



Study in Canada!

Over 100,000 students come to Canada from abroad each year, and are welcomed because of the cultural enrichment that they offer. The Canadian High Commission in the United Kingdom receives a large number of enquiries on studying in Canada and it issues more than 2,000 permits for study every year. It also issues 3,500 authorisations for UK residents to work temporarily and to participate in various youth working-holiday programmes.

Canada is a vibrant multicultural country and a wonderful place in which to study. It consistently ranks at the top of United Nations surveys on quality of life, and earns especially high marks for access to education. A degree from a Canadian university is recognised and respected world-wide and students graduating from Canada are well-placed to go on to successful careers. As most Canadian universities have a large number of international students, most provide special services to assist integration into the academic community and to help them throughout their stay.

In Canada, education comes under the jurisdiction of the provinces and territories. Consequently, there is no single, national system of education and no ministry of education in the federal government. The Government of Canada, however, provides indirect support to post-secondary education through fiscal transfers to the provinces and territories. While the quality and standards of education are consistently high across the country, variations in the provincial systems should be taken into consideration.



In Quebec, for example, two years of general or three of technical education are taken between high school and university through the College of General and Vocational Education (known as 'CÉGEP'). Provincial education ministries have an umbrella organisation called the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC). Its website provides contact details for all the ministries (www.cmec.ca).

Canadian universities' full-time student enrolment ranges from 1,000 to 50,000 with most having a large number of part-time or continuing education students as well. They offer a broad range of courses and degrees from undergraduate to doctorates, and some also offer certificates and professional degrees.

The university year in Canada starts a little earlier than in the UK, and usually runs from early September to May. Many universities are on a semester or trimester system, with courses available even in the summer.

Undergraduate degree programmes in Canada are usually four years in duration, (one year longer than many Honours degrees in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland). Taught Masters programmes commonly last two years, and there is normally a taught component to doctoral programmes, meaning that a typical PhD may take five years to obtain.

One of the greatest advantages of studying in Canada is an economic one. The cost of living in Canada is less than it is in the UK, and substantially less than that of London.

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LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE

The Canadian education system encompasses both publicly-funded and private institutions. There are no Canada-wide standards for fees and admission requirements. Tuition fees are set by the institutions themselves; those for overseas students vary from C\$4,000 to C\$15,000 per year (about £1,700 to £6,400), and some medical and business schools set significantly higher fees. Given that fees and admission requirements vary from one institution to another, and between programmes of study within an institution, it is best to contact the universities directly for detailed information.

LANGUAGES

Canada has two official languages – English and French – and some universities offer instruction in both. Students do not have to be fluent in both languages to attend a Canadian university. To qualify for a degree programme at most English-speaking universities, students for whom English is not a first language must have passed an English examination test. The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) (www.ets.org/toefl), the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) (www.cael.org), and International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (www.ielts.org), assessments are amongst those most widely accepted. Some schools have their own language tests or may accept others.

French-language institutions have no standard French-language test that international students are required to pass. They determine the level of a student's French-language skills on a case-by-case basis.

WWW.CIC.GC.CA/ENGLISH.PDF/KITS/FORMS/IMM1294B.PDF

LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE

There are 80 officially approved programmes in Canada for learning either of the official languages. Information is available from the Canada Language Council / Conseil des Langues du Canada (www.c-l-c.ca/index.html).

PROFESSIONAL ADMISSION TESTS

Registration for standard entrance examinations can be done online. The Law School Admission Test (LSAT), can be taken in London four times a year (www.lsac.org). The Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), is offered twice a in central London, Twickenham, and Newcastle (www.aamc.org/students/mcat/international.htm). The Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) may be taken at Glasgow and Manchester on specific dates, and in London year-round (www.mba.com). The Graduate Record Examinations (GRE), for general communication skills, and for specific subject areas as required, may be taken in Belfast, Glasgow, Leeds and Manchester (www.gre.org).

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships or awards for undergraduate study in Canada are few and far between. For graduate study, the Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship

Programme is administered by the International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS) under contract to Foreign Affairs Canada. Commonwealth Scholarships at Canadian universities are open to Commonwealth citizens who are normally resident in any part of the Commonwealth other than Canada. Excluded categories for Commonwealth Scholarships are undergraduate studies, a second PhD degree, studies in medicine or dentistry, postdoctoral studies or research, or clinical training. Details of the annual competitions are available at www.scholarships-bourses-ca.org/pages/CWin/aCW_ToCan1-en.html.

The Canadian High Commission in London also has available in hard copy a Guide to Awards Open to British Graduate Students for Study in Canada. For a copy please send a stamped, self-addressed A4 envelope to:

Canadian High Commission
Public Enquiries Unit
Canada House
Trafalgar Square
London SW1Y 5BJ

HEALTH CARE IN CANADA

The provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan cover international students under their Provincial Health Care Plans. The other



SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

provinces and territories do not, which means that international students should therefore make arrangements for private medical insurance. The province of Ontario provides a compulsory health care plan for non-residents, including international students. The Ontario plan is called the University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP). Details are available at www.uhip.mercer.ca and from the international offices at Ontario universities (it does not apply to the University of Windsor).

Students arriving in Canada with pre-approved health care plans, such as the International Council for Canadian Studies Plan, the Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, or the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Health Care Plan do not require coverage under UHIP in Ontario. In all cases, international students should make enquiries with their prospective institutions so that proper provisions are made in the event of ill health.

