

# AI Risks to the Information Ecosystem

Part 6 of the Trust Through Information series



World  
Education  
Services

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<https://knowledge.wes.org/canada-report-international-students-information-ecosystem.html>

# AI Creates Risks and Opportunities for Information Provision

## Introduction

This paper is part of a research series designed to support cross-sector dialogue on strengthening integrity and accountability in the ecosystem of information provided to international students.

The research reveals critical shortcomings in the information that reaches international students. Official sources, defined as government (federal, provincial, and territorial) and post-secondary institutions (PSIs), provide inadequate guidance, leaving students reliant on intermediaries (people or organizations that provide education services in exchange for payment) and content creators. Artificial intelligence technologies draw from vast bodies of outdated or inaccurate information. These dynamics enable widespread circulation of misinformation, creating a damaging gap between what students expect, what they experience in Canada, and what policymakers intend. The consequences include harm to international students, erosion of global trust in Canada's post-secondary education sector, and reduced policy effectiveness.

The series consists of an introductory paper, *Trust Through Information*, that summarizes all the challenges our research uncovered, followed by individual reports that go into depth on each one.

Each paper in the series elaborates on a single systemic challenge WES has identified, presenting the current state, desired outcomes, accountability mechanisms, and examples of good practice.

To read the full series, please visit the [WES website](#).

## AI can accelerate the circulation of information and misinformation

AI is poised to play a transformative role in shaping the global knowledge ecosystem. In a short period of time, it has transformed how people get information and what information is most accessible. This presents both opportunities and risks. Information providers can use AI tools to support the creation of plain language information, and individuals can use AI to find and make sense of complex information. But AI results are only as good as the sources used by AI tools. Misinformation may spread more quickly, and more actors may get involved in creating misinformation, given how fast and easy it now is to create content on a wide range of topics.

Three characteristics of the international student information ecosystem are factors that increase the risk of AI-driven harm:

- A large number of people looking for content on a topic
- A high volume of outdated information or misinformation
- Lack of clear information from official sources

AI is already amplifying the information challenges documented in this report: It accelerates the spread of outdated information about policy changes, reinforces misleading “study and stay” narratives, perpetuates false employment claims, and validates unscrupulous intermediary practices. Given the significant earnings potential in providing information about international education, AI tools and chatbots targeting international students have proliferated rapidly.

### Key challenges that international students face:

- **AI tools are widely used but lack oversight.** Students increasingly turn to AI chatbots and automated advisory tools<sup>1,2</sup> to interpret policy changes, visa rules, and work permit requirements.<sup>3</sup> Unlike licensed immigration consultants or official government websites, these AI tools operate without accuracy standards, licensing requirements, or accountability mechanisms, despite providing guidance on decisions that can determine students’ immigration outcomes.

Figure 1

“First AI tool for paperwork-haters and PR-seekers. ImmigrateAI is your immigration co-pilot to help stay in Canada”



Example of an AI immigration tool.

- **AI amplifies existing misinformation at scale.** The ecosystem mapping exercise documented numerous examples of outdated, misleading, or inaccurate information on a range of topics that are key influences on study decisions, employment outcomes, and immigration prospects. Given the vast volume of outdated or incorrect information already circulating online, AI tools risk amplifying these inaccuracies at an unimaginably large scale.

1 <https://visto.ai/>

2 <https://www.imcanadaimmigrate.com/ai-products/immigrateai#:~:text=ImmigrateAI%3A%20Powered%20by%20OpenAI,a%20smooth%20transition%20to%20Canada.>

3 <https://monitor.icef.com/2025/08/students-are-switching-to-ai-for-search-are-you-ready/>

