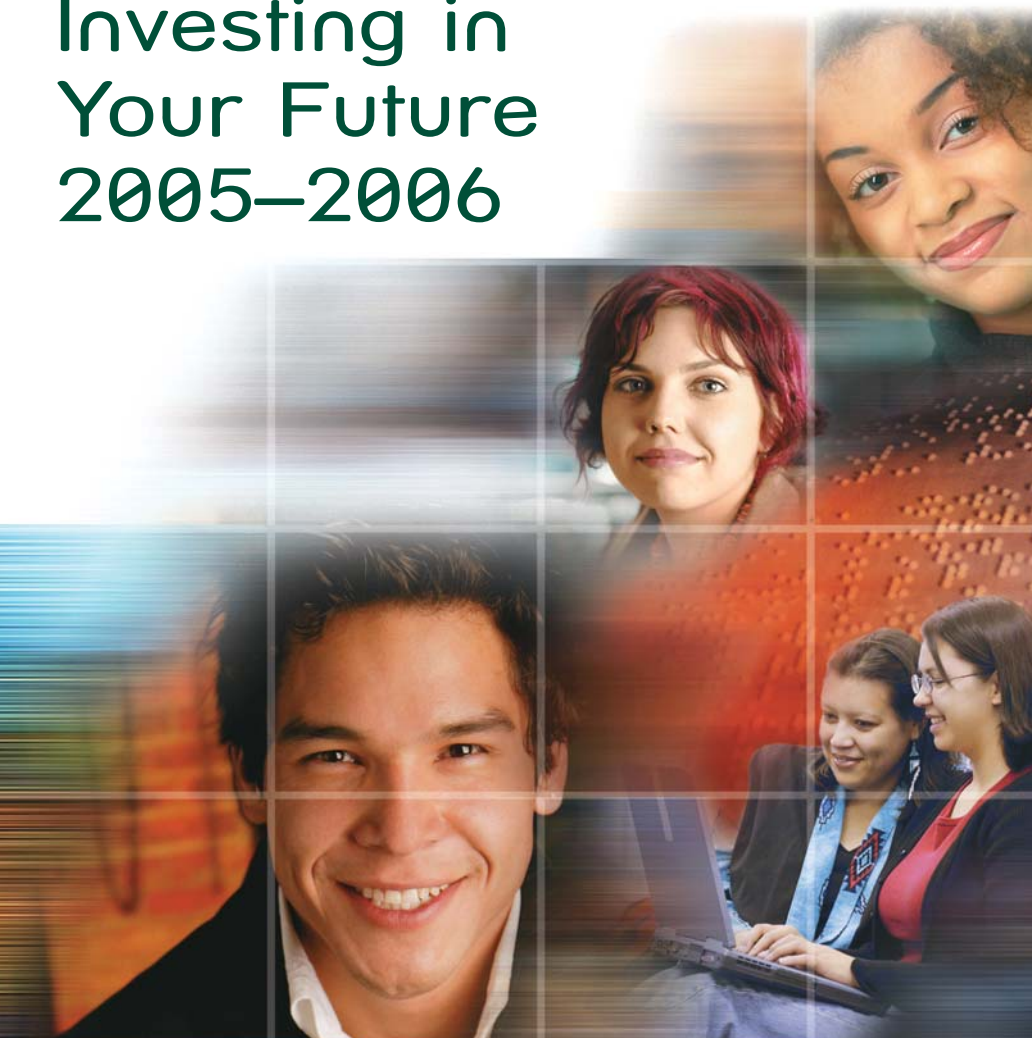




# Canada Student Loans Program for Full-time Students

## Investing in Your Future 2005–2006



[www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca)



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The information in this guide is about full-time Canada Student Loans administered, maintained and repaid to the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC) on or after August 1, 2000. If you are a borrower with a previous loan held at a financial institution, make sure that you follow all necessary processes to maintain and repay your loan. If you know the financial institution that holds your loan but do not know how to contact them, visit the General Interest section of the NSLSC at [www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca) to see a list of financial institutions complete with contact information.

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# Canada Student Loans for Full-time Students at a Glance

- The Government of Canada offers full- and part-time loans to students with demonstrated financial need in all provinces and territories across Canada, with the exception of Quebec, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
- The purpose of a Canada Student Loan is to supplement, not replace, the financial resources that you (and your family, where applicable) are expected to contribute.
- When you complete and submit a loan application form, you'll be considered for a student loan from your province or territory of permanent residence and a Canada Student Loan.
- The Government of Canada provides 60% of a full-time student's assessed need. As of August 1, 2005, the Government will provide up to a maximum of \$210 per week of study. Your remaining need may be provided by your province or territory of permanent residence.
- Your province or territory of permanent residence will assess your loan application for a Canada Student Loan and a provincial/territorial student loan. The National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC) will process your loan certificate and provide you with any assistance you may require once you have been awarded a Canada Student Loan.
- Depending on your province of permanent residence, you may be eligible for an Integrated Student Loan. Some provinces have partnered with the Government of Canada to integrate their full-time student loans to create one loan that combines federal and provincial loan funding.
- The Government of Canada offers more than just loans. Students who apply for a loan may also qualify for Canada Study Grants—non-repayable forms of student financial assistance.
- When you are in school, the Government of Canada will pay the interest on your Canada Student Loan if you provide confirmation of full-time enrolment.
- When you graduate or leave school, the Government of Canada offers repayment options to help make repaying your student loans more manageable if you experience financial difficulty.
- Everything you need to know about planning and paying for your post-secondary education can be found on the CanLearn Web site at [www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca).

# Making Informed Choices

Investing in your post-secondary education is one of the most important decisions you can make.