WHERE TO START?

An excellent resource on Canadian education for international students is the www.studyincanada.ca website provided by the Canadian Education Centre global network. It lists and has information on almost every educational institution in Canada. The site has a search function which allows searching by school, programme, and/or course.

A very similar resource is the Study in Canada! website at www.studyincanada.com/english/sinfo/index.asp.

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada's website at

www.aucc.ca is another valuable source of information. It includes links to the 92 Canadian public and not-for-profit university and college websites.

The Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC) (www.cicic.ca/indexe.stm) collects and disseminates all manner of data relating to procedures for recognising academic and occupational credentials in different Canadian jurisdictions. It acts as a national clearing house and referral service to support the recognition and portability of Canadian and international educational and occupational qualifications.

PAPERWORK REQUIRED

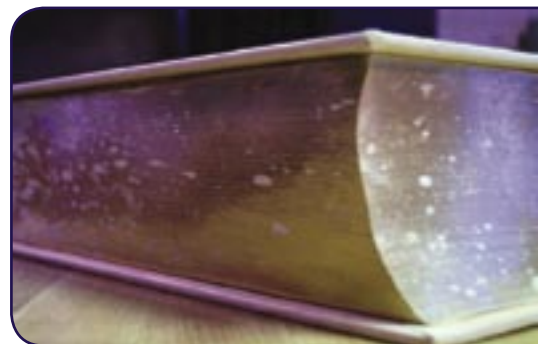
The paperwork required for studying in Canada as an international student is not overwhelming, but it is always good to get it right the first time and to start as early as possible.

Proof of acceptance by an approved educational institution is the first step to studying in Canada. The following information must be included in such letters of acceptance:

- clear identification of the educational institution
- name, date of birth, mailing address of the student
- the course for which the student has been accepted
- the date on which the course begins
- the estimated duration or date of completion of the course
- the last date on which the student must register for the course

- tuition fees
- any conditions related to acceptance
- if the educational institution is private, its licensing information.

The letter must be signed by an authorised representative of the institution.



All people wishing to enter Canada need a valid passport, and some might need a Temporary Resident Visa. A Study Permit or letter of facilitation may also be required (check with Citizenship and Immigration Canada at www.cic.gc.ca). UK citizens do not need a Temporary Resident visa to study in Canada and Study Permits are not required if the programme of study is six months or less in duration.

For programmes of more than six months, however, UK citizens require the Study Permit from Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Please note that some information sources refer to the Study Permit as a 'Student Authorization'. The Study Permit application can be found at www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM1294B.PDF. Complete guidebooks, processing times, fee schedules and information are also available at: www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/index.html or on the High Commission website at www.canada.org.uk.

Students bound for educational institutions in the province of Quebec

WORKING WHILE STUDYING

will also need to obtain a Certificate of Acceptance (CAQ) (www.tcirc.ca/images/DCAa_etudes.pdf) as well as a Study Permit. This form has to be sent to Quebec for processing as different institutions are dealt with by different offices. Confirm the destination mailing address with your institution before sending.

SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

UK citizens must submit completed paperwork by post or in person to:

Canadian High Commission
Immigration Section
38 Grosvenor Street
London, W1K 4AA

Offices in London are open to the public Monday to Friday from 08.00 to 11.00 (excluding bank and some Canadian holidays). The nearest tube station is Bond Street.

The paperwork can take days, weeks, or months to process, depending on the particular circumstances of the application and the intended course of study. In most of cases the processing period is two to four weeks. The earlier this information is submitted, the better.



CONDUCTING UNPAID SCHOLARLY RESEARCH

UK citizens studying at UK universities often wish to conduct unpaid research in Canada. A typical case would be a PhD student who wishes to conduct research over the summer months. In such cases it is unlikely that any formal paperwork would be required if the research visit is unpaid and less than six months' duration. If possible, the student should obtain a letter of invitation from an academic institution in Canada. In all cases it is wise to check with the Immigration Section at the High Commission. Academic staff wishing to spend sabbatical time at a Canadian university are also advised to contact the Immigration Section in writing (see above address) to confirm requirements.

WORKING WHILE STUDYING

There are restrictions on working while studying in Canada. In most provinces students may work only on the campus of any publicly-funded, degree-granting institution that they are attending. Full-time students at post-secondary institutions may require a work permit in certain circumstances:

- if the intended employment is an essential and integral part of the course of study (this does not apply to accounting students, medical interns or medical residents)
- if the intended employment is related to an approved research or training programme
- if a community college or university programme has been successfully completed and the applicant wishes to work for a maximum of one year in employment related to your course of study.



The provinces of New Brunswick and Manitoba now allow work off campus (up to 20 hours a week) if students have completed one year of a programme of study lasting a minimum of three years. For all details check with the educational institution or relevant provincial authority.

TRAVELLING IN CANADA

For even the most diligent of students, coming to Canada need not be all work. For more general information on a vast, diverse and beautiful country, see the Travel Canada website at www.travelcanada.ca.

STUDY PERMIT QUERIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO: WWW.CIC.GC.CA OR FAX: 020 7258 6549, NOT TO THE ACADEMIC RELATIONS UNIT.



ACADEMIC RELATIONS UNIT

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