- **Content from unscrupulous actors may appear in AI summaries.** The ecosystem mapping exercise revealed that official sources do not provide detailed information in regard to important areas, like how to work with an education agent or how to get help when being exploited. International students looking for alternative resources may use AI to quickly access information, much of which may be inaccurate.
- **AI exacerbates inequality based on ability to pay.** Initial probes suggest that paid tools may produce more reliable answers than unpaid tools. For example, the prompt “can I get points with LMIA for PR?” provided varied responses, wherein the unpaid version of ChatGPT provided an answer based on outdated information, and the paid version of Perplexity provided an accurate answer based on the latest policy developments. (See Figures 3 and 4.) However, most people currently use the unpaid versions of these models; only 3 percent of AI users around the globe pay for the premium or subscription services of platforms like ChatGPT.<sup>4</sup> This creates a two-tier information system, one that provides access to more accurate information through premium AI services, available to international students who have financial resources; while those relying on free tools, often students from countries with lower purchasing power, are more likely to receive outdated or incorrect guidance on critical immigration and study decisions.
- **AI answers seem authoritative but may be wrong.** Many AI-generated answers draw from agent and consultant websites, often mirroring their reassuring and optimistic tone. Furthermore, accuracy may be differential because of algorithmic prejudice. We found that answers to common questions from international students varied, with possible influences being the wording of the question, the AI tool used, and the geographic location of the person making the query.

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4 <https://menlovc.com/perspective/2025-the-state-of-consumer-ai/>

Figure 2

“ Yes, a study permit can help you get permanent residency (PR) in Canada. This is because you can apply for PR while studying or after you finish your studies.”

—Dhaka, Bangladesh

“ From Canada Study Permit to Canadian Permanent Resident Status. International students studying in Canada may apply for Canadian permanent resident status while studying in Canada or after completing their studies, provided they meet the requirements of the Canadian immigration program under which they apply.”

—Breisgau, Germany

“ Yes, a study permit can help you get permanent residency (PR) in Canada if you meet certain eligibility requirements. The most common pathway is to apply for a post-graduation work permit (PGWP) after graduating.”

—Nairobi, Kenya

“ Yes, a study permit can help you get permanent resident (PR) status in Canada. You can apply for PR while you’re studying or after you’ve completed your studies. This is called ‘dual intent.’”

—Karachi, Pakistan

“ The main eligibility criteria are: You must meet academic qualifications, such as studying at a Canadian educational institution. You must have a valid study permit to apply for a work permit. You must pass an English or French language as a part of demonstrating language proficiency.”

—Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

“ Yes, a study permit can help you get permanent residence (PR) in Canada. A study permit can lead to a post-graduation work permit (PGWP), which can help you qualify for PR.”

—London, United Kingdom



Examples of AI-generated responses to the question, “Can a study permit help me get PR in Canada?” The responses vary depending on factors like location, device, search engine, and search history. While some responses suggest that a study permit may allow eligibility for permanent residence, others frame the answer more positively.

Figure 3

can i get points with LMIA for PR

Yes, you can get extra CRS (Comprehensive Ranking System) points for your Canadian Permanent Residency (PR) application if you have a valid job offer supported by a positive LMIA (Labour Market Impact Assessment).

Here's a breakdown of how it works under Express Entry 📌

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 **What is an LMIA?**

An LMIA is a document from **Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)** confirming that:

- There's a genuine need for a foreign worker to fill the job; and
- No Canadian citizen or permanent resident is available to do it.

A **positive LMIA** allows your employer to hire you, and it can significantly strengthen your PR profile.

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 **CRS Points for a Valid Job Offer with LMIA**

If your job offer is:

- In a **NOC TEER 0, 1, 2, or 3 occupation**  
→ You can get **50 CRS points**.
- In a **senior managerial position (NOC 00)**  
→ You can get **200 CRS points**.

↓

can i get points with LMIA for PR

Perplexity Sources · 20 Steps

Canada.ca Job offer - Express Entry Ashton College Changes to LMIA Points in Express Entry 2025 MLT Aikins LLP The end of Express Entry points for job offers Canada Immigration N... IRCC to remove LMIA-based job offer points fro...

