



DATE: October 15, 2026

TO: Senate

FROM: Dr. David J. Hornsby, Vice-Provost (Academic and Global Learning)

RE: Suspended program admissions – For information

Programs that have been approved to suspend admissions are being circulated to Senate for information. The requests have been made by the units, approved by the Deans and the Vice-Provost (Academic and Global Learning) and all necessary administrative steps have been taken by Admissions, the Registrar's Office and Graduate Studies (as required).

Unless otherwise indicated, admissions to the programs will be suspended for two admission cycles. The Office of Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives will be responsible for following up with the units to ensure appropriate action (i.e program reinstatement or closure) is taken.

Any modifications relating to program reinstatement or closure will be brought to Senate for approval.

Suspended admissions for Fall 2027 (Supporting documentation has been provided for information)

Bachelor of International Business

September 29, 2026

David Hornsby

Vice-Provost (Academic)

Carleton University

Re: Request to Suspend Admissions to the Bachelor of International Business (BIB)

Dear David,

Pursuant to Carleton University's Framework for Suspending Admissions, I am writing to request the suspension of admissions to the Bachelor of International Business (BIB), effective for the Fall 2027 admission cycle.

Please find enclosed the Bachelor of International Business Suspension of Admissions Report, which provides the rationale for the proposed suspension, supporting enrolment and admissions data, impacts on students and stakeholders, and the School's proposed transition and review plan.

The recommendation is driven primarily by a severe and sustained decline in student demand. Total BIB enrolment has declined from 215 students in Fall 2021 to 88 students in Fall 2026, while confirmed first-year intake has fallen from 79 students in 2021–22 to 20 students in 2026–27. The report also outlines growing program-delivery and student-support challenges associated with language-course availability, the mandatory year-abroad requirement, and increasing reliance on substitutions and individualized academic planning.

The proposal was reviewed and recommended by the Undergraduate Curriculum Review Committee on September 14, 2026, and approved by Faculty Board on September 28, 2026. The School is therefore seeking approval to suspend admissions for the Fall 2027 and Fall 2028 admission cycles and to advance the proposal through the University's remaining quality-assurance and governance processes.

Sprott remains fully committed to supporting all currently enrolled students, including the Fall 2026 entering cohort, through to completion of their studies. During the suspension period, the School will evaluate future directions for international business education and assess whether there is a viable path forward for the program. As outlined in the report, the outcome of that review has not been predetermined.

We would appreciate your assistance in approving this recommendation at your earliest convenience so that we can move potential applicants into the Commerce IB stream seamlessly.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if any additional information or supporting documentation would be helpful.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Renfroe

Associate Dean, Student Success and Recruitment, Undergraduate Programs

Sprott School of Business

Carleton University

Suspension of Admissions Report

Bachelor of International Business (BIB)

Prepared by	Rebecca Renfro, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Recruitment and Retention
Prepared for	Vice-Provost (Academic)
Date	September 29, 2026
Status	Faculty Board Approved / Submitted for Further Approval
Effective suspension cycle	Fall 2027

1. Rationale for Suspension

Context: A Strategic Pause for Renewal

The recommendation to suspend admissions to the Bachelor of International Business (BIB) is driven first and foremost by a severe and sustained collapse in student demand. Total BIB enrolment has fallen from 215 students in Fall 2021 to 88 in Fall 2026, a decline of 127 students or 59.1%. Confirmed first-year intake has fallen from 79 students in 2021–22 to 20 in 2026–27, a decline of 74.7%. Applicants and approvals have also fallen substantially, while the most recent cycle recorded the lowest confirmation yield in the six-year series. This is a sustained demand and conversion problem, not an isolated weak recruitment year.

The causes are not yet fully understood. Prospective students may increasingly favour career-direct business education, while international dimensions are now embedded throughout mainstream business curricula. The mandatory year abroad and language requirements may also act as barriers, and reduced language-course availability limits reliable delivery. The suspension will provide a defined period to assess whether there is a viable path forward. The outcome has not been predetermined.

1.1 Enrolment Data

Demand and Intake Trend

Applicants declined from 447 in 2021–22 to 216 in 2026–27, approvals from 273 to 121, and confirmations from 79 to 20. Applicant interest has been cut roughly in half, but the entering cohort has been cut by almost three-quarters. Compared with the same September point in the prior cycle, applications increased from 195 to 216 and approvals from 108 to 121, but confirmations declined from 28 to 20. The modest top-of-funnel improvement has not produced an intake recovery.

Yield and Conversion

Confirmation yield fell from 28.9% in 2021–22 to 16.5% in 2026–27. BIB approved 121 applicants but confirmed only 20. Domestic applications rose to 152, yet domestic confirmations fell to 19; international applications totalled 64, but only one international applicant confirmed. The data identifies where the funnel is failing, although it does not identify why individual approved applicants did not confirm.

