN MARITIME HIGHER EDUCATION

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UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT 2023-2024

In 2023-2024, **77,544** students were enrolled in Maritime universities, up 6.3% over one year and 15.3% over five years. The enrolment growth was primarily fuelled by international students, up 23.6% over one year. Enrolment of Canadian students also increased: NB residents up 1.3%, NS residents remained stable, PEI residents up 1.5%, and other Canadians up 1.0%. Full-time undergraduate enrolment increased by 6.7% and part-time enrolment increased by 14.5%. At the graduate level, full-time enrolment increased by 2.5%, while part-time enrolment decreased by 5.3%.

Enrolment in *Health and related fields* programs increased by 13.1% over one year and by 20.9% over five years. Enrolment in *Business, management and public administration* programs increased by 13.1% and 34.2% over one and five years, respectively. Enrolment in *Education* programs decreased by 3.5% over one year but increased by 20.9% over five years.

New Brunswick saw an enrolment increase of 7.6% to 20,732 students, the highest among the three Maritime provinces. Over five years, enrolment increased by 12.3%. Enrolment of NB residents and students from the other Maritime provinces increased by 0.7% and 8.9% over one year, respectively. Enrolment of Canadian students from outside the Maritimes increased by 6.9% and international enrolment increased by 28.5%.

Nova Scotia experienced an enrolment increase of 5.7% to 51,115 students (+15.3% over five years). Enrolment decreased slightly among NS residents (-0.4%) and Canadian students from outside the Maritimes (-0.1%) but increased among students from the other Maritime provinces (+2.7%) and international students (+22.9%).

Prince Edward Island enrolment increased by 6.2% to 5,697 students (+27.4% over five years). Enrolment increased among home province residents (+1.1%), students from other Maritime provinces (+1.1%), and international students (+18.1%). Enrolment of Canadian students from outside the Maritimes decreased (-1.3%).

Maritime provinces continue to experience strong population growth after the number of 18–24-year-olds in the region hit a bottom around 2016 to 2018. Despite recent increases, university enrolment among Maritime residents has not kept up with the population dynamics, and university participation of Maritimers in Maritime universities decreased by 0.7 percentage points over one year and by 1.7 percentage points over five years.

Throughout the last decade, international students have been the main driver of post-secondary enrolment growth in the Maritimes. International students are more likely to choose *Architecture, engineering, and related technologies, Business, management and public administration, and Mathematics, computer and information sciences* programs. In 2023-2024, these fields accounted for 61% of all international students enrolled full-time. In Master's and PhD programs in *Mathematics, computer and information sciences*, four out of five students were international. In NS, 41% of international students were enrolled in diploma or certificate programs, whereas in NB and PEI the proportion of international students in these programs was lower, 12% and 0.1%, respectively.

New Brunswick

Change Over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total Enrolment	▲ 7.6%	▲ 12.3%	▼ -1.8%
NB Residents	▲ 0.7%	▼ -2.8%	▼ -16.4%
Other Maritimers	▲ 8.9%	▼ -11.6%	▼ -20.3%
Other Canadians	▲ 6.9%	▲ 9.3%	▲ 9.0%
International	▲ 28.5%	▲ 113.9%	▲ 76.8%
Home Province Participation Rate	▼ -0.6 pp	▼ -2.2 pp	▼ -2.6 pp

Nova Scotia

Change Over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total Enrolment	▲ 5.7%	▲ 15.3%	▲ 15.7%
NS Residents	▼ -0.4%	▲ 2.5%	▼ -4.7%
Other Maritimers	▲ 2.7%	▲ 6.3%	▲ 3.0%
Other Canadians	▼ -0.1%	▲ 8.0%	▼ -1.2%
International	▲ 22.9%	▲ 53.6%	▲ 115.2%
Home Province Participation Rate	▼ -0.5 pp	▼ -0.5 pp	▼ -1.1 pp