No, as of March 25, 2025, candidates can no longer receive additional Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) points for having a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA)-supported job offer when applying for Permanent Residence (PR) through the Express Entry system. canada +6

**Background**

- Before March 25, 2025, a valid LMIA-backed job offer could give candidates an extra 50 or 200 CRS points, depending on the occupation type. These points often made a significant difference in securing an Invitation to Apply (ITA) for PR. ashtoncollege +3
- This policy has now changed, and job offers—whether supported by an LMIA or not—no longer provide extra CRS points in the Express Entry pool. mltaikins +2

**Who Is Affected**

- All current and future Express Entry candidates who have not received an ITA as of March 25, 2025, will not receive extra CRS points for job offers, including those supported by LMIA. foothillsimmigration
- Applicants who already have an ITA or who submitted their PR application before March 25, 2025, are not affected and may still receive the points under the old system. ashtoncollege +1



Comparison of AI-generated responses across platforms and pricing tiers: The top image displays the unpaid ChatGPT output (displaying outdated information), and the bottom image shows the paid Perplexity output (displaying accurate information).

Figure 4

**⚠ Important Considerations**

- **No Guaranteed PR:**  
Even through PNP streams or other immigration routes, there is no guarantee that you will receive permanent residency. You must meet eligibility requirements and compete with other strong candidates.
- **Changes in Immigration Policies:**  
Canada frequently updates immigration criteria, the number of permits issued, and application processes. These changes can affect timelines and outcomes.
- **Program Eligibility:**  
Your Express Entry ranking or eligibility for specific PNP streams depends on several factors, including skills, language proficiency, work experience, education, and provincial demand.

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**✅ Final Thoughts**

While immigrating to Canada offers exciting opportunities for permanent residency, it's important to stay informed and carefully evaluate the right pathway for your situation. This includes understanding the appropriate PR stream, eligibility requirements, ranking systems, and personal circumstances that can strengthen your application.

If you need more assistance or have specific questions about Canadian immigration, feel free to ask!



Example of a response generated by ChatGPT.

Throughout the data collection period, the team observed some improvements, including more frequent use of disclaimers stating that AI-generated content is shaped by underlying assumptions and that the content should be used with caution.

## Recommendations for Discussion

Reducing AI-driven misinformation can lead to better-informed international students who are more likely to understand the value of investing in a Canadian post-secondary education. This can reduce international student vulnerability and disappointment, ultimately strengthening Canada's reputation as a good place to study. Strengthening the international student information ecosystem requires both improving the quality and accessibility of authoritative content and establishing standards for AI tools providing immigration guidance.

We offer these proposed outcomes and actions as a starting place for cross-sectoral conversation:

## Proposed Outcomes

- International students can easily access accurate, authoritative information from official sources.
- Content from reliable sources appears prominently in AI-generated responses to immigration inquiries.
- International students report declining instances of receiving incorrect immigration advice from AI tools.

## Proposed Actions

- Government and post-secondary institutions identify high-demand and high-risk topics (immigration pathways, work permits, agent selection) and provide comprehensive, authoritative information in these areas.
- Government and post-secondary institutions optimize authoritative content to improve its visibility in AI search results and summaries.
- Information providers structure content using best practices that improve AI accuracy and reduce misinformation.
- Government and post-secondary institutions provide clear guidance to international students about verifying AI-generated immigration information with official sources.
- Government and post-secondary institution websites aimed at international students include content that advises students to verify immigration-related information from AI and content creators with information from official sources.

## Proposed Accountability Mechanisms

- Government takes steps to reduce the risks of misinformation through AI-generated content, such as a requirement that AI-generated content be labelled.
- Requirement that post-secondary institutions and intermediaries that use AI tools to assist international students disclose this use and provide verification resources.
- Government and post-secondary institutions regularly monitor AI-generated responses to common immigration questions.
- International students are regularly asked about their use of AI, whether they received incorrect information, and recommendations for reducing risk.
- Information providers track whether their authoritative content appears in AI results.

