

HOW TO STUDY IN CANADA

Find out how you
can study abroad
in Canada with your
Edexcel A level and
BTEC qualifications
from Pearson



INTRODUCTION

Are you about to complete your Edexcel A level or BTEC qualifications from Pearson?

Are you now considering studying in Canada?

This might seem overwhelming right now, but let us assure you that this is a great choice. Canada is an amazing country that offers many exciting and varying opportunities. Whether you want to study and ski in British Columbia or make connections among Toronto's financial elite, you will find higher education institutions that will help you achieve your goals in locations to suit your lifestyle.

Over 300,000 international students currently live in culturally rich and diverse cities such as Toronto, Vancouver or Montreal. Some of the benefits that have increased the number of applications from all over the world are the strong employment rates and the post-graduate work permits available to international students.

One of the world's largest and most liberal economies, Canada enjoys a flexible and accessible post-secondary education sector that welcomes international students, who can study in English or French. With funding worth billions of dollars, Canada's largest institutions are able to attract academics at the top of their disciplines from across the globe to join their universities as professors and researchers. Consequently, students in Canada benefit from teaching by outstanding professors and cutting-edge researchers.

Choosing where to study is one of the most important decisions you will make. A good decision is an informed one. Use this guide to help you better understand the many opportunities open to you in Canada with your Pearson qualifications, including:

- > Edexcel A levels
- > Edexcel International Advanced levels (IALs)
- > BTEC Nationals*

* Some of the information in this guide might help BTEC Higher National students, but because BTEC Higher Nationals offer advanced placement onto undergraduate degree programmes, the application process and entry requirements will differ.

CANADA FUN FACTS



Canada's total population in 2015 was 35.16 million people. This is smaller than California's population of 38 million people in 2015.



The distance across Canada is 9,306km. This is equal to the distance between London and Cape Town, South Africa (9,300km).



UNIVERSITIES IN CANADA

Every year young people from around the world choose to study at a university in Canada, making it the eighth most popular destination for international students.

While the qualifications you have taken with Pearson will affect the courses you can apply for, both Edexcel A levels and BTECs are widely accepted throughout Canada. Students with Edexcel A levels and BTEC qualifications have achieved a higher academic level to Canadian secondary school graduates. You therefore may be able to use this to your advantage. It's worth asking if your qualifications are eligible for transfer credits in your first year when you apply to a university. Having to achieve fewer credits will save you time and money.



UNIVERSITY | GROUPING

When you think of a university, you typically think of a place that offers a degree, called a bachelor's degree. Canada is a little different. In Canada, both colleges and universities can issue degrees. The difference in Canada is that at universities, professors are expected to conduct research and teach. At colleges, however, professors are only expected to teach.

That is why post-secondary education in Canada is most often referred to as *Higher Education* or *Higher Ed* and refers to institutions that are allowed to issue degrees. There are 98 higher education institutions in Canada with 1.8 million students, studying everything from anthropology to zoology.

Depending on what you would like to study, you may opt to study at a university or college. Universities in Canada typically offer degrees that range from four to five (4-5) years, such as biology, commerce or engineering. By contrast, colleges in Canada typically offer two to four (2-4) year diplomas and degrees that are more career-focused, hands-on or technical. Colleges may offer vocational degrees (such as aircraft mechanics) or professional programmes (such as marketing or design).

In Canada, there are two major groups of universities: U15 and Universities Canada. There are also two different types of colleges: public colleges and career colleges.



U15

The U15 is the main university group in Canada, composed of Canada's older and most prestigious universities. If you are interested in studying at a university with a focus on research, U15 universities offer unparalleled opportunities. Students who attend U15 schools will be exposed to cutting-edge research through classroom experience and often conduct research in collaboration with companies such as Research in Motion, Apple, Amazon and Microsoft. Students from science and engineering programmes can obtain industry-leading internships with technology firms in Canada and in Silicon Valley in the United States. U15 universities offer a wide variety of programmes but are known for a focus on science and engineering. Graduates from U15 universities have gone on to win Nobel Prizes in physics and worked for both industry and at other universities around the world.

U15

IS THE U15 RIGHT FOR ME ?

Admission to U15 universities is highly competitive, but Edexcel A level qualifications (GCE and IAL) are widely respected across U15 universities as preparing students for undergraduate degree programmes. In fact, professors from some U15 universities have reviewed Pearson's Edexcel IAL curriculum! Admissions staff at U15 universities look for candidates with exceptional academic backgrounds, involvement in extracurricular activities, and proven ability in the sciences and mathematics. Students considering admission to U15 universities should consult with admission representatives from respective universities.

The average cost of an undergraduate degree programme at a U15 University is CAD \$32,000 per year. Programmes at U15 Universities can range from CAD \$32,000 to \$50,000 per year. Each University posts a fee schedule on their website which will provide a breakdown of all the fees a student can expect to pay.

The following universities are members of U15,
of which all openly recognise Edexcel A levels:



