



2024 Executive Board Election Candidate

Representative to the Executive Board

Name: Stephanie Lord

Title: International Student Recruitment Officer

Institution: University of New Brunswick

Location/Region: Canada/Canada & U.S.

Member Group: Post-Secondary (College & University)

All Applicant Questions

Discuss your involvement with International ACAC, highlighting specific roles (with dates) and contributions made during your volunteer or leadership tenure.

2020-2021: Conference Chats Review & Selection Committee, Special Events Member

2021-2022: Special Events Co-Chair, First Timers Committee Member

2022-2023: Special Events Chair, First Timers Committee Member, Conference Chats Review & Selection Committee

2023-2024: Special Events Chair, First Timers Committee Member

Identify and articulate a critical issue in college admissions for international students that you would like to or have championed, emphasizing its importance and potential impact on the community.

As students across the globe struggle to access information and support for selecting post-secondary institutions, there has been a drastic increase in online misinformation and a rise in players attempting to profit off international education by misleading prospective students. Although I have championed this at the

national level promoting our Government of Canada resources in countries where access to adequate college counselling or in-person recruitment is rare, I would like to see our global community work together to create resources capable of assisting students who traditionally fall beyond our institutional reach. I feel that it would be of great value to create a global directly outlining country by country policies regarding general admission policies, application practices, employment options (full-time, part-time, on or off campus), post graduate work permits and the immigration possibilities.

Detail additional experiences that have equipped you with skills and insights applicable to the position you're applying for, emphasizing transferable accomplishments.

2019 to Present: Tour Director, Consider Canada Tour - Organization, publicity, and execution of tour-Thirteen to sixteen Canadian Universities travelling across New England to discuss post-secondary options in Canada-Collaboration and support from the Canadian Consulate, Boston

2022 to Present: Team Canada, Counsellor Event Lead - Creation, organization, and execution of event during CIS EARCOS

2022 to Present: Tour Director, Study in Canada Tour - Organization, publicity, and execution of tour-Sixteen to eighteen Canadian Universities travelling across Phnom Penh to discuss post-secondary options in Canada-Collaboration and support from the Embassy of Canada to Cambodia

Outline your comprehension of the role you are applying for, specifying changes you'd like to implement while acknowledging current practices or programs you feel are effective.

Led by the International ACAC guiding principles, it is my understanding that a member of the executive board is to contribute to the betterment of the organization through a duty of care, a duty of loyalty, and a duty of obedience. As an elected member it would be my responsible to act on the behalf of the organization with its best interests in mind at all time. Our International ACAC Committees are doing some exceptional work and I feel that more can be done to share this work with our members. I would like to implement further transparency by increasing access to these works.

Describe your leadership philosophy and strategies for effectively managing and leading a volunteer committee, emphasizing communication, collaboration, and recognition.

My approach to leading a volunteer committee is one of continuous challenge and collaboration. I am an avid proponent of continuous improvement in both my personal and professional life. As a result, I encourage those I lead to take risks and continuously push for better providing the support they need to reach the desired result or beyond. The International ACAC community is comprised of professionals with so many diverse strengths and passions. In our community, I feel that it is important to ensure all volunteers are being utilized to the best of their ability and that their contributions are recognized.

Explain how you would leverage the position to contribute to International ACAC's strategic plan, aligning your goals with the organization's three pillars: enhancing member experience globally, clarifying the international brand, and optimizing internal operations.

I am exceptionally interested in using this position to increase connections between members that would then enhance member experiences. I firmly believe that beyond our webinars and conferences, there is great potential for further collaboration creating online resources for both sides of the desk then would not only benefit our membership but the greater international education community. I see many ways of which International ACAC can increase our visibility strengthening our international brand. Beyond the creation and dissemination of these global resources, it would be beneficial for International ACAC to look beyond membership for support and awareness. As we work to increase regional institutes around the world, it could be a great opportunity to widen our circle by providing offerings like workshops and session to institutions that would not have the ability to partake otherwise. In terms of optimizing internal operations, beyond increasing communication and transparency of our committees' work, I look forward to learning more about our internal operations and ways we can improve.

Share details about a notable contribution you have made in the field, underscoring its impact on the profession and industry. Highlight specific initiatives, programs, or leadership roles that showcase your commitment and expertise.

In February 2020 following several trips to Phenom Penh, the Canadian Trade Commissioner and I began to plan what would be the first large Canadian university

fair in the country. As the Embassy of Canada to Cambodia lacked the manpower to assist in the planning of a government sponsored event, I took the opportunity to create, publicize and lead the 2023 Study in Canada Tour, the first Canadian large-scale event of its kind in Cambodia. During its inaugural year, our delegation of thirteen Canadian universities saw over 600 students in two days across Phnom Penh sharing information regarding the opportunities that exist as an international student in Canada. Planning for the 2024 Study in Canada Tour is well underway for March. This year the tour has grown to eighteen universities representing Canada clear coast-to-coast. The initiative and success of this tour has led to other “Team Canada” events in markets where our governments need additional planning assistance like the October 2023 initiative in Laos led by my colleague Alisha Koumphol. As our Canadian Government and Trade Commissioners globally prepare to scale back their support of international education at the undergraduate level, I am now working with our “Team Canada” on ways that we as universities can continue to work collaboratively together across the globe to ensure our messaging of an inclusive welcoming post-secondary education experience is shared.

Share why you want to volunteer for a leadership role for International ACAC and why this particular position.

I want to volunteer for the energy, passion, and dedication I can provide the role as well as assisting in the representation of Canada on the executive board. Having worked across the globe for the last decade, I would use the opportunity to share my perspective and experiences to the fullest contributing to the global efforts of International ACAC.