## Examples of Good Practice in Reducing Risks Associated with AI-Generated Information

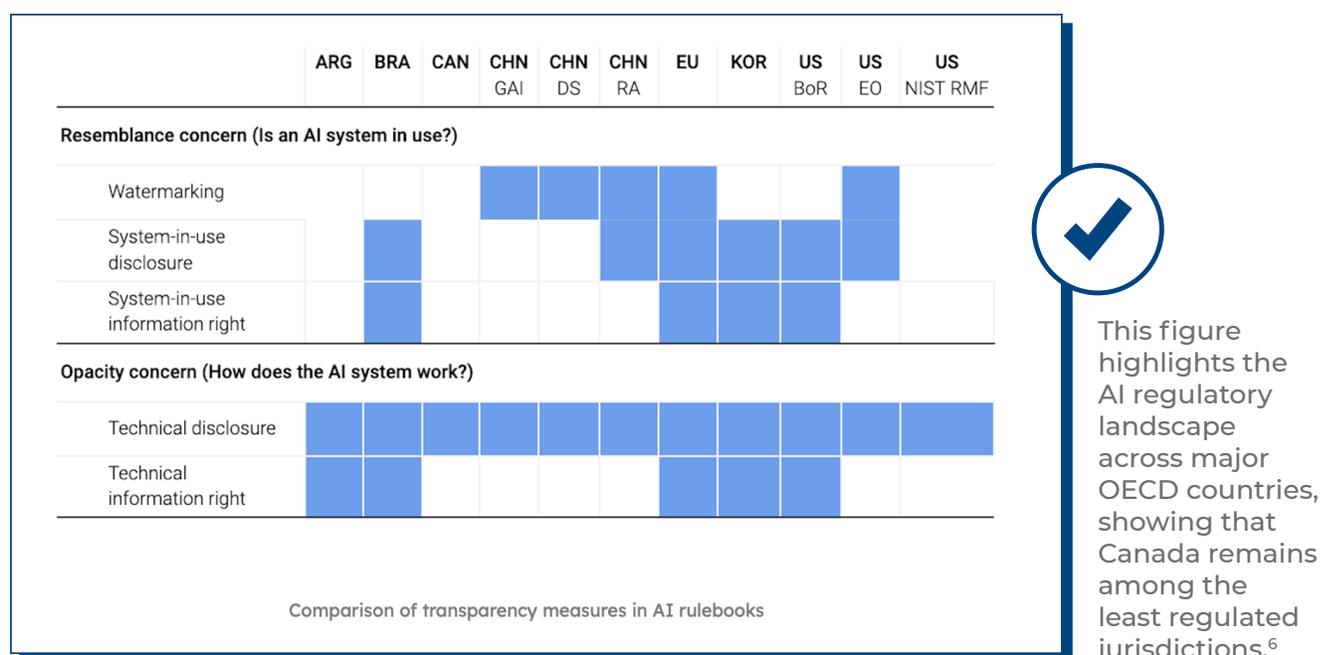
### Emerging transparency practices

Although the field of AI-generated immigration information is still evolving, some promising practices are beginning to emerge. During our research, many AI tools introduced disclaimers, emphasizing that the information should be approached with caution and that responses are shaped by certain underlying assumptions. These disclaimers represent a first step toward transparency, though more robust practices, including clear labelling of AI-generated content and source attribution, are needed to adequately protect international students from misinformation.

### Transparent labelling of AI-generated immigration information

Across several countries, new AI laws and regulations require that people must be informed when they are interacting with AI or receiving AI-generated content. The EU AI Act,<sup>5</sup> China’s generative AI rules, and U.S. federal guidance all include obligations or expectations for disclosure, including clear notice or watermarking of AI outputs. These principles must be strictly applied to immigration-related AI-based information tools as well.

Figure 5



5 <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/regulatory-framework-ai>

6 <https://www.techpolicy.press/two-ai-transparency-concerns-that-governments-should-align-on/>

## Source attribution and verification links

Various governance frameworks are now emphasizing the need to ensure traceability and access to underlying information about AI systems and outputs.

Each AI-generated answer should list key sources and provide verification links, for example: AI generated content. Please verify this information at: [Official URL].

And where possible, the system must identify multiple sources and encourage those consulting AI to cross-check the information before acting on it.

## Ongoing public monitoring of AI use

As AI is such an evolving technology, some governments have begun to keep track of AI developments and document and monitor them. In the U.S., federal agencies are now required to maintain an inventory of AI use cases, publish information about them, and apply risk management and impact assessment strategies. The United States Department of Homeland Security publishes an AI use inventory that covers immigration-related systems, illustrating ongoing review models.<sup>7</sup>

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7 [https://www.dhs.gov/archive/data/AI\\_inventory](https://www.dhs.gov/archive/data/AI_inventory)



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