University
of Alberta



The University
of British Columbia



University
of Calgary



Dalhousie
University



Laval
University



McGill
University



University
of Manitoba



McMaster
University



University
of Montreal



University
of Ottawa



Queen's
University



University
of Saskatchewan



University
of Toronto

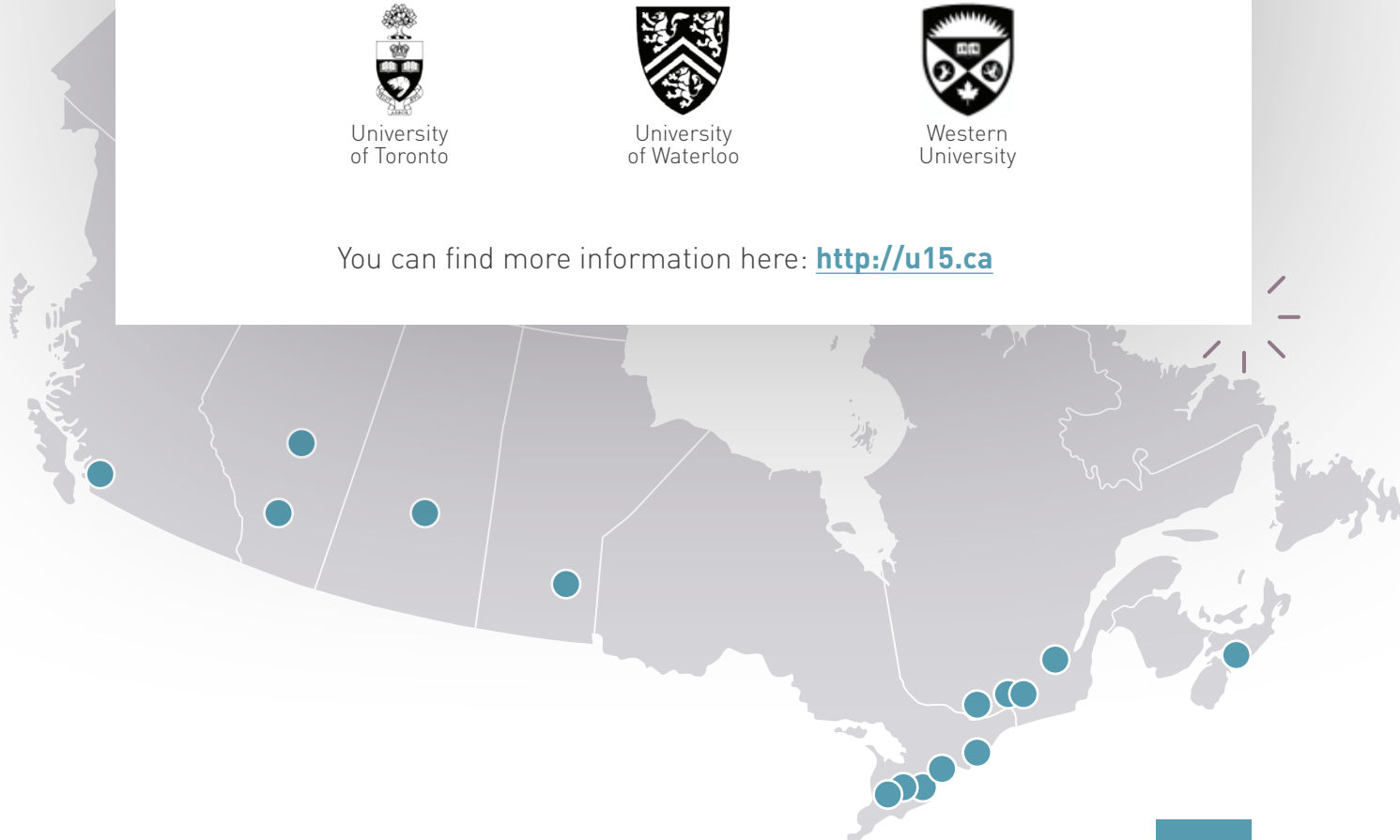


University
of Waterloo



Western
University

You can find more information here: <http://u15.ca>



UNIVERSITIES CANADA

The next major association is called Universities Canada. Representing over 90 colleges and universities in Canada, Universities Canada is the largest association of Canadian post-secondary institutions. Programmes at Universities Canada institutions are much more diverse, ranging from Culinary Arts and Fashion Design to Business Analysis and Zoology.

IS A UNIVERSITIES CANADA INSTITUTION RIGHT FOR ME ?

Universities Canada institutions offer a broader range of programmes and degrees. They also cater to a wider range of learning options, skills and learning styles. Programmes include practical learning programmes that favour skill-based testing rather than knowledge tests. Admission can be competitive, but unlike U15 universities, which focus strongly on academic results, Universities Canada institutions take into consideration work and volunteer experience. Both Edexcel A level and BTEC qualifications prepare students for degree study at Universities Canada institutions. BTEC students may actually find that their hands-on group work experience is a strong benefit that enhances their ability to succeed.

The average cost of an undergraduate degree programme at a Universities Canada institution is CAD \$10,000 per year. Programmes can range from CAD \$8,900 to \$25,000 per year. Just like U15, Universities Canada institutions list a breakdown of their fee schedule on their website.



Brock University in Ontario is a Universities Canada institution and offers Canada's only university programme for **wine making!**

To learn more about Brock University and other Universities Canada institutions, visit Universities Canada website: <http://www.univcan.ca>





PUBLIC COLLEGES

Public colleges in Canada were previously known as “Polytechnics,” but have largely been renamed to reflect the popular community colleges in the United States.

Public colleges in Canada grant degrees, but also issue diplomas and certificates. Degrees typically last 4-5 years when studied full time; certificate programmes are 1 year or less; and diploma programmes are 2 or 3 years.

Colleges in Canada are some of the biggest individual recruiters of international students. In fact, the student populations of both Sheridan College and Centennial College in Ontario are 50% international.



CAREER COLLEGES

Around 4,500 international students enrol at one of the 1,000 privately run career colleges in Canada. Career colleges offer career-focused and technical training that lead to certificates or diplomas. These usually include internships where students can gain practical experience in the workplace. Credits gained at a career college may also qualify for credit transfer to a university in Canada. Alternatively, university graduates may choose to study for a diploma in their chosen profession at a career college.

Not all career colleges in Canada can recruit international students. To find out which ones can, please visit the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website and search for “designated learning institutions:”

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/English>

IS A PUBLIC COLLEGE OR A CAREER COLLEGE RIGHT FOR ME ?

Both public colleges and career colleges focus on hands-on learning in vocational programmes. Most faculty members at these colleges are part-time because they are busy working within their field.

The average cost of an undergraduate degree programme at a public college or career college is CAD \$5,000 per year. Based on the college, tuition can range from CAD \$3,200 to \$15,000 per year.

