

Canada – Facts and Figures

At the 95 public and not-for-profit Universities who are members of the Assn. of Universities and Colleges of Canada, (www.aucc.ca) there are a plethora of undergraduate, post graduate and doctoral qualifications on offer along with certificate, Diploma and professional qualifications. The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada is the voice of Canada's universities. They represent 95 Canadian public and private not-for-profit universities and university-degree level colleges. Since 1911, they have provided strong and effective representation for their members, in Canada and abroad. Their mandate is to facilitate the development of public policy on higher education and to encourage cooperation among universities and governments, industry, communities, and institutions in other countries.

Apart from this, there are over 150 members of the Assn. Of Canadian Community Colleges, these are public institutions offering credentials sanctioned by provincial and the territorial government. Programs vary in length from a few months to four years. The courses are mostly practical and offer work placements. (www.accc.ca). Historically, these institutions offered diplomas and certificates, not degrees. Students especially from this part of the world tend to choose schools in Toronto because they know about them through friends and relatives. Canada has lots of institutions to choose from.

Application Process

The University year is usually September to April, intakes being September and January. As the application process is competitive and the deadlines vary, it is best if you apply six to eight months before the start date of your program. Most students apply to multiple institutions. American curriculum students will need to send a SAT score report. For students from other curricula, although SAT is not mandatory, some institutions may require it. Do check admission requirements of individual institutional websites so that there are no surprises later. Academic records from grade 9 to the most recent will be reviewed as part of the admissions process. A good academic profile is given preference. Extracurricular activities are looked upon favorably. Students who wish to take up commerce related subjects should take up Math. Prospective international students should demonstrate proficiency in English or French as per the language of instruction in the institution/s being considered. Test of English as a Foreign language (TOEFL) or Test de francais international (TFI) are the tests necessary. Preparatory courses before the commencement of the program may be needed for those with inadequate scores.

The province of Ontario, Alberta and that of British Columbia have a centralized application system for admission. The [Ontario Universities Application Centre](http://www.ouac.on.ca/) (OUAC), Ontario's application hub was started in 1971 and can be accessed by visiting: <http://www.ouac.on.ca/> Some Universities want you to include ID slips that they will mail you once you have done the initial application.

British Columbia's centralized application system can be accessed through [myBCcampus](#). To apply to Alberta, visit its new centralized online application and transcript transfer system through [www.applyalberta.ca](#). After completing the online application, you would need to send all supporting documents like transcripts, reference letters, essays, proof of language proficiency etc. so that your application gets reviewed and processed. Remember to include your student ID number for easy reference.

Most institutions provide international students with housing options within campus. Details of the same will be provided on individual websites.

Study Permit

Once accepted at a college or university, in order to study in Canada for a period of six months or more, you need to apply for a study permit from the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). To study in Quebec; you must also secure a Certificate of Acceptance from the Province of Quebec. For the study permit, apart from your acceptance letter, you would need to show adequate funds to support you during your period of stay in Canada. Students who are below 18 years of age would need to get an undertaking from a guardian residing in Canada. In some cases, medical and Security checks may also be required. The student permit may take six to eight weeks to be processed. The numbers of visa applications increase dramatically during the summer so do apply for the visa early.

All the BEST! Should you need help, contact:

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