In today's job market, post-secondary education brings personal success. It holds the key to better jobs and higher incomes. It helps us gain a better understanding of the world around us, play a more confident role as Canadians and lead more satisfying lives.

Whether you're attending a post-secondary educational institution for the first time or you're currently enrolled in school, lifelong learning is an important investment of your time and money.

## **Borrow wisely.**

Student loans are just one option to consider when you're deciding how to pay for post-secondary education. It's a good idea to explore all other financial opportunities, including employment earnings and scholarships, so you only borrow what you really need.

Planning and paying for your post-secondary education requires careful consideration of the options available to you; this guide will help you explore those options. There are many things to consider, like the best program and school for you and how to pay for your post-secondary education. A simple strategy will take you far!

For more information, visit CanLearn ([www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca)), the Government of Canada's one-stop, on-line resource for information and interactive tools designed to help you decide what and where to study and how to cover the costs.

With good planning, researching and by asking the right questions, you can find information to help you make a good investment in your future!

## Is This the Right Guide for You?

If you are a new or recent borrower going to school full time, this guide will help you familiarize yourself with the application process, introduce you to the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC) and the CanLearn Web site ([www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca)), explain the differences between federal and provincial/ territorial student loans and provide you with an overview of your responsibilities before, during and after school.

If you are considering going to school part time, the Government of Canada offers loans to part-time students. Visit the NSLSC at [www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca) to download a copy of *Learn While You Earn*, a comprehensive resource about Canada Student Loans and Canada Study Grants available to part-time students.

## How to Use This Guide

Throughout this guide, you will be directed to your provincial or territorial student financial assistance office and/or the NSLSC. Loan processes can vary from province to province and territory. You'll need to contact your province or territory of permanent residence for detailed information on how to apply for, maintain and repay your student loan. Contact information, including phone numbers and Web site addresses, is listed at the back of this guide.

It's important that you know how the NSLSC is involved in the administration of your loan. The NSLSC manages all Canada Student Loans issued on or after August 1, 2000. For more information on the NSLSC, check out **Commonly Used Student Loan Terms** or visit the NSLSC on line at [www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca).

This guide is organized into sections to help you find the most relevant information to you and where you are in your education and the loan life cycle.

Are you new to post-secondary education? Are you applying for a loan for the first time? If so, then you will want to read **Before School**. This section will help you start planning how to pay for your education and includes information on more than just student loans.

Do you already have a student loan? If so, check out **In School** to learn how to keep your full-time student loan in interest-free status.

Although repayment of your student loan may still be a few years away, take some time to read over the information in **After School**. A student loan is a loan, after all, and you will be required to pay it back. Make sure you know and understand your responsibilities as a borrower.

It's important to keep up to date with information about the Canada Student Loans Program. Keep this guide as a reference while you're in school and visit **www.canlearn.ca** to read about any changes to the Program.

### Quick Tip:

**Do your homework**—Research scholarships, grants and awards. Student loans should be your last resort for financing your post-secondary education. Remember to borrow wisely. Find out about other student financial assistance opportunities on-line at **www.canlearn.ca** and make sure you check to see if your post-secondary educational institution offers any forms of student financial assistance.



## Newsflash: Budget 2004 Changes

The 2004 federal Budget announced important changes to the Canada Student Loans Program.

The Government of Canada normally releases one major document annually that sets out where and how it plans to collect and invest taxpayers' money. This document, called the Federal Budget, is a blueprint for how the Government wants to set the annual economic agenda for Canada. Last year, Budget 2004 represented the largest reform to student financial assistance in a decade.

### What this means to you

Working to promote lifelong learning and to improve access to all forms of higher education, the Government announced the following changes to the Canada Student Loans Program, which will take effect beginning **August 1, 2005** for the 2005/2006 loan year:

- **Increased loan limits:** Before Budget 2004, the Government of Canada provided up to a maximum of \$165 per week of study to eligible students. Now, with the announced changes, the maximum federal loan limit has been raised to \$210 per week of study to help provide you with access to additional funds to better cover your post-secondary educational costs. This represents an increase of \$1,530 for the average 34-week academic year.
- **Computer-related costs:** If you are a student with a computer, you will be allowed to claim a portion of your computer-related costs as an integrated part of the current books and supplies limit.
- **Extending loan eligibility by reducing parental contribution requirements:** Historically, student loan eligibility has been assessed in part by looking at parental contributions. Budget 2004 announced that the Program will extend loan eligibility to more middle-income families by reducing the amount that parents are required to contribute. This will increase access to Canada Student Loans for students from families with incomes in the \$60,000 to \$100,000 range, many of whom were not able to access student loans before.

• **Canada Access Grants:** Budget 2004 announced two new up-front grants—a new Canada Access Grant available to first-year, first-time students from low-income families and a Canada Access Grant for students with permanent disabilities.

- The Canada Access Grant for Students from Low-Income Families is available to first-year dependent students whose family income falls within the range of entitlement to the National Child Benefit Supplement (generally, those are families with incomes under \$35,000). The Grant will cover half of the student's tuition to a maximum of \$3,000 or the student's assessed federal need (whichever is less).
- The Canada Access Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities replaces the Canada Study Grant for High-need Students with Permanent Disabilities. This new grant of up to \$2,000 per loan year is available to students with permanent disabilities who have demonstrated financial need.

• **Further improvements to existing debt management measures:**

If you experience financial difficulty while repaying your loan, the Government of Canada offers various debt management tools to help you. One of these tools, Interest Relief (IR), will be enhanced by increasing the income thresholds used for determining a borrower's eligibility by 5 per cent. For borrowers who remain in financial difficulty after exhausting IR, the maximum amount available through Debt Reduction in Repayment (DRR) will also be increased to \$26,000 from the current maximum of \$20,000. This will help to ensure that the increase in the weekly loan limit does not result in greater financial hardship for borrowers experiencing long-term difficulty in repaying their loans.