Retention and Graduation

The most recent five-year average one-year retention rate is 91.2% for BIB, compared with 90.2% for the Faculty and 89.8% for the University; two-year retention is 85.4%, compared with 84.2% and 83.4%. The five-year average four-year graduation rate is 35.2%, and the five-year graduation rate is 61.2%. Suspension is therefore not being driven by students leaving after enrolment.

Current Enrolment and Course Demand

At the Fall 2026 provincial count date, BIB enrolment stands at 88 students, down 59.1% from Fall 2021. BIB course seats declined from 371 in 2021–22 to 199 in 2025–26, a reduction of 46.4%. Of the 172-seat reduction, 110 seats were associated with courses retired or not planned for 2026–27, while continuing courses lost 62 seats or 28.4%.

Program Delivery and Student-Support Risks

Declining demand is the primary basis for suspension, but the current model is also increasingly difficult to deliver consistently. Reduced language-course availability, the absence of intensive options, and cancellations make the intended preparation for the mandatory year abroad difficult to assure. Students in German, Japanese, Mandarin, and Spanish can generally complete only up to level two before departure rather than the third level originally envisioned.

Delivery increasingly depends on individualized planning, substitutions, cross-listing, and exceptions. In 2026–27, BUSI 1701 is cross-listed with BUSI 2701 and BUSI 2750 with BUSI 2755. Substitutions have also been required for BUSI 4300, BUSI 4750, and international business electives. These measures support current students but create inconsistency and additional advising demands.

1.2 Faculty Complement

Faculty capacity is not a driver of suspension, and no faculty positions are at risk. Faculty teaching into BIB also teach across other Business areas, the BCom International Business concentration, and graduate programs. Extensive cross-listing means that suspension removes little distinct teaching load, and faculty complement can be absorbed elsewhere without disruption.

1.3 External Review and Strategic Alignment

No single external review calls for suspending BIB outright. The case reflects AACSB's continuous-improvement model, which requires ongoing assessment and responsiveness to student and market needs. Sprott's 2018–22 Continuous Improvement Report identified declining undergraduate applications as an area requiring ongoing attention and documented earlier renewal of the BIB core curriculum.

1.4 Curriculum Renewal Considerations

Curriculum renewal, rather than continuation as-is, is the intent behind the proposed suspension. During the suspension period, the School will evaluate whether there is a viable path forward for the program that aligns with student demand, labour-market needs, institutional priorities, and the realities of delivering international business education in the current environment.

The review will consider potential changes to program requirements, curriculum content, international learning experiences, and delivery models. Particular attention will be given to declining demand, the mandatory year-abroad requirement, language-course availability, and prospective-student expectations.

The outcome has not been predetermined. The suspension will provide an opportunity to assess whether there is a viable path forward and, if so, what form a future offering should take. Any proposal would proceed through the University's normal governance and quality-assurance processes. A decision regarding the future of the program will be required prior to the Fall 2029 admissions cycle.

1.5 Other Supporting Considerations

Sector-wide and institutional budgetary pressures reinforce the case for suspension. Pausing admissions permits resources associated with advising, marketing, and curriculum administration to be redirected while the School evaluates future directions for international business education. Students interested in international business retain access through the BCom International Business concentration, which draws on much of the same faculty expertise and cross-listed courses.

2. Timeline

The 2026–27 cycle is confirmed at 20 students and will proceed as planned. Suspension will apply to Fall 2027 and Fall 2028. A decision regarding the future of the program will be required before the Fall 2029 admissions cycle.

2.1 Key Milestones

Milestone	Timing
Last intake under current design	Fall 2026
Cycle 1 of suspension	Fall 2027
Review period	Winter 2027 to Winter 2029
Cycle 2 of suspension	Fall 2028
Decision regarding program future	Before Fall 2029 admissions cycle
Implementation of approved program direction	Fall 2029

2.2 Governance Approval Path

The proposal was reviewed by the Undergraduate Curriculum Review Committee on September 14, 2026, and Faculty Board voted to suspend admissions on September 28, 2026. It is our hope that admissions will be suspended for the 2027 academic year.

3. Implications for Other Quality Assurance Processes

3.1 Cyclical Program Review (CPR)

The suspension does not alter the School's responsibility to comply with Carleton's quality-assurance processes. BIB will remain subject to the University's framework throughout the suspension. The suspension is proceeding through the admissions-suspension framework rather than the CPR process itself. No additional CPR approvals are sought through this report. Any implications for future review scheduling or reporting will be addressed with the Office of the Vice-Provost (Academic).

