



IGLTA  
FOUNDATION



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

International  
Experience  
Canada

Expérience  
internationale  
Canada

Key findings from the IGLTA Foundation study:

# Building Cultural Immersion, Connections and Confidence for 2SLGBTQI+ Travellers aged 18-35



## Improving Support for 2SLGBTQI+ Young Adults in the World of Travel and Work

### Key stats

- More than half (53%) of respondents felt that visibility of travel and work programmes could be improved by advertising in the media that 2SLGBTQI+ young adults view.
- Other recommended sources of support included ensuring a more inclusive application process (43%) and building connections between travelers and local 2SLGBTQI+ organizations (44%).

### Six Steps to Improve Travel and Work Opportunities for 2SLGBTQI+ Young Adults

#### Step 1: INSPIRE EARLY

Show that travel is within reach, especially for those with little experience or exposure to it. Use testimonies to show how powerful and transformative a travel and work experience can be. Also highlight T&W programmes as an opportunity to immerse oneself in queer culture and discover new ways of seeing the world.

#### Step 2: TACKLE PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIERS

Practical advice and partnering with organizations can help potential participants overcome specific doubts about cost, applications, and finding work and friends while abroad. Frame travel as a valuable investment that will bring lifelong returns.

#### Step 3: ENHANCE GUIDANCE WITH APPLICATIONS

Provide consistent and clear guidance on completing official application forms (eg. use of pronouns, using preferred name vs. name on passport).

#### Step 4: SHOW AND TELL YOUR ACTIONS ON DEI

Reassure and inform potential 2SLGBTQI+ participants by making your diversity, equality and inclusion commitments clear, especially at arrival and orientation sessions. Don't be afraid to open the conversation with those who may need extra support.

#### Step 5: BUILD CONNECTIONS

Connections are what makes travel for our community truly transformative. Help young adults to feel at home faster by connecting them with local community groups to find their tribe, meet lifelong friends and receive valuable support.

#### Step 6: HELP 2SLGBTQI+ PARTICIPANTS TO FLOURISH AT WORK

Positive experiences early in a young adult's career can set them up for life and encourage them to give the best of themselves. Connect with International Experience Canada to explore how to better support young adults to embark on fulfilling work and travel experiences.

### Join IEC's initiative to build opportunities for 2SLGBTQI+ Young Adults!

International Experience Canada is a cultural program offering reciprocal work and travel opportunities for Canadian youth and inbound foreign youth (aged 18-35) from over 35 countries.

To explore the program visit the [IEC website](#)

Base: Global | Research supported by [International Experience Canada](#)

Base: Former T&W participants n = 90 | Potential T&W participants n = 1165