• **Enhanced Education Tax Credit:** Employed individuals upgrading their skills in their field of work will be able to access a tax credit for education related to their current employment. The credit amount is \$400 per month for full-time students and \$120 per month for part-time students.

## Determining Your Eligibility

The Canada Student Loans Program works in partnership with the provinces and territories to deliver student financial assistance to full-time students, with the exception of Quebec, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, which do not directly participate in the Program and instead operate their own student financial assistance programs. If you are a resident of Quebec, the Northwest Territories or Nunavut, please contact your student financial assistance office for more information on student loans.

### Eligibility Requirements

**To be eligible for a Canada Student Loan as a full-time student, you must:**

- be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada or be designated as a Protected Person;
- be a permanent resident of a province or territory that issues Canada Student Loans;
- demonstrate financial need;
- be enrolled in at least 60% of a full course load (students with permanent disabilities may enrol in at least 40% of a full course load);
- be enrolled in a degree, diploma or certificate program of at least 12 weeks in length within a period of 15 consecutive weeks at a designated post-secondary educational institution;
- pass a credit check if you are 22 years of age or older and applying for a Canada Student Loan for the first time; and
- maintain a satisfactory scholastic standard if you have already applied for and received a Canada Student Loan in the past.



## Applying for Your Canada Student Loan

Student loans are just one of the many options to consider when deciding how to finance your post-secondary education. It's a good idea to explore all other financial opportunities first, including employment earnings, family contributions and scholarships, so that you only borrow what you really need. If you decide a student loan is a necessary option for you, follow these steps to apply for a Canada Student Loan.

### 1. Pick up an application.

To be considered for a Canada Student Loan, you must apply through your province or territory of permanent residence. Most provinces offer on-line applications. Applications can also be picked up at your post-secondary educational institution or your provincial or territorial student financial assistance office. Application processes may vary from province to province and territory, so remember to check with your province or territory of permanent residence for more specific details about the application process.

### 2. Ask questions.

If you are unclear about any part of the loan application process, don't hesitate to contact your provincial or territorial student financial assistance office. Contact information can be found at the back of this guide.

### 3. Submit a completed and signed application.

Depending on where you live, you may be required to submit your application to your educational institution or directly to your provincial or territorial student financial assistance office for assessment. Your provincial or territorial student financial assistance office will assess your complete loan application, confirm your eligibility, assess your financial need, and determine the amount of federal and provincial financial assistance that you may receive.



#### 4. Be considered for more than just a Canada Student Loan.

When you submit an application for a full-time student loan, you will automatically be assessed for eligibility to receive a Canada Student Loan, a provincial/territorial student loan, a Canada Study Grant for Students with Dependants, a Canada Access Grant for Students from Low-Income Families, a Canada Millennium Bursary, and possibly other provincial grants and bursaries. Students who provide proof of a permanent disability will also be assessed for a Canada Access Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities. A separate application form may be required for other types of student financial assistance, including some Canada Study Grants and some provincial grants and bursaries. Contact your provincial or territorial student financial assistance office for more details.

#### 5. Receive notice of your eligibility.

You will be notified in writing of your eligibility to receive a Canada Student Loan, including details about how much loan funding you can get, within 4 to 6 weeks after you submit a completed application.


#### Quick Tip:

**Start early**—Begin your post-secondary education planning early. The earlier you have the right information about programs, schools and student financial assistance, the sooner you can complete your applications and meet established deadlines.

#### How much loan funding will I get?

The amount of your student loan is determined on the basis of your allowable costs, which may include educational, living and transportation costs. Your allowable costs can vary according to individual factors such as your student status, your place of study and your activities. Once your allowable costs have been assessed, your personal contribution and your spousal/common-law partner or parental contribution, if applicable, will be determined. Think of it like this:

**ALLOWABLE COSTS – AVAILABLE RESOURCES = ASSESSED NEED.**



To get an idea of how much you may be eligible to receive in Canada Student Loan funds, check out the Student Loan Estimator at [www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca) in the Before You Apply section of the NSLSC site.

### **What is the deadline to apply for a student loan?**

Since deadlines can vary from province to province and territory, check with your provincial or territorial student financial assistance office for specific deadline information. Missing an important deadline could prevent you from receiving some of or all your student loan funding. It's important to remember: the earlier you apply, the less delay you'll have getting your assessment and loan funds.

### **Can I receive a student loan if I plan to study outside of Canada?**

Yes. You may be eligible for a Canada Student Loan to study full time at a post-secondary educational institution outside of Canada.

If you are planning to study outside Canada, contact your provincial or territorial student financial assistance office to determine if your school is a designated post-secondary educational institution and to obtain a loan application form.

### **Where do I apply for a student loan if I am planning to go away to school?**

Even if you decide to go away to school, you must apply for a Canada Student Loan through your province or territory of permanent residence.

### **Can I get a student loan from my province or territory of permanent residence and a Canada Student Loan from the Government of Canada?**

Yes. When you submit your loan application, you will be considered for a Canada Student Loan and a provincial/territorial student loan.



## How long can I apply for and receive student financial assistance?

Full-time students receiving a Canada Student Loan for the first time on or after August 1, 1995 are eligible to receive student financial assistance up to a maximum lifetime limit of 340 weeks of post-secondary education. The lifetime limit may be extended up to an additional 60 weeks (to a maximum of 400 weeks) for full-time students enrolled in doctoral studies. Students with permanent disabilities are eligible to receive student financial assistance up to a maximum of 520 weeks of post-secondary education. Student financial assistance includes student loans, grants, and interest-free status while in full-time studies.