Prince Edward Island

Change Over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total Enrolment	▲ 6.2%	▲ 27.4%	▲ 35.2%
PEI Residents	▲ 1.1%	▲ 9.7%	▼ -6.8%
Other Maritimers	▲ 1.1%	▲ 5.3%	▲ 14.6%
Other Canadians	▼ -1.3%	▲ 23.6%	▲ 48.9%
International	▲ 18.1%	▲ 78.2%	▲ 272.9%
Home Province Participation Rate	▼ -1.1 pp	▼ -2.5 pp	▼ -5.1 pp

Maritimes

Change Over:	1 year	5 years	10 years
Total Enrolment	▲ 6.3%	▲ 15.3%	▲ 11.5%
NB Residents	▲ 1.3%	▼ -0.7%	▼ -12.5%
NS Residents	- 0.0%	▲ 1.5%	▼ -5.3%
PEI Residents	▲ 1.5%	▲ 5.5%	▼ -10.2%
Other Canadians	▲ 1.0%	▲ 8.7%	▲ 1.5%
International	▲ 23.6%	▲ 66.2%	▲ 112.9%
Maritime Participation Rate	▼ -0.7 pp	▼ -1.7 pp	▼ -2.4 pp



ENROLMENT BY REGISTRATION STATUS		UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT				GRADUATE ENROLMENT				TOTAL ENROLMENT			
		Enrolment 2023-2024	Change Over			Enrolment 2023-2024	Change Over			Enrolment 2023-2024	Change Over		
			1 year	5 years	10 years		1 year	5 years	10 years		1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick	Total	17,887	▲ 8.1%	▲ 10.2%	▼ -4.4%	2,845	▲ 4.4%	▲ 27.7%	▲ 18.3%	20,732	▲ 7.6%	▲ 12.3%	▼ -1.8%
	Full-time	15,733	▲ 5.9%	▲ 7.5%	▼ -3.3%	2,041	▲ 5.5%	▲ 43.4%	▲ 44.9%	17,774	▲ 5.9%	▲ 10.7%	▲ 0.5%
	Part-time	2,154	▲ 27.5%	▲ 34.7%	▼ -11.7%	804	▲ 1.8%	▼ -0.1%	▼ -19.3%	2,958	▲ 19.3%	▲ 23.0%	▼ -13.9%
Nova Scotia	Total	42,679	▲ 7.5%	▲ 16.1%	▲ 15.6%	8,436	▼ -2.2%	▲ 11.5%	▲ 15.8%	51,115	▲ 5.7%	▲ 15.3%	▲ 15.7%
	Full-time	37,905	▲ 7.2%	▲ 17.8%	▲ 16.8%	5,586	▲ 0.5%	▲ 16.7%	▲ 28.9%	43,491	▲ 6.3%	▲ 17.6%	▲ 18.2%
	Part-time	4,774	▲ 9.7%	▲ 4.4%	▲ 7.2%	2,850	▼ -7.1%	▲ 2.7%	▼ -3.4%	7,624	▲ 2.8%	▲ 3.7%	▲ 3.0%
Prince Edward Island	Total	5,070	▲ 5.6%	▲ 27.0%	▲ 30.7%	627	▲ 11.8%	▲ 30.6%	▲ 87.2%	5,697	▲ 6.2%	▲ 27.4%	▲ 35.2%
	Full-time	4,636	▲ 5.1%	▲ 32.4%	▲ 37.8%	621	▲ 12.1%	▲ 29.9%	▲ 94.1%	5,257	▲ 5.8%	▲ 32.1%	▲ 42.7%
	Part-time	434	▲ 11.3%	▼ -11.4%	▼ -15.7%	6	*	*	*	440	▲ 10.8%	▼ -10.6%	▼ -17.0%
Maritimes	Total	65,636	▲ 7.5%	▲ 15.2%	▲ 10.3%	11,908	- 0.0%	▲ 15.9%	▲ 18.8%	77,544	▲ 6.3%	▲ 15.3%	▲ 11.5%
	Full-time	58,274	▲ 6.7%	▲ 15.8%	▲ 11.9%	8,248	▲ 2.5%	▲ 23.3%	▲ 36.1%	66,522	▲ 6.1%	▲ 16.7%	▲ 14.4%
	Part-time	7,362	▲ 14.5%	▲ 10.5%	▼ -0.6%	3,660	▼ -5.3%	▲ 2.1%	▼ -7.6%	11,022	▲ 7.1%	▲ 7.6%	▼ -3.0%