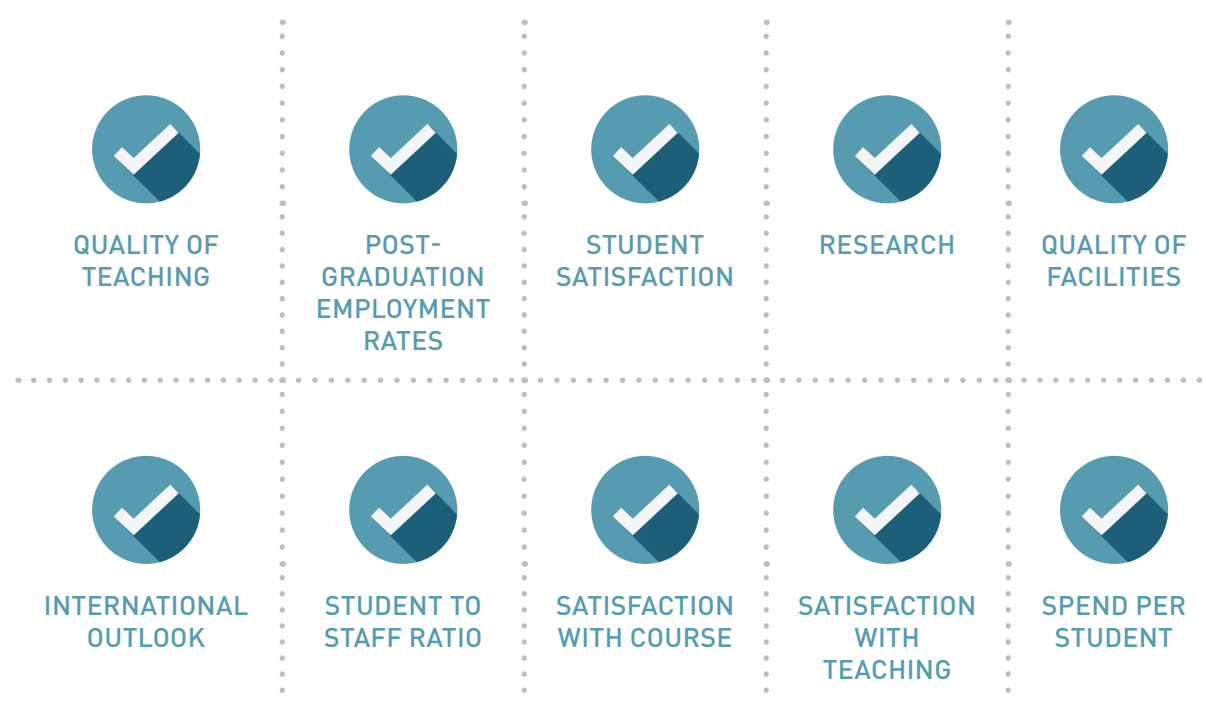
Students who want to learn in a hands-on environment or obtain a vocational education should consider colleges. Public colleges and career colleges teach in a very similar way to BTEC, so many BTEC students find the transition to a public or career college in Canada a natural progression.

RANKINGS

Universities in Canada (and worldwide) are ranked, using various criteria, to help you make an informed decision about your study plans. The most comprehensive report on Canadian universities is published annually by MacLean's Magazine:

<http://www.macleans.ca/education-hub/>

There are other rankings available online that use different criteria. The most important factors to look out for include:



If you wish to broaden your research to see how a Canadian university ranks worldwide, look at:

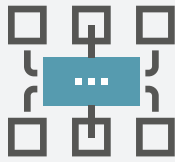
**QS
World
University
Rankings®**

[http://topuniversities.com/
university-rankings](http://topuniversities.com/university-rankings)

**The
Times Higher
Education World
University
Rankings**

[http://timeshighereducation.co.uk/
world-university-rankings](http://timeshighereducation.co.uk/world-university-rankings)

HIGHLIGHTS



With 98 universities and over 100 colleges, there is an option for every Pearson Edexcel A level and BTEC student.



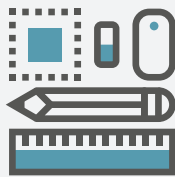
Ask a university's admissions department if your Pearson qualification is eligible for credit transfer.



It is best to visit individual university websites to understand course fees and scholarships available to help fund your studies in Canada.



U15 Universities are the most competitive institutions in Canada.



Universities Canada offers some of the most flexible learning options available.



Canada's colleges offer more practical, vocationally focused courses.



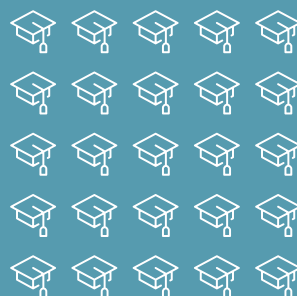
Public colleges also offer bachelor degrees.



FUN FACTS:

Toronto is the Canadian city with the highest number of international students, with over 100,000 of Canada's 336,000 international students.

James Naismith, the inventor of basketball, was the first Director of Athletics at McGill University in Montréal!



CHOOSING A SUBJECT

Choosing the subject you want to study at university is extremely important. Your Pearson Edexcel A level and BTEC qualifications have provided you with a depth and breadth of subject knowledge, now you need to ask yourself some important questions about what subject you want to pursue.

WHAT WOULD I LIKE TO STUDY ?

You have a lot to think about; such as the subject, type of degree, entry requirements, duration, type of assessment and the potential for travel and work placements during the course. Your choices include:

- > Academic or more vocational, practically-based programmes
- > Traditional subjects like history, geography, languages, mathematics
- > More modern subjects like business, media studies, computing, psychology, sociology
- > Very modern subjects like mechatronics and robotics
- > Highly specialised subjects like speech therapy and journalism



WHAT DO YOU ENJOY STUDYING ?

Choose a subject you love and have a genuine enthusiasm for – you will be studying it in great detail over the coming years.

If you have completed a Pearson Edexcel A level qualification, this puts you at an advantage, as you have a deep knowledge of the subjects you have studied. Pearson BTEC learners also have an advantage when applying, as you have hands-on, practical experience in a subject. Showcase your knowledge in your personal statement, as admissions departments will look for evidence of your interest in the subject, particularly if you are applying to a competitive course.

Canada's College & University database can help you find a programme at a college or university throughout the country that matches your interests:

<http://www.universitystudy.ca/search-programs/>

HAVE YOU
ALREADY DECIDED
ON YOUR
CAREER ?

Don't worry if you do not know what you'd like to do after university; many professions do not require a degree in a specific subject. However, if you have researched your options and decided on a career, it would be wise to choose a course related to that area of work. This applies in particular to careers in medicine, dentistry, engineering or architecture, amongst others, as you will need to take a particular course at university.

WHAT KIND
OF DEGREE DO
YOU WANT
TO STUDY ?

Undergraduate degrees in Canada generally take four years and lead to a bachelor degree: Bachelor of Science (BSc/BS), Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) or Bachelor of Commerce (BCom). In most cases you choose the subject you want to study, known as your 'major'. You may be able to take a 'minor', which is a related subject that you will study alongside your major for less time. Universities also offer dual degrees where you can undertake programmes in two different faculties or schools at the same time.