## Can I appeal the decision if my loan application is denied?

It is a good idea to contact your provincial or territorial student financial assistance office directly for information on the exact reason for your ineligibility before appealing a decision. If you still want to appeal, you'll need to either present your appeal in writing or complete a provincial/territorial appeal form and attach any appropriate documentation to support your appeal. The appeal process can take 4 to 6 weeks.

## Maintaining Your Interest-free Status

The Government of Canada will pay the interest on your Canada Student Loan as long as you provide the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC) with confirmation of your full-time enrolment by an established deadline.

If you do not provide the NSLSC with proof that you are in school, you may be asked to begin making payments on your loan much sooner than you planned.

You have a six-month grace period following your previous period of study end-date to confirm your full-time enrolment. For example, if you finish your school year at the end of April, you must provide confirmation of enrolment in a post-secondary educational institution by no later than the end of October. Otherwise, you may be asked to begin repaying your loan, even if you are still in school.

Processes and deadlines to confirm enrolment may vary across provinces and territories and educational institutions.

**Note:** *Should you reach the maximum lifetime limit of assistance while in school, you will be asked to begin repayment on your Canada Student Loan, as well as any applicable interest. Your first payment would be due on the last day of the seventh month after the month in which the maximum lifetime limit was exceeded. If, however, you experience financial difficulty in meeting your repayment obligations, debt management measures may be available to you. (Please see Section 3: After School, for details on Interest Relief.)*

### Quick Tip:

CanLearn ([www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca)) is a comprehensive source for information on planning and paying for post-secondary education in Canada. The site provides full, free access to information about Canadian post-secondary educational institutions, scholarships and much more. You can get up-to-date information about student financial assistance, schools and programs and direct access to the **National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC)** Web site, where you can find all the information you need to apply for, maintain and repay student loans.





## What does “maintaining” mean?

Borrowers have responsibilities. You “maintain” your loan by keeping your interest-free status and your loan out of repayment while you are in school, by fulfilling your responsibilities and obligations. These responsibilities include: confirming your full-time enrolment with the NSLSC by an established deadline and staying in close contact with the NSLSC to update any changes to your personal account information.

Staying in contact with the NSLSC is even easier than you may think! The NSLSC offers borrowers an on-line, password-protected account where you can access information about your loans, change your mailing address and other personal account information.

## What happens to my loan if I decide to take a year off school?

You must begin repayment of your student loans six months after you stop going to school—this includes graduating, leaving or taking a year off from your studies. Although you may intend to return to school next year, your first loan payment will still be required in the seventh month following your last period of study end-date. When you return to full-time studies, your loans will return to interest-free status when you confirm your full-time enrolment.

### To successfully maintain and repay your Canada Student Loan, follow these suggestions:

- Keep in contact with the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC) to update any changes to your personal account information.
- Ask questions.
- Open and read any mail you receive about your Canada Student Loan.
- Keep all your Canada Student Loan documentation (i.e., copies of important documents, letters, etc.) in one place, like a folder.
- Write your loan account number on all correspondence with the NSLSC and on your cheques.
- Stay up to date with your loan payments when you enter repayment.

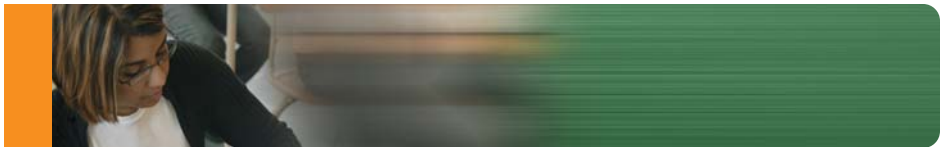
## Repaying Your Canada Student Loan

Repaying your Canada Student Loan begins when you graduate or leave school. As a borrower, you need to fulfill your obligations and responsibilities as well as understand the terms and conditions of your loan. A student loan is a serious financial obligation that must be paid back in a timely manner.

### You are responsible for:

- signing a Consolidated Student Loan Agreement for your Canada Student Loans;
- repaying your loan and all accrued and/or capitalized interest according to your Consolidated Student Loan Agreement and repayment schedule, even if you drop out of school, cannot find a job or are dissatisfied with the education you received; and
- notifying the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC) if you change your address, your name, or your phone number; leave or transfer to another school or change your graduation date.

If you fail to repay your loan, you will be considered in default, which has serious consequences and can be very damaging to your credit rating. If you default on your loan, action will be taken to recover the debt, which may include reporting you to a credit agency, recovering monies through your income tax return or taking legal action. To avoid defaulting on your student loan, don't hesitate to ask questions, get clarification and research debt management measures offered by the government to help you repay your loan.



### Quick Tip:

Poor credit ratings can affect your life in more ways than you might know. A poor credit rating can affect your eligibility to acquire future loans with banks, car dealerships, mortgage companies, the government (student loans) and more. Some landlords may look at your credit history and a poor credit rating could prevent you from getting a lease on an apartment! It's very important to have a good credit history. Keeping a good credit rating means being responsible with **all** the loans and credit cards you have. If you'd like more information on credit ratings and the do's and don'ts to help you build and maintain a good credit history, visit the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada (FCAC) on-line at [www.fcac-acfc.gc.ca](http://www.fcac-acfc.gc.ca).

### When does repayment start?

If you are a full-time student, you are entitled to a six-month grace period before you must begin making payments on the balance of your loan. This six-month period begins on the first day of the month after your in-study status changes, which can include leaving school early, taking a year off or graduating. Your first loan payment will be required in the seventh month following your last period of study end-date. Interest will build up (accrue) on the principal of your loan during your grace period. If it is manageable for you, you can make interest and/or loan payments at this time.