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS (FALL TERM)		FTE 2023-2024	Change Over		
			1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick		18,521	▲ 6.4%	▲ 11.2%	▲ 0.2%
Nova Scotia		45,186	▲ 6.0%	▲ 16.8%	▲ 17.5%
Prince Edward Island		5,332	▲ 5.8%	▲ 31.0%	▲ 41.5%
Maritimes		69,039	▲ 6.1%	▲ 16.2%	▲ 13.7%

ENROLMENT BY GENDER		Enrolment 2023-2024	Change Over		
			1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick	Woman	11,482	▲ 4.2%	▲ 8.6%	▼ -4.5%
	Man	8,328	▲ 7.9%	▲ 7.8%	▼ -8.2%
	Diverse / Not reported	922	▲ 74.3%	*	*
Nova Scotia	Woman	28,212	▲ 6.6%	▲ 10.3%	▲ 11.0%
	Man	20,702	▲ 10.6%	▲ 11.0%	▲ 10.4%
	Diverse / Not reported	2,201	▼ -30.0%	*	*
Prince Edward Island	Woman	2,607	▼ -1.9%	▼ -3.3%	▼ -0.9%
	Man	1,718	▼ -1.0%	▼ -1.7%	▲ 8.5%
	Diverse / Not reported	1,372	▲ 41.3%	*	*
Maritimes	Woman	42,301	▲ 5.4%	▲ 8.9%	▲ 5.6%
	Man	30,748	▲ 9.1%	▲ 9.3%	▲ 4.5%
	Diverse / Not reported	4,495	▼ -3.3%	*	*

Table 1: Total Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Registration Status
Table 2: Total Undergraduate Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Registration Status
Table 3: Total Graduate Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Registration Status
Table 4: Total Fall Term Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) by Province, Institution and Registration Status

FULL-TIME ENROLMENT BY AGE GROUP ¹		Enrolment 2023-2024	Change Over		
			1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick	19 or younger	5,464	▲ 9.9%	▲ 3.4%	▼ -2.6%
	20-24 years old	8,786	▲ 2.7%	▲ 7.9%	▼ -4.3%
	25 or older	3,524	▲ 8.2%	▲ 34.0%	▲ 22.1%
Nova Scotia	19 or younger	11,264	▲ 1.4%	▲ 13.6%	▲ 13.4%
	20-24 years old	20,159	▲ 2.8%	▲ 5.3%	▲ 3.4%
	25 or older	12,068	▲ 18.3%	▲ 52.4%	▲ 64.0%
Prince Edward Island	19 or younger	1,395	▲ 6.1%	▲ 19.2%	▲ 32.2%
	20-24 years old	2,769	▲ 6.1%	▲ 45.2%	▲ 52.6%
	25 or older	1,093	▲ 4.9%	▲ 22.3%	▲ 34.1%
Maritimes	19 or younger	18,123	▲ 4.2%	▲ 10.7%	▲ 9.2%
	20-24 years old	31,714	▲ 3.1%	▲ 8.6%	▲ 4.0%
	25 or older	16,685	▲ 15.0%	▲ 45.8%	▲ 50.9%

Table 10: Total Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Gender

Table 11: Total Enrolment by Province, Major Field of Study, and Gender

¹Students with age "not reported" are excluded.