WHAT	PEARSON	
EDEXCEL	A	
LEVEL	OR	BTEC
RESULTS	DID	YOU
ACHIEVE	?	

Each course has its own entry requirements, which you can find on individual university websites. Look at your mock assessment results, previous qualification grades (GCSEs, AS Levels, BTEC Firsts, etc.), and speak to your teachers and careers advisers to help you decide which courses have entry requirements at the right level for you. Speaking with a university's admissions department is always a good idea.

These are some of the questions you should be asking yourself when choosing the course that will suit you best. If you need more help, you may find the following websites helpful:

<http://www.canada123.org>: The Canadian University Application Centre (CUAC) is a free service set up to support international students with choosing and applying to universities.

<http://www.univcan.ca>: The Universities Canada site offers advice, statistics, news about research and information on scholarships available to international students and more.

NewYouth.ca: New Youth offers accessible and easy-to-understand information on colleges and universities for both international and home students.

DO	YOU	WANT
TO	WORK	IN
INDUSTRY	OR	
STUDY	ABROAD	
AS	PART	OF
YOUR	DEGREE	?

Many courses include periods abroad, sometimes called study exchanges, which allow you to spend up to a year in another country. Students can select universities from around the world, including Europe, Asia, South America and the United States. Professional or vocationally oriented courses may also include internships abroad in a company with links to your university or college in Canada. These programmes allow you to gain valuable experience away from your studies before returning to complete your degree. You will find information about them on university websites.





HIGHLIGHTS



When choosing your degree you must think about what you enjoy studying, how you learn best, and what career you want to pursue. You should also consider the grades you achieved during your Edexcel A level and/or BTEC qualifications, as this will determine which degree programmes you are eligible to apply for.



Most universities offer educational or social exchanges in other countries to both home and international students.



Want to learn how to play poker?

You can take Poker 101 at the University of Ottawa's Department of Mathematics and Statistics.



WHERE TO STUDY

Once you have selected your intended programme and have identified colleges or universities that match your interests, it's time to do a little research about those organisations.

Universities and colleges in Canada, for the most part, are public institutions. This means that they are owned by the government of the province they are located in and are subject to strict rules and regulations regarding quality, fee collection and programme opportunities. Some universities and colleges are privately owned, meaning they are owned and operated outside of the provincial government. Nevertheless, private universities and colleges in Canada must abide by the same rules and regulations as their public counterparts. You can find more information on the National Association of Career Colleges website:

<http://nacc.ca/>



SUBJECT OR COURSE YOU WANT?

TRADITIONAL" ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

WHERE IS YOUR COURSE TAUGHT

PRESTIGE OR RANKING OF A UNIVERSITY

LOCATED IN THE KIND OF PLACE YOU LIKE

MEET THE OVERALL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

PRACTICAL/APPLIED LEARNING EXPERIENCE

SIZE OF THE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY FEES

COST OF LIVING

LIFESTYLE

If you're looking for the fast pace and cultural diversity of big cities, there are excellent study options in places like Vancouver, Toronto or Montreal. For someone who wants to enjoy Canada's natural beauty, rural universities like Mount Allison or University of Northern British Columbia are stunningly beautiful and offer a wide range of outdoor activities. When you're considering your study options, consider where you can see yourself living and how you like to spend your leisure time.

COST OF LIVING

Your budget may also impact where you decide to study. The cost of living in Canada is typically higher in cities than it is in smaller towns, so if you want to minimise your costs, consider studying in rural or suburban universities, such as the University of Western Ontario or Saint Francis Xavier University. In general, the cost of living in Canada for an international student ranges between CAD \$15,000 and \$30,000 a year, but this is dependent on where you choose to live and study. For a good breakdown see University Study's website: <http://www.universitystudy.ca/plan-for-university/what-does-it-cost-to-study-in-canada/>

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Canada is a multicultural society with communities from all over the world, so it is not difficult to find a taste of home or people who speak your language. Canada's largest city, Toronto, has one of the largest foreign-born populations of any city. Connecting with community or religious centres may help you get used to your new surroundings. With many international grocery stores, you're certain to find all familiar foods from home.

STUDYING IN QUÉBEC

Québec is Canada's French-speaking province. The largest city is Montréal which, with five major universities, has one of the highest university student populations in the world.

As a majority-French region, traffic signs, maps and menus are in French; most people speak French and all business is conducted in French. However, there is a minority English-speaking community. Two of Canada's best known universities McGill University and Concordia University are Anglophone: all teaching and examinations are in English.

You should also be aware that while some services are available in both English and French, many are not and you should be ready to live in a French-speaking city. Many people in Montréal speak and understand very little English, so you may want to take some French classes before arriving in Québec.



Studying in Québec offers a wonderful opportunity to experience both of Canada's founding cultures. Many Anglophone students learn French in addition to earning their degrees and enjoying all the available entertainment, social and cultural opportunities in Québec, particularly in the city of Montréal. Student unions exist at each university to help international students to get to know and settle into life in Québec.

HIGHLIGHTS



Lifestyle is an important consideration when selecting where to study so think about the environment that would suit.



The cost of living in Canada will be affected by where you live, the type of accommodation you select, and your lifestyle.



Quebec is Canada's French-speaking province, so this is a great place to study if you want to immerse yourself in the French language.



74,000

The largest university in Canada is the University of Toronto with over 74,000 students!

1663

The oldest university in Canada is Université Laval in Québec City which was founded in 1663!

WRITING YOUR APPLICATION

Once you've selected a programme and you know which universities and colleges interest you, the next step is applying!

WHEN SHOULD I APPLY ?

The key dates for college and university applications in Canada are in September, January and June (see your programme for details). For students who apply for:

SEPTEMBER:

applications should be **completed by mid-October the year before** and will be reviewed by January with admission results sent in February-March.