### What is consolidation?

As a borrower, you must arrange the repayment of all your Canada Student Loans, Integrated Student Loans and/or provincial/territorial student loans. This is called consolidation.

You will have to sign a Consolidated Student Loan Repayment Agreement, which lets you select a fixed or floating interest rate and indicates the amount of your loan(s), when your first payment is due and the amount and date of each payment you must make.



You may need to sign more than one Consolidated Student Loan Repayment Agreement depending on what types of loans you have and who holds them. For example, if you hold provincial and federal loans, you will need to make a separate repayment arrangement for your provincial loans and one for your federal loans. If you have loans held by different loan providers, you must sign separate agreements with each provider.

### **Do I repay my Canada Student Loan to the NSLSC or a financial institution?**

You repay your Canada Student Loan to the NSLSC if you received your loan after August 1, 2000. Some students may have to repay their Canada Student Loan to a financial institution if they received a loan before August 1, 2000. You may have to repay your Canada Student Loans to both the NSLSC *and* your financial institution if you received loans before *and* after August 1, 2000.

### **What is the interest rate on my Canada Student Loan?**

When you enter into repayment, you can choose between a fixed or floating interest rate. If you select a fixed rate, your interest rate will be locked in at Prime + 5% for the duration of your repayment schedule. If you select a floating rate, you will pay Prime + 2.5% and have the option to change to a fixed rate at any time.

### **Can I claim a tax credit for the interest I pay on my Canada Student Loan?**

Yes. A student loan tax credit allows you to deduct a portion of the interest that you pay on your student loans each year. The credit applies to interest payments you make on both your federal and provincial/territorial student loans, but does not apply to interest payments you may make on any loans held with a private lender, such as a student line of credit with a financial institution.



## Does the Government of Canada offer help if I have trouble repaying my loan?

If you have trouble finding employment or find it difficult to repay your Canada Student Loan because of financial hardship, the Government of Canada can offer help. The following debt management measures have been designed to make repaying your Canada Student Loan more manageable:

- **Interest Relief/Extended Interest Relief**
- **Revision of Terms**
- **Debt Reduction in Repayment**

Debt management measures are intended to help borrowers to fulfill their repayment responsibilities while keeping their loans out of default. For more information on these debt management measures, visit the NSLSC at [www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca).

Your province or territory of permanent residence may offer additional assistance to help you repay any provincial/territorial student loans you may hold. Contact your provincial or territorial student financial assistance office for more details.

## Permanent Disability Benefit

If you have a permanent disability and you are experiencing exceptional financial hardship repaying your Canada Student Loan due to your disability, you may qualify for the Permanent Disability Benefit.

For more information or to apply for the Permanent Disability Benefit, please call the NSLSC.

## Other Forms of Student Financial Assistance

The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that all Canadians have access to quality post-secondary education. As part of this commitment, it offers more than just loans to students who apply for and are eligible for a Canada Student Loan.

### Canada Study Grants and Canada Access Grants

Canada Study and Canada Access Grants (CSGs and CAGs) are designed to assist post-secondary students with permanent disabilities, high-need students, students with dependants, first-year students from low-income families and females pursuing doctoral studies. Canada Study Grants and Canada Access Grants do not have to be repaid unless you withdraw or leave school during a period of study. However, Canada Study Grant and Canada Access Grant assistance are considered taxable income and you will receive a T4A to include with your next year's income tax return.

Traditionally when you apply for student loans, your financial need is assessed and subsequently your eligibility to receive grants is assessed. If you meet the eligibility criteria for the new up-front grants, you will receive your grant funds first and then your loan funds.

Canada Study Grants and Canada Access Grants are available to both full- and part-time students. This guide provides you with information on grants available specifically to full-time students. For more information on grants available to part-time students or if you would like more information on Canada Study Grants and Canada Access Grants, visit [www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca) or check with your provincial or territorial student financial assistance office.

### NEW! Up-front Canada Access Grant for Students from Low-income Families

This Grant is available to first-year dependent students whose family net income falls within the range of entitlement to the National Child Benefit supplement (generally, those are families with incomes under \$35,000). It will cover half of the student's tuition to a maximum of \$3,000 or the student's assessed federal need (whichever is less). For example, if you are a first-year student from a low-income family whose financial need is assessed at \$10,000 and your tuition costs \$4,600, you will receive half your tuition in grant



money (\$2,300) and \$3,700 in Canada Student Loans (60% of your needs assessment minus your grant assessment). This means you will have \$3,700 in Canada Student Loans (money you must repay) instead of \$6,000.

### Eligibility Requirements

**To be eligible, you must:**

- be eligible to receive a full-time Canada Student Loan;
- be a dependent student;
- be a first-time student enrolled in your first year at any designated post-secondary educational institution;
- be a student whose net family income falls within the range of entitlement to the National Child Tax Benefit supplement; and
- be enrolled in at least a two-year program that leads to a certificate, diploma, or degree.

### How to apply

Eligibility will be determined during the assessment of your student loan application.

### Canada Study Grant for the Accommodation of Students with Permanent Disabilities

If you have a permanent disability, you may be eligible for a Canada Study Grant of up to \$8,000 per loan year to help cover exceptional education-related costs associated with your disability, such as a tutor, interpreter (oral, sign), notetakers, readers or braille, attendant care for studies, specialized transportation (to and from school only), or 75% of the cost of a learning disability assessment up to a maximum of \$1,200.

### Eligibility Requirements

**To be eligible, you must:**

- have a permanent disability (supported by appropriate medical documentation) that limits your ability to participate fully in post-secondary studies; and
- have a need for exceptional education-related services or equipment to participate in post-secondary studies.