Table 12: Full-time Enrolment by Province, Institution, and Age Group

How to read the tables

Enrolment statistics are reported at the provincial and Maritime level for the 2023-2024 fall term. The percent change over one, five and ten years (change since 2022-2023, 2018-2019 and 2013-2014, respectively) is provided to illustrate major trends. *Percent change is not reported for cells with small n. Below each summary table is the title of a corresponding table on the MPHEC website with a breakdown by university and other variables available at: <http://www.mphec.ca/research/maritimeuniversitystatistics/enrolment.aspx>

University enrolment is calculated from data in the MPHEC Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS), which contains detailed information on demographics, programs and courses for all students enrolled in 15 publicly-funded Maritime universities. Definitions and notes for each variable are available here: <http://www.mphec.ca/research/maritimeuniversitystatistics/definitions-notes.aspx>

ENROLMENT BY STUDENT ORIGIN	UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT				GRADUATE ENROLMENT				TOTAL ENROLMENT			
	Enrolment 2023-2024	Change Over			Enrolment 2023-2024	Change Over			Enrolment 2023-2024	Change Over		
		1 year	5 years	10 years		1 year	5 years	10 years		1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick	17,887	▲ 8.1%	▲ 10.2%	▼ -4.4%	2,845	▲ 4.4%	▲ 27.7%	▲ 18.3%	20,732	▲ 7.6%	▲ 12.3%	▼ -1.8%
Home Province Residents ²	10,554	▲ 0.6%	▼ -3.7%	▼ -17.1%	1,217	▲ 1.7%	▲ 5.5%	▼ -9.3%	11,771	▲ 0.7%	▼ -2.8%	▼ -16.4%
Other Maritimers	1,510	▲ 10.3%	▼ -12.3%	▼ -21.3%	125	▼ -5.3%	▼ -2.3%	▼ -5.3%	1,635	▲ 8.9%	▼ -11.6%	▼ -20.3%
Other Canadians	2,055	▲ 9.0%	▲ 10.1%	▲ 8.1%	354	▼ -4.1%	▲ 4.4%	▲ 14.6%	2,409	▲ 6.9%	▲ 9.3%	▲ 9.0%
International ³	3,768	▲ 34.6%	▲ 122.7%	▲ 74.5%	1,149	▲ 12.0%	▲ 89.3%	▲ 84.7%	4,917	▲ 28.5%	▲ 113.9%	▲ 76.8%
Nova Scotia	42,679	▲ 7.5%	▲ 16.1%	▲ 15.6%	8,436	▼ -2.2%	▲ 11.5%	▲ 15.8%	51,115	▲ 5.7%	▲ 15.3%	▲ 15.7%
Home Province Residents	18,378	▲ 0.3%	▲ 2.0%	▼ -4.8%	3,123	▼ -4.8%	▲ 5.6%	▼ -4.5%	21,501	▼ -0.4%	▲ 2.5%	▼ -4.7%
Other Maritimers	2,799	▲ 4.0%	▲ 5.9%	▲ 4.0%	599	▼ -3.2%	▲ 8.1%	▼ -1.3%	3,398	▲ 2.7%	▲ 6.3%	▲ 3.0%
Other Canadians	9,023	▲ 0.4%	▲ 11.7%	▼ -2.7%	2,190	▼ -2.0%	▼ -4.9%	▲ 5.2%	11,213	▼ -0.1%	▲ 8.0%	▼ -1.2%
International	12,479	▲ 28.4%	▲ 55.7%	▲ 120.9%	2,524	▲ 1.2%	▲ 44.2%	▲ 90.6%	15,003	▲ 22.9%	▲ 53.6%	▲ 115.2%
Prince Edward Island	5,070	▲ 5.6%	▲ 27.0%	▲ 30.7%	627	▲ 11.8%	▲ 30.6%	▲ 87.2%	5,697	▲ 6.2%	▲ 27.4%	▲ 35.2%
Home Province Residents	2,459	▲ 1.8%	▲ 10.5%	▼ -7.3%	213	▼ -6.2%	▲ 1.4%	- 0.0%	2,672	▲ 1.1%	▲ 9.7%	▼ -6.8%
Other Maritimers	501	▲ 0.6%	▲ 2.9%	▲ 7.7%	72	▲ 4.3%	▲ 26.3%	▲ 105.7%	573	▲ 1.1%	▲ 5.3%	▲ 14.6%
Other Canadians	368	▼ -2.6%	▲ 22.3%	▲ 34.3%	104	▲ 4.0%	▲ 28.4%	▲ 141.9%	472	▼ -1.3%	▲ 23.6%	▲ 48.9%
International	1,742	▲ 15.3%	▲ 77.9%	▲ 257.7%	238	▲ 44.2%	▲ 80.3%	▲ 440.9%	1,980	▲ 18.1%	▲ 78.2%	▲ 272.9%
Maritimes	65,636	▲ 7.5%	▲ 15.2%	▲ 10.3%	11,908	- 0.0%	▲ 15.9%	▲ 18.8%	77,544	▲ 6.3%	▲ 15.3%	▲ 11.5%
New Brunswick ⁴	13,003	▲ 1.4%	▼ -1.6%	▼ -13.2%	1,665	▲ 0.1%	▲ 6.3%	▼ -6.8%	14,668	▲ 1.3%	▼ -0.7%	▼ -12.5%
Nova Scotia	19,802	▲ 0.8%	▲ 0.8%	▼ -5.6%	3,276	▼ -4.4%	▲ 6.0%	▼ -3.4%	23,078	- 0.0%	▲ 1.5%	▼ -5.3%
Prince Edward Island	3,396	▲ 2.5%	▲ 6.0%	▼ -11.1%	408	▼ -6.0%	▲ 1.2%	▼ -2.9%	3,804	▲ 1.5%	▲ 5.5%	▼ -10.2%
Other Canadians	11,446	▲ 1.7%	▲ 11.7%	- 0.0%	2,648	▼ -2.0%	▼ -2.7%	▲ 8.8%	14,094	▲ 1.0%	▲ 8.7%	▲ 1.5%
International	17,989	▲ 28.2%	▲ 68.3%	▲ 116.9%	3,911	▲ 6.2%	▲ 57.1%	▲ 96.5%	21,900	▲ 23.6%	▲ 66.2%	▲ 112.9%

