

## Introduction to the MESA Project L-SLIS Research Briefs

In the spring and summer of 2005, the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation (CMSF) put to public tender a major research contract to evaluate the impact of CMSF Access Bursaries and also to answer a number of questions regarding access and persistence in post-secondary education (PSE). The winning proposal was put forward by the Educational Policy Institute (EPI) and the School of Public Policy at Queen's University and subsequently became known as the [Measuring the Effectiveness of Student Aid \(MESA\) Project](#). In late 2009, EPI Canada was replaced by the Canadian Education Project.

One of the ways the MESA Project aimed to answer its research questions was through the examination of student aid administrative files and longitudinal survey responses of both bursary recipients and non-recipients. In linking administrative files with survey responses, the [Longitudinal Survey of Low-Income Students \(L-SLIS\)](#) was created.

The authors of the briefs are Ross Finnie of the University of Ottawa and Research Director of MESA, Stephen Childs and Andrew Wismer of the MESA Project. The L-SLIS Research Briefs present empirical findings that exploit the unique features of the L-SLIS and address issues of importance to PSE and PSE students. The briefs are short and should be of interest to researchers, policy makers, university administrators, students and others interested in PSE and PSE students. The research briefs are non-technical but they are based on sound statistical analysis.

Some briefs compare different groups of students (e.g., immigrants and visible minorities, males and females, Aboriginals) while others focus on a specific aspect of post secondary education (e.g., when do students decide to go to PSE, time use in PSE, funding PSE, student borrowing).

Each brief begins with a short list of major findings. These and other discoveries are discussed throughout the body of each brief. The research briefs include suggestions for future research and a discussion of policy implications where appropriate. A description of our sample selection methods and detailed tables can be found in the appendix sections.

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The following documents are available to read or download in PDF format:

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Data and Sample Selection

The MESA Project L-SLIS Research Briefs

- 1) When Did You Decide?
- 2) First Generation Post-Secondary Education Students
- 3) Engagement, Attitudes and Support Networks
- 4) Funding Post-Secondary Education
- 5) Student Borrowing and Debt
- 6) Time Use In Post-Secondary Education
- 7) Gender and Post-Secondary Education
- 8a) Immigrants and Visible Minorities:  
Post-Secondary Education Experiences
- 8b) Immigrants and Visible Minorities:  
Funding Post-Secondary Education
- 9) Large Urban, Small Urban and Rural Students
- 10) Aboriginals In Post-Secondary Education