## How to Apply

To be considered for this Grant, you must first apply and qualify for full- or part-time Canada Student Loan assistance and then complete a separate application.

## NEW! Up-front Canada Access Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities

This Grant of up to \$2,000 per loan year will be awarded to students with permanent disabilities who have demonstrated financial need. For example, if you are a full-time student with a permanent disability and have a total assessed need of \$14,000, you could be eligible to receive \$2,000 in grant funding and \$7,140 in repayable Canada Student Loans.

This Grant replaces the Canada Study Grant for High-need Students with Permanent Disabilities. The Canada Study Grant for the Accommodation of Students with Permanent Disabilities will continue to remain available to eligible students, but you must complete a **separate application** for this Grant.

### Eligibility Requirements

**To be eligible, you must:**

- have a permanent disability (supported by appropriate medical documentation); and
- be eligible for a Canada Student Loan.

## How to apply

Eligibility will be determined during the assessment of your student loan application.

## Canada Study Grant for Students with Dependants

If you have dependants and can demonstrate that you have financial need in excess of established amounts in combined federal and provincial/territorial financial assistance, you may be eligible for this Grant of up to \$3,120 per loan year. Students with one or two dependants may be entitled to \$40 per week of study and students with three or more dependants may be entitled to \$60 per week of study.





## Eligibility Requirements

### To be eligible, you must:

- be enrolled in studies at a designated educational institution;
- have assessed need in excess of \$275 per week of study (if you are a full-time student); or
- have assessed need in excess of the maximum amount of the Canada Study Grant for High-need Part-time Students (\$1,200 per loan year) and the maximum amount of the Canada Student Loan for part-time students (\$4,000) if you are a part-time student. (For part-time students, the Canada Study Grant for High-need Part-time Students is awarded before the Canada Study Grant for Students with Dependants.)

## How to Apply

Eligibility will be determined during the assessment of your student loan application.

## Canada Study Grant for Females Pursuing Doctoral Studies

Female students pursuing full-time doctoral studies may qualify for this Grant of up to \$3,000 per loan year for a maximum of three years. This Grant is intended to help increase the participation of women in certain fields of study at the doctoral level where they are traditionally underrepresented.

## Eligibility Requirements

The eligible fields of study include:\* Engineering and Applied Sciences; Agriculture and Biological Sciences; Mathematics and Physical Sciences; Arts, Social Sciences and other fields, including Dental Specialties, Physical Education, Law and Jurisprudence.

*(\*not all subject areas within the listed fields are eligible for consideration)*

## How to Apply

You must first apply and qualify for full-time Canada Student Loan assistance and then complete a separate application. More information on this Grant and applications are available from your educational institution or your provincial or territorial student financial assistance office.



## Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation

The Government of Canada introduced Canada Millennium Scholarships to help Canadians gain access to post-secondary education and reduce student debt loads. The Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation administers two programs in cooperation with provincial and territorial governments: the Millennium Bursary Program and the Millennium Excellence Program.

### Millennium Bursary Program

Bursaries averaging \$3,000 are granted to full-time undergraduate students who demonstrate high financial need and who are enrolled in programs recognized by the Canada Student Loans Program or the student financial assistance program in their province or territory of residence.

Students who apply for financial assistance from their province or territory of residence are automatically considered for a bursary when they check the appropriate box on the application form.

### Millennium Excellence Program

There are two types of awards within this program: the Millennium Entrance Awards and the National In-course Awards.

**Millennium Entrance Awards** are given to students who are entering their first year of full-time post-secondary studies.

To be considered for an Excellence Entrance Award, you must demonstrate the capacity for leadership and commitment to the pursuit of academic excellence and innovation. Students entering their first year of full-time studies leading to a first degree, certificate or diploma may apply for the Excellence Award.

To be considered eligible, candidates must be entering a minimum two-year program. University graduate students or post-diploma college students are not eligible.

Application forms are available at high schools, volunteer centres, First Nations friendship centres and band councils, and post-secondary educational institutions, as well as on the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation's Web site.



**The National In-course Awards** recognize and foster academic excellence and active citizenship in upper-year post-secondary students. Awards will be made to students who have not been previously recognized with a substantial merit scholarship. These students include those who, after enrolment in a post-secondary program, find their place and begin to demonstrate the qualities of excellence that the Award is designed to recognize and foster.

For more information on the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation and its programs, visit [www.millenniumscholarships.ca](http://www.millenniumscholarships.ca).

### Federal Fellowships and Scholarships

University fellowships and scholarships are also offered by the following federal granting councils:

- **Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)**  
[www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca)
- **Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)**  
[www.nserc.ca](http://www.nserc.ca)
- **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)**  
[www.sshrc.ca](http://www.sshrc.ca)

### Youth Link

*Youth Link* is a publication designed for young Canadians between the ages of 15 and 30 who are looking for information and tools on training, employment and careers. This publication, a major tool of the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy, features more than 250 programs and services that can help youth make the transition from school to work. It also provides contact information, including Web site addresses, and an index of programs and organizations. Check out *Youth Link* to find out about:

- Financial assistance
- Entrepreneurship
- Work experience in Canada and abroad
- Job-search tools
- Career information tools
- Canadian outlook on jobs

For more information, visit the Youth Web site at [www.youth.gc.ca](http://www.youth.gc.ca) and click on the Publications link in the top Menu bar. To get your free copy of *Youth Link* call the toll-free Youth Info Line at 1 800 935-5555.

## Understanding Your Canada Student Loan

If you received a Canada Student Loan in the past, you may already know that keeping track of student loans can sometimes be hard. Many student loan borrowers can have accounts serviced at different financial institutions and/or the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC). Understanding who to contact about your loans is very important.

