The African Alumni Project is an initiative by seven educational institutions to learn about the career and life trajectories of their African Alumni. This report summarizes the Canadian survey and interview data collected from the following three Canadian partners:

For more information, visit [http://africanalumni.berkeley.edu/](http://africanalumni.berkeley.edu/).
**Motivation to Study in Canada**
- Overall prestige of an international degree: 60%
- Improved employment prospects: 60%
- Attend high quality university: 40%
- Availability of scholarship or fellowship: 34%
- Encouraged by a mentor or family member: 19%
- Other (e.g., cultural/international experience): 16%
- No degree offered in preferred field of study: 16%
- Social/political instability in country: 6%

**Usefulness of Experiences**
- University Prestige: 63%
- Intercultural Competencies: 59%
- Academic Courses: 58%
- Research (Thesis): 47%
- International Networks: 44%

- Very Often / Often

**Impact on Current Career**
- Large Impact: 69%
- Some Impact: 24%
- Little Impact: 7%

**Educational Financing**
- Own Resources:
  - 24% Own money
  - 48% Family’s money
- Private Scholarships:
  - 6% Foundation/NGO
  - 3% Private Company
  - 3% Individual
- Government / University Scholarships:
  - 32% University financial aid
  - 13% Government (country or origin)
  - 24% Government (country of study)
**CAREER TRAJECTORY**

**Immediate Return to Africa**

- **Plans BEFORE Graduation**
  - No clear plan: 22%
  - Remain in Canada: 23%
  - Return to country of origin: 51%

- **Right AFTER Graduation**
  - Did not return to Africa: 46%
  - Returned to Africa: 54%

**Career Locations over Time**

- **Ever SINCE Graduation**
  - Country of origin only: 34%
  - Other African countries: 12%
  - African & non-African countries: 20%
  - Outside Africa only: 34%

**WHERE THEY ARE NOW**

**Location**

- Canada: 31%
- Europe: 4%
- Asia: 3%
- Africa: 63%

**Job Sector**

- Private Business/Company: 43%
- Academic/Research: 34%
- Not-for-Profit/NGO: 15%
- Central Government: 8%

**Career**

- Employed (full-time): 65%
- Employed (part-time): 1%
- Self-employed: 16%
- Not looking for work: 1%
- Unemployed: 1%
- Student (full-time): 12%
- Other: 4%

**Area of Expertise**

- **30%**
  - Economics & Private Development

- **16%**
  - Human Rights & Social Development

- **15%**
  - Agriculture & Rural Development

- **14%**
  - Health

- **12%**
  - Education & Youth Care

- **7%**
  - Public Governance

- **6%**
  - Info & Comm. Technology (ICT)
100% of alumni would encourage African students to pursue an international education!

“Open your mind to all the different possibilities.
University is the most memorable time of your life. Not only focusing on the educational aspect but learning about the environment around you is very key to developing as an adult in this world.”

“Coming to a university [in Canada] is an opportunity of a lifetime.
They’ve come to one of the best universities in the world where they can be equipped with skills and knowledge to realize their potential and discover themselves.”

“Think about Africa so that they can contribute to giving back to the community.”

“Focus on honing your critical thinking skills.
You need to adapt to situations and make yourself useful anywhere.”

“Basically you are in Canada to gain knowledge.
Come back, use it.”

“Home is home, but you don’t have to rush.”

“Even if they don’t go back right away, just being mentors and speaking to people and the schools they have come from.”

“Entrepreneurship skills, business idea generation skills, knowledge - that is very, very important for the youth that are graduating.”

“Make the most of your opportunities in terms of academics, in terms of social life, in terms of opportunities to grow academically, career-wise - just use everything, everything you can.”

“Africa is growing and that’s the new frontier.
Especially the students who are studying today are very lucky that they are in the position to go back to a growing continent... They need to grab it now or else they’ll be behind.”