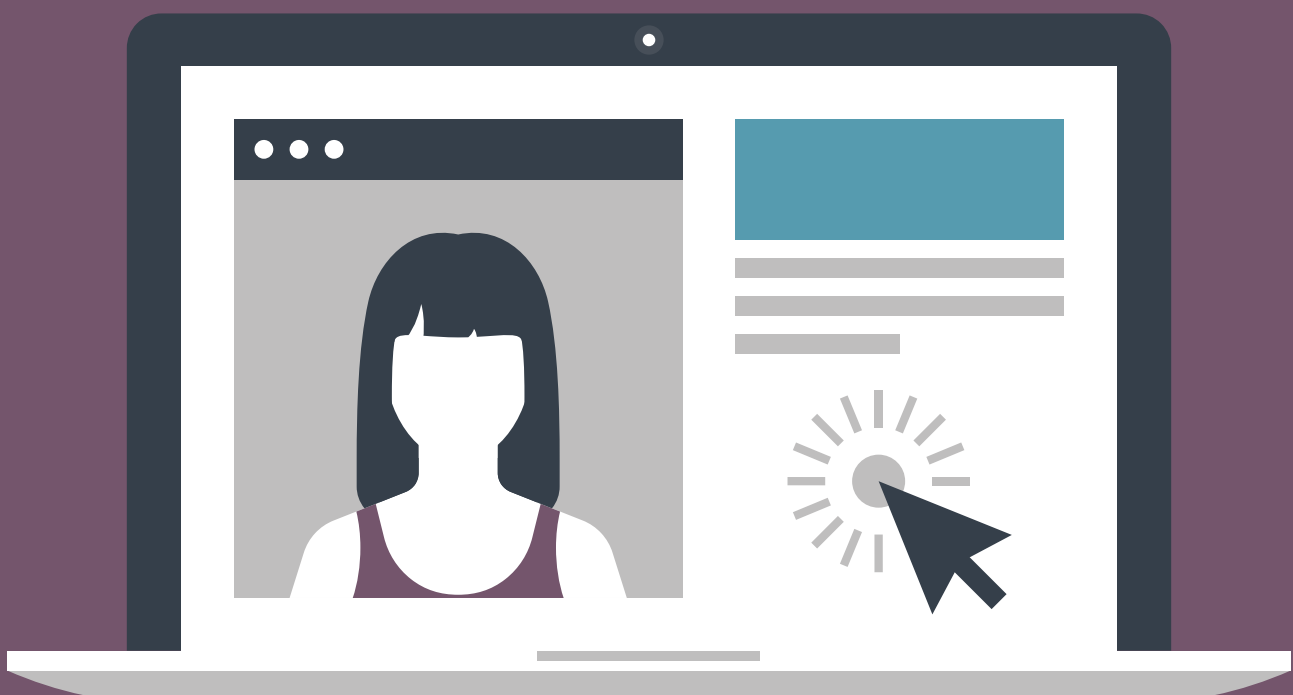
JANUARY:

applications should be **completed by late-August** with admission results sent in October.

JUNE:

Applications should be **completed by April** with results sent by May.

This might mean that you'll apply to a college/university in Canada before you have your final Edexcel A level or BTEC results. This is completely okay. The college/university will ask for your qualifications and grades to date (e.g. GCSEs or international GCSEs) and any predicted grades. Admissions departments throughout Canada are used to receiving applications from Edexcel A level and BTEC students, so they will tell you exactly what they require and can answer any questions you might have.



WHAT	IS	THE	UNIVERSITY
ADMISSION	PROCESS	ACROSS	CANADA ?

Universities in Canada use a holistic approach to admission that takes into consideration your:

- > grades
- > achievements
- > personal statement
- > work or volunteer experience

The minimum requirement for admission to university is to possess a qualification equivalent to a Canadian secondary diploma. Pearson Edexcel A level and BTEC qualifications are equivalent to a Canadian secondary diploma, but you might need your Edexcel A level or BTEC credentials validated by WES or CES:

- > <https://www.wes.org/ca>
- > <http://learn.utoronto.ca/international-professionals/comparative-education-service-ces>

The university will advise you if this is necessary. If so, Pearson can send your results directly to a Credential Evaluator, who will generate a credential assessment report that is then forwarded to your university.

Alberta, British Columbia, and Ontario allow you to complete and submit a single application online to a number of universities:

- > Applying in Alberta: <https://www.applyalberta.ca>
- > Applying in British Columbia: <https://apply.educationplannerbc.ca>
- > Applying in Ontario: <https://www.ouac.on.ca>

Students need to submit complete applications for admission and most universities have 'rolling' admission into programmes. This means that admissions departments will review applications as they arrive rather than all at once.

WHAT	IS	THE	COLLEGE	
ADMISSION	IN	ONTARIO		?

For students applying to a college in Ontario, you need to go to the Ontario Colleges Application:

<http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/apply>

You can open an online application for 5 programmes (3 from any 1 school). Ontario Colleges Application centre will guide you on where to send your qualification results and additional documentation. You will also be able to pay the CAD \$95.00 application fee by credit card. Applications for autumn admission (September) open in October, the year before your intended start date. For example, if you are planning to study in September 2020, you would need to apply in October 2019.

Students wishing to study at a college in Ontario will need, at a minimum, to have completed studies equal to a secondary diploma. Your Pearson Edexcel A Level or BTEC qualifications more than fulfil this requirement. Students who do not have an equivalent diploma should contact the college for further information.

WHAT	IS	THE	COLLEGE	ADMISSION	
OUTSIDE	OF	ONTARIO	(EXCLUDING QUEBEC)		?

For public colleges outside Ontario (and excluding Quebec), you apply directly via their website. As with Ontario, you need to apply the October before your intended start date, and pay your fees directly to the school. Application fees for public colleges range from CAD \$50.00 to CAD \$150.00. As an example, you can see the application process for the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT):

<http://www.sait.ca/admissions/how-to-apply/how-to-apply>

WHAT	IS	THE	COLLEGE	
ADMISSION	IN	QUEBEC		?

While admission processes are fairly standard across Canada, a notable exception is Québec, which has its own requirements and processes that must be followed. If you are applying to multiple universities across Canada with your Pearson Edexcel A level or BTEC, be sure to double-check the requirements for admission to Quebec universities and whether programme is taught in English or French.

WHAT INFORMATION DO I HAVE TO PROVIDE AS PART OF MY APPLICATION ?