**Canada Student Loans may be held with a financial institution and/or the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC).**

### **You have a Canada Student Loan with the NSLSC if:**

- You are a first-time Canada Student Loans applicant.
- You received a Canada Student Loan on or after August 1, 2000.
- You received an Integrated Student Loan on or after August 1, 2001.

### **You have a Canada Student Loan with a financial institution if:**

- You received a Canada Student Loan before August 1, 2000.

Canada Student Loans received on or after August 1, 2000 are serviced by the NSLSC on behalf of the Government of Canada. The NSLSC looks after everything you will need from the Canada Student Loans Program once your loan application has been processed by your province or territory of permanent residence.

## **Is it possible to have a Canada Student Loan with both a financial institution and the NSLSC?**

Yes. If you received a Canada Student Loan before August 1, 2000 and a Canada Student Loan on or after August 1, 2000, you have loans with *both* your financial institution and the NSLSC.



## Commonly Used Student Loan Terms

One of the most important things you need to know about student financial assistance is what it all means. Here is a list of some commonly used terms and phrases you'll hear throughout the loan life cycle and application process.

**Assessed Need:** The difference between your allowable educational costs and the financial contributions that you are expected to make, including savings, income from part-time and summer jobs you may have had and parental and/or family contributions (if applicable).

**Certificate of Eligibility (Schedule 1):** Otherwise known as your student loan document, the Certificate of Eligibility confirms your acceptance of the terms and conditions of your loan. To receive your funds, sign and date this document, have your post-secondary educational institution complete the Confirmation of Enrolment section and drop it off at a designated Canada Post outlet. Make sure you take your social insurance number and photo ID with you. You can access a list of Canada Post outlets at [www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca).

**Confirmation of Enrolment (Schedule 2):** A form that both you and your post-secondary institution complete as proof that you are enrolled in school full time. This document keeps your student loan in interest-free status and ensures that you do not begin repayment of your loan while you are still in full-time studies.

**Consolidated Student Loan Agreement:** This is a legal document that includes the details and arrangements agreed upon by you and your financial institution and/or the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC) regarding the repayment of your student loans. You may need to sign more than one Consolidated Repayment Agreement depending upon what type of loans you have and who holds your loans.



**Default:** A Canada Student Loan is considered delinquent when your payments are behind and is considered in default when your payments are in arrears for three or more months and collection activities are required. Defaulting on your loan can result in disqualification from future student financial assistance and the loss of interest-free privileges on existing student loans. Should you default on your loan, the Government of Canada, your financial institution and/or the NSLSC will take steps to recover the debt. These steps may include reporting you to a credit agency, using a private collection company to recover the funds or taking legal action.

**Dependant:** Someone for whom you receive the Canada Child Tax Benefit, claim a deduction on your federal income tax return or for whom you have in law or in fact, custody and control.

**Dependant Student:** A student is considered to be dependent if he/she:

- has never been married or in a common-law relationship; and
- has never been a single parent with legal custody and financial responsibility for supporting child(ren); and
- is pursuing post-secondary education within four years of leaving secondary school; or
- has not been in the labour force full-time for two years.

**Designated Institution:** A designated post-secondary educational institution is one that meets provincial and federal eligibility criteria, enabling students attending the institution to apply for government-sponsored student financial assistance. If you are unsure if the institution you wish to attend is a designated institution, visit the School and Program Search section at [www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca) for details.

**Disbursement:** The release of your loan funds once the NSLSC processes your loan certificate.

**Financial Institution:** A bank, credit union or caisse populaire holding Canada Student Loans issued before August 1, 2000.

**Grace Period:** The six-month period after you either graduate or leave school. Loan payments are not required during your grace period, although interest on your loan begins to accrue during this period.



**Integrated Student Loan:** Using the philosophy of “*One Student – One Loan*,” the Government of Canada and some provinces have combined their respective full-time loans programs to create integrated full-time loans that combine funding from both levels of government. If you are a resident of a province that offers integrated student loans, this means that you will apply for one loan and when it comes time to repay your loan, you will benefit from a simplified repayment plan rather than paying back the provincial and federal loans separately. Visit [www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca) to see if your province of residence offers integrated loans.

**Interest:** The fee paid by a borrower for the use of borrowed money. Accrued interest is interest that has accumulated on a loan that has not yet been paid. When it comes time to repay your loan, you can select a fixed or floating interest rate.

**Interest-free Status:** When you are a full-time student, the Government of Canada will pay the interest on your student loan while you are in school as long as you provide confirmation of your enrolment to the NSLSC. (See Confirmation of Enrolment.)

**Interest Rate:** The percentage used to calculate the interest to be paid.

**National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC):** The NSLSC manages all Canada Student Loans and Canada-Provincial Integrated Student Loans issued on or after August 1, 2000. While your Canada Student Loan is funded by the Government of Canada, it is serviced through the NSLSC on behalf of the Government of Canada. The NSLSC processes your loan certificate and looks after everything you might need from the Canada Student Loans Program.

**NSLSC operations are divided into two divisions:** a **Public Institutions Division** to assist students attending public universities and community colleges and a **Private Institutions Division** to assist students attending trade schools, private vocational schools or career colleges. Visit the NSLSC on line at [www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca).



**Period of Study Start/End Date:** Your period of study is the time you are enrolled in courses at a post-secondary educational institution. The start date is the first day of classes; the end date is indicated on your loan certificate.

**Post-secondary Education:** The next level of education after secondary or high school.

**Post-secondary Educational Institution:** This can include universities, colleges, technical institutions, trade schools, vocational institutions and career colleges.