² Students enrolled within their permanent province of residence declared at admission; ³ Excludes students enrolled in offshore programs; ⁴ Provincial residents enrolled at all Maritime universities.

Table 5: Enrolment of International Students by Province, Institution, Reg. Status, and % of Total Enrolment

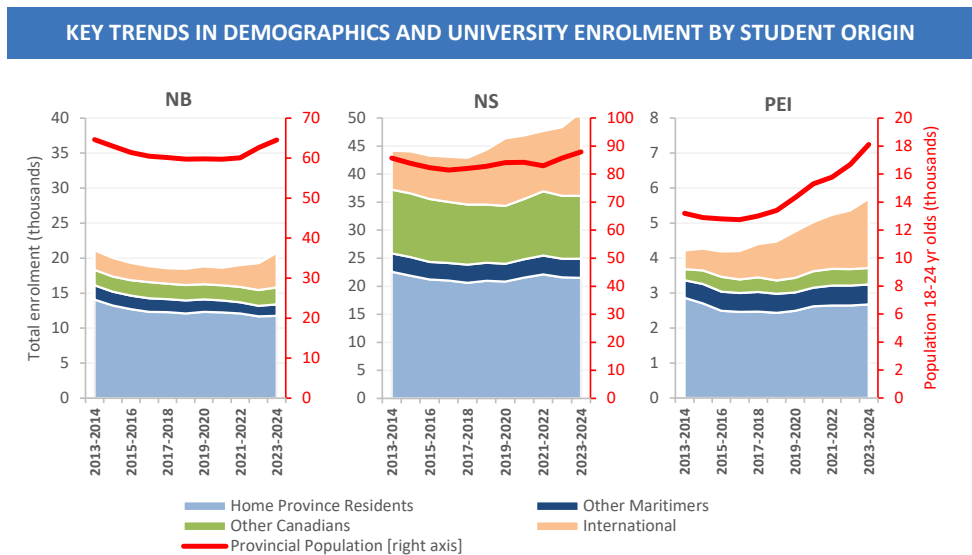
Table 9: Total Enrolment by Province of Study, Status of Student in Canada, Province of Residence and Level of Study

UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATION	2023-2024	Change Over		
		1 year	5 years	10 years
Home Province Participation				
NB	15.3%	▼ -0.6 pp	▼ -2.2 pp	▼ -2.6 pp
NS	20.2%	▼ -0.5 pp	▼ -0.5 pp	▼ -1.1 pp
PEI	13.2%	▼ -1.1 pp	▼ -2.5 pp	▼ -5.1 pp
Maritime Participation				
	20.5%	▼ -0.7 pp	▼ -1.7 pp	▼ -2.4 pp

Number of students enrolled full-time in a university in their province of residence, divided by the provincial population aged 18-24.

Number of Maritimers enrolled full-time in a university in the Maritimes, divided by the Maritime population aged 18-24.

⁵ Provincial population data: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex available at: <https://doi.org/10.25318/1710000501-eng>. Statistics Canada updates population estimates from time to time, therefore previously published participation rate calculations may change.



ENROLMENT BY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY ⁶	Enrolment 2023-2024	Change Over		
		1 year	5 years	10 years
New Brunswick				
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	454	▼ -1.5%	▼ -4.8%	▲ 43.2%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	1,963	▲ 11.2%	▲ 5.0%	▼ -7.7%
Business, management and public administration	3,573	▲ 7.9%	▲ 25.5%	▲ 3.7%
Education	1,698	▼ -3.2%	▲ 41.4%	▲ 22.4%
Health and related fields	2,927	▲ 12.3%	▲ 21.5%	▲ 1.9%
Humanities ⁷	2,689	▲ 5.1%	▼ -11.0%	▼ -29.4%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	1,350	▲ 25.9%	▲ 72.9%	▲ 95.9%
Physical and life sciences and technologies ⁸	1,801	▲ 2.3%	▼ -4.4%	▼ -15.0%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	2,522	▲ 2.2%	▲ 3.9%	▲ 9.9%
Visual and performing arts	317	▼ -1.6%	▼ -6.2%	▼ -7.8%
Other/Not Applicable ⁹	1,438	▲ 21.0%	▲ 18.9%	▼ -16.1%
Nova Scotia				
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	1,200	▼ -0.7%	▲ 0.8%	▼ -12.5%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	3,478	▲ 1.6%	▼ -14.4%	▲ 10.9%
Business, management and public administration	12,121	▲ 15.4%	▲ 38.1%	▲ 32.4%
Education	2,777	▼ -4.6%	▲ 10.2%	▲ 17.9%
Health and related fields	9,296	▲ 15.5%	▲ 22.0%	▲ 38.1%
Humanities	4,618	▼ -3.0%	▼ -3.8%	▼ -26.9%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	3,440	▲ 2.1%	▲ 59.9%	▲ 181.0%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	5,943	▲ 1.3%	▲ 12.3%	▲ 7.5%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	5,804	▲ 3.2%	▲ 12.7%	▲ 7.0%
Visual and performing arts	960	▼ -4.3%	▼ -8.6%	▼ -10.9%
Other/Not Applicable	1,478	▼ -9.0%	▼ -13.4%	▼ -21.1%
Prince Edward Island				
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	137	▼ -4.9%	▲ 85.1%	*
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	315	▲ 6.1%	▲ 28.0%	▲ 231.6%
Business, management and public administration	1,006	▲ 5.1%	▲ 22.2%	▲ 35.8%
Education	362	▲ 3.7%	▲ 3.1%	▲ 28.4%
Health and related fields	1,069	▲ 3.0%	▲ 10.8%	▲ 34.8%
Humanities	297	▲ 13.4%	▼ -8.0%	▼ -51.1%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	546	▲ 29.1%	▲ 122.0%	▲ 374.8%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	764	▼ -1.2%	▲ 14.4%	▲ 4.1%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	1,040	▲ 7.8%	▲ 77.5%	▲ 82.5%
Visual and performing arts	49	▲ 25.6%	▲ 16.7%	▲ 16.7%
Other/Not Applicable	112	▼ -4.3%	▼ -24.3%	▼ -48.1%