All higher education institutions will request the following documents:

- > BTEC and/or Edexcel A level qualification results: This should be sent directly from Pearson. A university will only accept original documentation.
- > Personal statement: This is a document of one to two (1-2) pages that tells the university or college about yourself. In it, you should explain who you are, why you want to study at this particular university and any information about how you're qualified to study this programme. This letter should be neat, clear and free from grammatical errors. It is therefore recommended that you have someone review your statement for errors.
- > Results of English language test: each university will have strict requirements around tests accepted and required scores per test.
- > Personal reference letters: these should be written by your BTEC or Edexcel A level tutors who know you both academically and personally. The university will be very clear how many reference letters you need to complete your application.

Universities might also request the following:

- > Curriculum Vitae/Resume
- > Copy of your passport biography page



Please keep in mind that all documents must be in English or French and must be originals.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO APPLY ?

Most applications cost between CAD \$80 and \$200 and must accompany the application, payable by money order, bank transfer or credit card.

WHAT TYPES OF OFFERS DO UNIVERSITIES MAKE ?

Canadian colleges and universities will make one of the following offers:

- > **Full-offer:** The college/university is offering you a spot in the programme without any additional requirements.
- > **Conditional offer:** The college/university would like to offer you a spot provided you meet certain conditions such as the result of final year examinations or taking an additional course. This is the most likely offer for Pearson Edexcel A level or BTEC students, given that you will not have your final results when you submit your application.
- > **Wait list:** The college/university will delay in making a decision until other applications are considered. You should avoid being placed on a wait list by applying as soon as possible. If you find yourself in this situation, you should always ask how many candidates are on the wait list with you.
- > **Rejection:** you have not been accepted to this course at this university. You should explore other options available to you.

Universities and colleges in Canada generally make admission decisions within 8 weeks of an application.

HOW DO I RESPOND TO AN OFFER ?

Once you have received an offer from a college or university in Canada, there are four ways respond:

- > **Acceptance:** This usually requires you to pay a non-refundable portion of your tuition and guarantees you a place. The college/university will advise exactly how much you have to pay and how payment can be made.
- > **Conditional Acceptance:** You are accepting on the condition that you are waiting to hear from other schools. Your place can be given to another student, so keep the conditional acceptance window short.
- > **Deferral:** If your plans suddenly change, or you would like to take some extra time, you can defer your acceptance to a later intake. You will have to pay a deposit to keep your place.
- > **Decline:** You can select the “Decline” option on your offer letter. Send it back to the university as quickly as possible so they can offer your place to another student.



HIGHLIGHTS



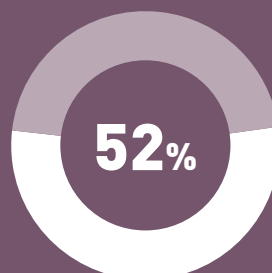
Applications open
in the autumn of
the year before a student's
intended start date.



Colleges and universities
use more than just
academic results to assess
a student's application.



The average acceptance
rate in Canada is about
52% for universities
in Canada.



PREPARING TO COME TO CANADA

Once you have decided to study in Canada after completing your Edexcel or BTEC qualifications and have been accepted onto a degree programme, you will face the exciting but possibly daunting experience of moving to a new country.



VISAS

Once you have a confirmed offer from a Canadian college or university, you now need to apply for a visa to study and live in Canada. The visa application process for Quebec is different from the visa application process for the rest of Canada. The admissions department at your college/university can guide you through the process, so never be afraid to ask for help and advice.

HOW	DO	I
OBTAIN	A	VISA
TO	STUDY	IN
QUEBEC	?	

Students who wish to study in Québec will not only need to obtain a study permit through Citizenship and Immigration Canada, but also obtain a Certificat d'acceptation du Québec (CAQ):

http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/glossary.asp#certificat_acceptation_du_quebec

This is a document issued by the Ministère de l'immigration, de la Diversité et de l'inclusion (MIDI). The process for obtaining this document is available on their website. Your university registrar can guide you through this process.

If you are from outside of Canada, you are going to need a study permit to be eligible to study at a Canadian college or university. Study permits must be obtained before you are able to enter Canada. The cost of a study permit in Canada is CAD \$150.00.



HOW DO I GET A VISA TO STUDY OUTSIDE OF QUEBEC ?

To begin the process, you will first need to collect some documents:

- > Acceptance letter with Designated Learning Institution number
- > A valid passport
- > Two recent passport photographs
- > Proof of financial support
- > Letter of explanation
- > CIC study permit application

For students filling-out their paperwork, a letter of explanation is a letter that tells a visa officer why you want to study in Canada; why you want to study at that particular university and why you want to study that particular programme. It should be concise, clear and free of grammatical errors.

To get more details on the Proof of Financial support, please visit the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/study-how-documents.asp#doc2>

Citizenship and Immigration Canada requires students to fill-out an application form, which can be done on paper or online. The application form lists the information required and the specifications required for the supporting documents.

It is important to know which office you need to send your documents to, and the length of the processing time. Processing times vary from as little as 10 days to as long as 16 weeks depending on the country. Check processing times to ensure you apply early enough to be able to start your programme on time:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/times>

When it comes time to make your application for Citizenship and Immigration Canada, you may have questions or simply want some help preparing the best possible application. It can be challenging and sometimes very confusing, but there is help. A Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant or Regulated International Student Immigration Advisor is someone who is licensed by the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council. These people can provide legal services, such as visa advice; aid in preparing your application; as well as taking care of all immigration-related matters for you.

When selecting an immigration consultant, it is imperative that you obtain the services of someone who is a member of the ICCRC and is in good standing. To do so, the ICCRC keeps public records of all RCIC and RISIA on a public database:

<http://secure.iccrc-crcic.ca/search-new/en>



All registered consultants should share with you their registration information that can be compared against the information held on the ICCRC's database.

In most cases, immigration consultants are independent contractors and are not provided to you by your college or university; however, you can easily find immigration consultants both in Canada and abroad who can assist you with your application.

ACCOMMODATION

(APARTMENT, HOMESTAY, DORMS)

Most colleges and universities offer on-campus residences called “dorms” that feature private rooms with shared facilities. Most students live on campus for only the first year; however, you may elect to live in a dorm for the duration of your studies.

If you would like to stay with a family for a few weeks or a few months, the Canada Homestay Network offers comfortable accommodation, in single rooms, sometimes with en-suite facilities and meals included, with families near campus. This is a great way to get to know Canadians while meeting friends also newly arriving in Canada. Visit their website to see if this is right for you:

<http://www.canadahomestaynetwork.ca>

Renting an apartment is fairly easy. If you'd prefer to live alone, or off-campus with friends, you will find a range of apartments to suit your budget. Most are within walking distance of public transport to and from your school.

