

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
On Track - Undergraduate Space Education (3)

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IMPACT OF CANADIAN SPACE AGENCY'S (CSA) CANADIAN CUBESAT PROJECT (CCP) ON
PROFESSIONAL AND HANDS-ON LEARNING OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AND
RECENTLY GRADUATED PROFESSIONALS

Abstract

Canadian Space Agency (CSA) announced the Canadian CubeSat Project (CCP) in Spring of 2017, and provided students and faculty of fifteen post-secondary institutions across Canada, with cash grant contribution, the opportunity to build and launch their CubeSat. CCP's goal is to increase student's interests and expertise in the space domain, as well as giving students hands-on experience and preparing them to enter the job market. To date the CCP has involved more than 500 students across Canada and the number is growing. In this research, the impact of CCP on students and graduates will be evaluated using a survey. The current and past participants will be given a list of questions to determine how CCP has shaped their life and career at the undergraduate level, and post-graduation. Additionally, a list of questions will be sent to employers in the space domain to evaluate their perspective on new-hires who have been part of CCP in compare to those who have not, in order to better understand the impact of CCP on recently graduated students. The participants of this research are divided into three groups, including; undergraduate students, recent CCP graduates, and space companies who have hired recent CCP graduates or coop students. These questions are designed to determine if the CCP has impacted student's career choice, level of interest in space technologies, entrepreneurship, pursuing higher education in space, and their skill level prior entering the job market. furthermore, this research aims to quantify the impact of federally subsidized programs such as CCP on the post-secondary student population, specifically at the undergraduate level, and understand whether such programs have significant impact on career choice and skill development in the space domain which leads to development of highly qualified personnel in the job market.