

Welcome to Canada



POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION IN CANADA



Post-secondary education comes after the successful completion of secondary education, often referred to as high school. There are different types of post-secondary institutions, including universities, colleges and institutes.

At most post-secondary institutions, there are generally 2 main terms of study per year: September to December and January to April. Many post-secondary institutions offer part-time study options and online courses, including some over the summer.

COLLEGES, INSTITUTES AND UNIVERSITIES

Colleges and institutes usually offer 1 to 3-year programs. They issue diplomas and certificates that qualify graduates to work in specific jobs in fields such as technology, health, business, hospitality and tourism. In Quebec, vocational training is offered through school boards.

Universities offer academic undergraduate (Bachelor's) and graduate (Master's and Ph.D.) programs in arts and sciences, as well as professional programs in areas such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Most university programs run for at least 4 years.

CHOOSING A POST-SECONDARY PROGRAM

To find a post-secondary education program that interests you, look at websites such as [EduCanada](#), [The Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials](#) (CICIC), [Universities Canada](#), [Colleges and Institutes Canada](#) (CICan), the [National Association of Career Colleges](#), or individual schools' websites.



EDUCATIONAL CREDENTIAL RECOGNITION

Before you can study at a post-secondary institution in Canada, you will need to have your existing educational credentials formally recognized. Contact the post-secondary schools you are interested in to find out what kind of education assessment they require and accept. Make sure that you have your documents from overseas, such as degree certificates and school transcripts. These documents should be translated into English or French, if required.

ADMISSIONS

Find out the application process and admission requirements for the school you are interested in and submit your application. Generally, a high school or secondary school diploma is required for admission to either a college or a university. If you did not graduate from high school, you may be able to apply as a mature student based on your experience. Mature students must be 19 years or older and a Canadian citizen or permanent resident. If English or French is not your first language, you may need to take an official language test to demonstrate your proficiency.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

All students must pay tuition and student fees for post-secondary studies. Federal, provincial, and territorial governments offer financial help primarily in the form of student loans, which you have to repay after you graduate, and grants, scholarships or bursaries, which you do not have to repay.

Banks also offer private student loans, but the terms and conditions are often not as good as government loans.

A Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) is a tax-free education savings account that lets parents, family members or friends save money for a child's post-secondary education.

Good luck on reaching your educational goals in Canada!

MORE INFORMATION



For more information about post-secondary education, visit canada.ca/newcomers-post-secondary-education.



To find newcomer settlement services in your area, visit canada.ca/find-newcomer-services.