To find an apartment, most renters begin by searching apartment rental boards such as Viewlt or Kijiji. These sites let you select apartments based on cost, location, facilities and proximity to public transportation. You can also search for a “room for rent” which is a sublet arrangement. In a sublet, you only pay for a portion of the apartment and are not required to obtain a lease.

If you decide that you would like to rent an apartment of your own, you must be ready to provide:

- > A deposit consisting of the first and last month's rent
- > A copy of a paid renters insurance agreement
- > Statement of financial means, such as bank statements, guarantor forms or employment record
- > Personal references.

Obtaining renters insurance is straightforward. Generally, you are required to provide information about yourself, including age, gender and employment status; information about the building (location, number of rooms, etc.) and any information on previous insurance claims made in Canada. The Insurance Bureau of Canada provides comprehensive information on obtaining renters insurance:

<http://www.ibc.ca/nb/home/rental-properties/tenant-insurance>

CANADIAN

WAY OF LIFE

Life in Canada may be different from what you're used to and you may experience some level of culture shock. From differences in food, weather or attitude, life in Canada will be a new experience. When people think of Canada, they often think of long, cold winters; but there is much more to Canada than winter! Some places in Canada, like Vancouver and Victoria hardly receive any snow. Rather, much like Seattle or San Francisco, they are cool, rainy cities. Some cities, like Calgary, get lots of snow in the winter, but are adjacent to Canada's majestic Rocky Mountains and wonderful skiing resorts like Banff and Jasper.

Canadians are generally very warm and friendly. Most Canadians live in big cities, rather than in small towns. And, Canadians come from all over the world! Canada has large immigrant populations that have helped define Canada as an open and welcoming society.

Winter in Canada can be an adjustment. It is recommended that you purchase a winter jacket, scarf, gloves and winter hat. The first few weeks of winter will take some getting used to; however, once you do, you'll love winter as much as the rest of Canada. Do note that Canada has very hot and humid summers (sometimes exceeding 30°C). Cool clothes for summer are a must!

To learn more about the experience people have in Canada, visit Canadian Immigrant magazine's website:

<http://canadianimmigrant.ca>

HEALTHCARE

International students in Canada are required to obtain health insurance to cover themselves during their stay in Canada. Depending on your university, they may offer a plan for international students that will be added onto your tuition. Some students may wish to source their own health insurance. If this is the case, please note that most insurers require that you obtain insurance **before** you arrive in Canada.

In Canada, the universal number for emergency services is 9-1-1. In the event you are sick, you have numerous options including a family physician, walk-in clinic or hospital emergency room. Most Canadian universities have an on-campus health clinic staffed by a doctor and nurses who can provide referrals for specialist care. Do not hesitate to ask your university administration for the location of your health clinic!

EMPLOYMENT

One of the most common questions that students want to know is: Can I work while I study in Canada? The answer is yes! Students in Canada are legally entitled to work 20 hours a week, provided they attend a designated institution, obtain a Social Insurance Number and do not violate the number of hours per week that they work:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/work-offcampus.asp>

If you do decide you'd like a job, it is important to find one that does not interfere with your studies. In general, finding part-time employment during your studies is not too difficult, students can often find flexible employment that allows them the time they need to study and attend class.

ARRIVING IN CANADA

When you first arrive in Canada, it will probably be through one of Canada's international airports. Unless you have someone picking you up, you will probably need to make transportation arrangements from the airport. Most Canadian airports offer numerous services including public transportation, coach, train, and taxi service. Some universities offer a shuttle service during the first few weeks of school.

Your first week at school is known as "Frosh" week and is designed to help you learn about your surroundings. You will be meeting new students and faculty; you will have meetings set-up so that you can get to know about your on-campus services as well as your local emergency services. Generally during Frosh week, you will be able to get assistance in setting-up a bank account, obtaining a mobile phone plan as well as learning about local amenities. This is a great opportunity to make new friends and get settled into your new life, so take advantage of the opportunities provided by your school!

HIGHLIGHTS



Visas differ depending on the Canadian province where you'll be studying. The admissions department at your college/university will be happy to provide assistance, or you can pay for a certified consultant to guide you through the process.



You have a wide variety of options when it comes to where you can live. The most important thing is that you arrange accommodation as soon as you can.



You should arrange health insurance before you arrive in Canada.



You can work at a designated employer for up to 20 hours during your studies.



Some companies offering health insurance in Canada are:

- > Guard.me: <https://www.guard.me>
- > RSA Insurance: <https://www.rsatravelinsurance.com/products/international-students>
- > Ingle International: <https://www.ingleinternational.com/en/travel-insurance/international-students>
- > Manulife/Cover.me: <http://www.coverme.com/products/travel-insurance-students.jsp>

COMPLETING YOUR STUDIES

Right now, the last thing on your mind is what you're going to be doing after you graduate, but it is good to begin thinking about it now.



WHAT	COULD	I	DO	AFTER
COMPLETING	MY	DEGREE	?	

CONTINUE STUDYING

After completing your degree, you may elect to continue studying, such as an MBA, a medical degree, or a law degree. If you do elect to continue studying, you'll need to extend your visa after gaining admission to your next programme.

APPLYING FOR AN MBA IN CANADA

The Master of Business Administration (MBA) is one of the most popular graduate level degrees in Canada. Many MBA candidates are professionals in their field obtaining advanced training in aspects of business, including management, marketing, and finance or are doing joint programs with law, medicine and the arts. Graduates of Canada's MBA programmes typically earn very high salaries after graduation, generally over USD \$100,000, and are employed in many different fields.

Some MBA candidates join global consultancies, banks, technology firms or even government. Employees at every level of a corporation might have an MBA, however the majority of senior executives will probably have an MBA.