**Prime Rate:** The rate of interest charged on loans by chartered banks to their most credit-worthy customers.

**Principal:** The original amount of student loan borrowed, excluding interest charges remaining unpaid.

**Protected Persons:** Citizenship and Immigration Canada defines Protected Persons as persons on whom “Refugee Protection” has been conferred. Such persons may include “Convention Refugees” and “Persons in need of protection.”

**Province or Territory of Permanent Residence:** The province or territory where you have most recently lived for at least 12 consecutive months, not including any time you spent outside your province as a full-time student at a post-secondary educational institution.

**Student Financial Assistance:** This includes student loans, grants, interest-free status for full-time students, bursaries, work-study programs or any other type of financial aid that helps students to pay for a post-secondary education.



## Section 6:

# Contact Information

If you have **provincial/territorial student loans** in addition to any student loans you may have received from the Government of Canada, you must contact the financial institution holding those loans.

For further information on the Canada Student Loans Program, contact:

## Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP)

### Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

P.O. Box 2090, Station D

Ottawa, ON K1P 6C6

[www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca)

### NEW! Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

#### e-mail news service

To receive e-mail notifications about important new information on the Department's services, simply visit our Web site at [www.hrsdc.gc.ca](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca) to register.

## National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC)

**For students attending a public university, college or technical institution, contact:**

### NSLSC Public Institutions Division

1 888 815-4514 (within North America)

1 800 2-225-2501 (outside North America plus appropriate country code)

TTY: 1 888 815-4556

[www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca)

**For students attending a private trade school, vocational institution or career college, contact:**

### NSLSC Private Institutions Division

1 866 587-7452 (within North America)

(416) 503-6671 (outside North America, you may call collect)

TTY: 1 800 855-0511

[www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca)

### Quick Tip:

If you are unsure of which division of the NSLSC you should deal with, your Certificate of Eligibility will have either "**PUBLIC NSLSC**" or "**PRIVATE NSLSC**" printed in the upper right-hand corner.



## Provincial and Territorial Student Financial Assistance Offices, listed alphabetically:

### Alberta

Student Funding Contact Centre  
Tel.: (780) 427-3722 (Edmonton)  
Toll-free: 1 800 222-6485 (in Canada)  
[www.alis.gov.ab.ca](http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca)

### British Columbia

Student Services Branch  
Tel.: (250) 387-6100 (Victoria area)  
Tel.: (604) 660-2610 (Lower Mainland)  
Toll-free: 1 800 561-1818 (anywhere else in Canada/US)  
TTY: (250) 952-6832  
[www.bcsap.bc.ca](http://www.bcsap.bc.ca)

### Manitoba

Student Aid Branch  
Tel.: (204) 945-6321  
Tel.: (204) 945-2313 (outside of Manitoba)  
Tel.: 1 800 204-1685 (toll-free in Manitoba)  
TTY: 1 866 209-0696 (within North America)  
[www.studentaid.gov.mb.ca](http://www.studentaid.gov.mb.ca)

### New Brunswick

Student Financial Services  
Tel.: (506) 453-2577 (Fredericton area)  
Toll-free: 1 800 667-5626  
[www.studentaid.gnb.ca](http://www.studentaid.gnb.ca)

### Newfoundland & Labrador

Student Aid Division  
Tel.: (709) 729-5849  
Fax: (709) 729-2298  
Toll-free: 1 888 657-0800  
[www.edu.gov.nf.ca/studentaid](http://www.edu.gov.nf.ca/studentaid)

### Northwest Territories

Student Financial Assistance  
Tel.: (867) 873-7190  
Toll-free: 1 800 661-0793  
[www.nwtsfa.gov.nt.ca](http://www.nwtsfa.gov.nt.ca)

### Nova Scotia

Student Assistance Office  
Tel.: (902) 424-8420  
Toll-free: 1 800 565-8420 (within Nova Scotia)  
TTY: (902) 424-2058  
<http://studentloans.ednet.ns.ca>

### Nunavut

Student Assistance Office  
Toll-free: 1 877 860-0680 (can be used locally)  
Baffin: Tel.: (867) 473-2600  
Toll-free: 1 800 567-1514  
Kivalliq: Tel.: (867) 645-5040  
Toll-free: 1 800 953-8516  
Kitikmeot: Tel.: (867) 983-4031  
Toll-free: 1 800 661-0845  
[www.gov.nu.ca/education/eng](http://www.gov.nu.ca/education/eng)



## Ontario

Student Support Branch

Tel.: (807) 343-7260 (students attending a post-secondary institution *outside* Ontario)

Students attending a post-secondary institution *in* Ontario must contact the financial aid office at their post-secondary institution for assistance. Tel.: | 866 330-3331 (automated telephone voice response system for status of application; available only in Canada)

TTY: | 800 465-3958

<http://osap.gov.on.ca>

## Prince Edward Island

Student Financial Services

Tel.: (902) 368-4640

[www.studentloan.pe.ca](http://www.studentloan.pe.ca)

## Quebec

Service de l'accueil et des renseignements

Tel.: (418) 646-4505 (outside the province of Quebec)

To call the automated telephone voice response system:

(418) 646-4505 (Québec)

(514) 864-4505 (Montréal)

| 888 345-4505 (anywhere else in Quebec)

[www.afe.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.afe.gouv.qc.ca)

## Saskatchewan

Student Financial Assistance Branch

Tel.: (306) 787-5620 (Regina area)

Toll-free: | 800 597-8278

[www.student-loans.sk.ca](http://www.student-loans.sk.ca)

## Yukon

Students Financial Assistance

Tel.: (867) 667-5929

Toll-free: | 800 661-0408 Local 5929 (within Yukon)

[www.education.gov.yk.ca](http://www.education.gov.yk.ca)