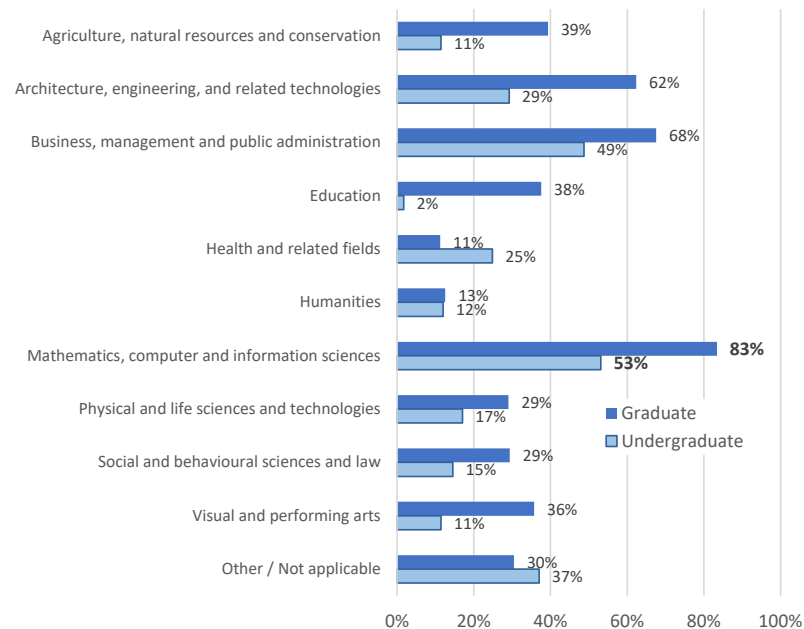
⁶ Major field of study categories are based on the Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Canada 2016 primary groupings available at: <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/subjects/standard/cip/2016/index>; ⁷ Includes General Arts;

⁸ Includes General Sciences; ⁹ "Not applicable" - courses or other educational activities that are not within a program.

ENROLMENT BY MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	Enrolment 2023-2024	Change Over		
		1 year	5 years	10 years
Maritimes				
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	1,791	▼ -1.3%	▲ 2.8%	▲ 4.9%
Architecture, engineering, and related technologies	5,756	▲ 4.9%	▼ -6.9%	▲ 7.4%
Business, management and public administration	16,700	▲ 13.1%	▲ 34.2%	▲ 25.2%
Education	4,837	▼ -3.5%	▲ 18.8%	▲ 20.2%
Health and related fields	13,292	▲ 13.7%	▲ 20.9%	▲ 27.9%
Humanities	7,604	▲ 0.3%	▼ -6.6%	▼ -29.2%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	5,336	▲ 9.7%	▲ 67.9%	▲ 163.1%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	8,508	▲ 1.3%	▲ 8.5%	▲ 1.5%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	9,366	▲ 3.4%	▲ 14.7%	▲ 13.0%
Visual and performing arts	1,326	▼ -2.8%	▼ -7.3%	▼ -9.4%
Other/Not Applicable	3,028	▲ 3.3%	▼ -1.2%	▼ -20.4%

Table 7: Total Enrolment by Province, Major Field of Study, and Level of Study

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF FULL-TIME ENROLMENT, 2023-2024



For further information, please contact:
Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission

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