Canadian MBA programmes are highly sought after. MBA candidates in Canada learn hands-on through business cases and apply their knowledge to real-life business simulations. Most MBA programs are 2 years in length and offer internship opportunities for students during the summer between their first and second year. To see a comprehensive ranking of Canadian MBA programmes, please consult Canadian Business Insider:

<http://www.canadianbusiness.com/lists-and-rankings/best-mba-programs/2016-reputation-ranking/image/8/>

Students applying to MBA programs in Canada must possess a post-secondary degree (in any field), 2 years of consecutive employment prior to applying, a minimum of 2 professional references and successfully complete the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT):

<http://www.mba.com/global/the-gmat-exam.aspx>

While MBA programmes are offered throughout the country, most MBA programmes are offered in Canada's cities in close proximity to major financial centres. Most faculty members of MBA programmes are part-time instructors who work full-time in industry. As a result, Canadian MBA graduates are some of the most sought-after graduates and can be found working at top global firms including Goldman Sachs & Company, McKinsey, as well as major banks such as the Royal Bank of Canada and JP Morgan Chase. Worldwide demand for MBA graduates is growing at 12% a year, while an increasing number of jobs in Canada require the MBA.

APPLYING FOR A MEDICAL OR DENTAL DEGREE IN CANADA

Many students wish to pursue a career in medicine or dentistry, with Canada offering some of the most sought-after programmes in those respective fields. Canada has 17 programmes leading to the degree of Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) and 10 programmes in Canada leading to the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery or Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.D.S. /D.D.M.). Students wishing to see which programmes are right for them can consult the Canadian Medical School Admission Guide or visit the Canadian Dental Association website on becoming a dentist:

<https://www.cda-adc.ca/en/becoming/becoming/preparing>

Admission to Canadian medical or dental schools is incredibly competitive. Before applying, students need to complete an undergraduate degree with at least 2 years of biology, 1 year of chemistry and physics; successfully complete the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) or the Dental Aptitude Test (DAT); have outstanding references from professors and employers and have volunteered in a medical setting prior to applying to medical school.

For students who plan to apply for medical school there are “Pre-med” and MCAT and DAT preparatory classes widely available on-campus and through professional schools located throughout the country. During your studies, it is recommended that you speak with admission representatives from various medical schools and possibly visit their campuses and facilities to see what is right for you.

Graduates of Canadian medical and dental programmes are given priority admission for advanced training domestically (specialisations such as surgery or paediatrics) and are able to apply for specialist training abroad. Medical and dental graduates are sought-after professionals with an employment rate of almost 100%!

APPLYING FOR A LAW DEGREE IN CANADA

Whether you would like to be a judge, a trial attorney or in-house counsel at a major firm, you must first obtain a law degree. Canada is fortunate to have two different legal systems. In Québec, Civil Law, based on French Napoleonic Law is practiced. In the rest of Canada, the legal system is based on the English Common Law Code. Canada has 24 law schools: four schools offer joint Civil and Common Law degrees; 3 offer Civil Law only while 19 offer Common Law Education. Canadian Law schools also frequently offer joint Law and MBA degrees, which we will discuss in the next section.

Law schools in Canada have highly competitive admission criteria. For law schools in Québec as well as l'Université d'Ottawa, students must be fluent in French and consequently may be asked to pass the Test de Français international. Outside of Québec, including l'Université d'Ottawa, students will have to complete the Law School Admission Test (LSAT):

<http://www.lsac.org/jd/lsat/about-the-lsat>



The test is only offered during certain months of the year. The most common exam dates are (in order of popularity): June, September, November, December and February. In addition to the LSAT, students must have satisfactorily completed an undergraduate degree (in any field), provide at least 3 references and demonstrate extra-curricular activities, such as volunteering or student government.

Although admission to Canadian law school can be challenging, they offer the best opportunities to work as a lawyer across North America. Graduates of Canada's Common Law programmes are able to practice in Canada and in the United States. For those who would like a truly global legal education, Canada offers the best opportunities to learn and practice in your chosen field. All schools offer the opportunity to obtain at least two internships during your studies and can assist you with finding a right fit. To see a list of Canadian law schools and further information on admission, you can visit the Federation of Law Societies of Canada:

<http://flsc.ca/national-initiatives/canadian-law-school-programs>

PROGRESS TO EMPLOYMENT IN CANADA

Many graduates of Canadian universities elect to remain in Canada after they graduate. Finding the right career in Canada can take some time but will be very rewarding. There are numerous websites that assist new graduates find employment, such as Canada's Top 100 List:

<http://www.canadastop100.com/tcd>

Universities in Canada work closely with employers, and depending on your programme you may receive additional employment assistance. Most universities offer career counselling and employment assistance services that will help connect with you with local employers. Programmes in commerce, engineering and technology generally assist graduates with full-time placement upon graduation. As you near graduation, begin speaking with your career services team to get more information.

RETURNING TO YOUR HOME COUNTRY

Some students may wish to return home, bringing with them their Canadian education. Studies have shown that Canadian graduates earn very high salaries abroad and are sought-after in many fields, ranging from business to engineering and medicine.

VISAS

As you are on a visa, it is important to remember that your visa will expire when you graduate. It is therefore very wise to begin planning at least six months before you graduate. If you intend to remain in Canada and would like to work, you have to begin the process of applying for a visa at least **90 days before the completion of your programme**.

Canada furnishes international students with a number of options to remain in Canada after they complete their program:

- > Post-Graduate Work Permit allows graduates of Canadian universities to obtain visas to remain in Canada for up to three years. This programme is open to graduates of public colleges and universities whose programme is greater than 8 (eight) months in duration.
- > Express Entry enables graduates to remain in Canada permanently by applying for Permanent Residency. Applicants to the Express Entry program are selected based on criteria such as language ability, education attainment and post-graduate employment. Please follow the Express Entry guide on the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website.

HIGHLIGHTS



After completing your studies, you have three options available to you: continue studying, return home or remain in Canada for employment.



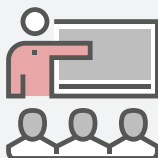
Canada has a number of options for students who wish to remain in Canada after their studies and information is freely available on the CIC website.



If you decide to apply for medical or dental school in Canada, you will need to take the MCAT. The employment rate of medical and dental graduates in Canada is almost 100%.



If you decide to apply for law school in Canada, you will need to take the LSAT. The LSAT is only offered at certain time, so register early.



If you decide to earn an MBA in Canada, you will need to take the GMAT exam.



Students should take time to consider their options and research what is best for them to make the right decision.



QUICK LINKS:

- > Post Graduate work permits:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/work-postgrad-how.asp>
- > Express Entry for permanent residency:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/index.asp>



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