3.2 Other QA Reporting Obligations

The proposed suspension is consistent with Sprott's responsibilities as an AACSB-accredited business school. AACSB accreditation is grounded in continuous improvement and expects accredited schools to demonstrate progress in support of their mission and strategic plan, with attention to strategic management, learner success, engagement, innovation, and societal impact. Regularly reviewing the relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability of academic programs is therefore an important element of responsible academic stewardship. Suspending BIB admissions is not an accreditation concern or an indication of academic failure. It demonstrates that the School is responding appropriately to evidence regarding student demand, admissions conversion, program delivery, and changing societal and labour-market needs.

Sprott will inform AACSB of the suspension through the appropriate accreditation reporting and continuous-improvement processes and will document the evidence considered, governance decisions, protections for current students, and the review of the program's future. The suspension and subsequent review will also be reflected, as appropriate, in the School's next Continuous Improvement Review submission. This action continues Sprott's established quality-improvement practices: monitoring results, responding to evidence, protecting students, and determining whether the program remains an effective way to meet the School's mandate.

Any additional reporting or notification requirements will be completed through the Office of the Vice-Provost (Academic), SQAPC, and the University's established quality-assurance processes.

4. Impacts on Other Programs and Partnerships

4.1 Other Internal Programs

No changes are anticipated for the Minor in International Business or the BCom International Business concentration. Courses required by current BIB students will continue through cross-listing and approved substitutions.

4.2 Joint Programs with Partner Institutions

Not applicable. BIB does not have a joint, dual, or formal degree-granting partnership affected by the suspension.

4.3 Third-Party Partnerships

Impacts on co-op, WIL, and exchange partners are expected to be limited as the BIB does not allow for co-op. Partners will be informed following approval and operational implications confirmed directly.

5. Donor-Funded Program Considerations

The Bachelor of International Business program is not supported by external operating funding, and no donor funding is required for the delivery of the program itself. The only donor-related implications arising from the proposed suspension relate to a small number of student awards whose eligibility is currently tied specifically to the BIB credential.

At present, the School does not anticipate that the proposed suspension will prevent the continuation of donor-supported student awards associated with international business studies. The intent of the affected awards is to support students pursuing international business learning experiences abroad, rather than to support the existence of the BIB credential itself. Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) International Business concentration continue to have access to international learning opportunities, including exchange and study-abroad experiences that align with the objectives of these awards.

Accordingly, the School's preferred approach is to work collaboratively with Advancement and the affected donors to ensure that award funding continues to support students pursuing international business education at Sprott throughout the suspension period. Where required, the School will seek to amend award eligibility criteria so that students in the BCom International Business concentration may be considered, while preserving donor intent and the educational objectives for which the awards were originally established.

The two awards currently identified as potentially affected are the JoAnna Townsend International Business Scholarship (1465) and the Anil Bhartia Award in International Business (2451). In both cases, the underlying purpose of the awards is closely connected to international study and international business learning experiences abroad. Students pursuing the BCom International Business concentration continue to have access to those opportunities, meaning the educational purpose of the awards can continue to be fulfilled during the BIB suspension period.

The School will work with Advancement throughout the suspension process to communicate proactively with affected donors, explain the rationale for the suspension, present a plan for maintaining the awards through the BCom International Business concentration, and ensure that any necessary changes are implemented in a manner consistent with donor intent and University policy.

6. Transition Plan for Current Applicants and Students

6.1 Currently Enrolled Students

All currently enrolled BIB students will be supported through completion. Advising, career support, cross-listing, and approved substitutions will be maintained as required.

6.2 Admitted/Confirmed Applicants Not Yet Enrolled

Applicants admitted or confirmed for Fall 2026 are unaffected and will proceed under the current program requirements.

6.3 In-Progress and Prospective Applicants

Applicants for affected cycles will be guided toward the BCom International Business concentration and informed of available language, exchange, co-op, and internship opportunities.

6.4 Communications Plan

Audience	Message	Owner	Timing
Current BIB students	Full support through completion	Undergraduate Advising	Following approval
Fall 2026 admitted students	Offer and program unaffected	Admissions/Recruitment	Following approval
Prospective applicants	BIB paused; BCom IB available	Recruitment/Marketing	Following approval
Faculty and staff	Rationale and timeline	Dean's Office	Following approval
Partners	Notification and operational follow-up	Undergraduate Team	Following approval
Donors	Notification and plan to preserve award intent	Advancement	Following approval
Registrar	Update admissions systems and calendar	Associate Dean	Following approval

7. Recommendation and Approvals

That admissions to the Bachelor of International Business remain suspended for the Fall 2027 and Fall 2028 admission cycles, in accordance with Carleton University's Framework for Suspending Admissions; that currently enrolled students, including those entering in Fall 2026, continue to be supported through completion; and that the proposal proceed through the University's remaining governance and quality-assurance processes.