



Why study in Canada?

Prestige

Canadian post-secondary institutions are consistently ranked amongst the top universities in the world, comparing favourably against schools in the United States and the United Kingdom. Institutions such as the University of Toronto, McGill University, McMaster University, and the University of British Columbia are recognized across the globe. Having a Canadian post-secondary degree gives students the opportunity to develop their future career anywhere in the world.

Cosmopolitan cities in a multiculturalism society

Canada values multiculturalism. Toronto, the largest city in Canada and the fourth largest in North America, is home to 3 million people, half of whom were born outside of Toronto and hail from more than 100 countries. Numerous cultural communities exist with their own cuisines, traditions, and languages. Canadian cities such as Toronto, Vancouver, and Calgary frequently rank amongst the most liveable in the world and provide a great backdrop for students to pursue their studies.

Immigration

The Canadian passport is very well recognized and respected around the world. Many international students find reasons to stay beyond their undergraduate studies such as employment or graduate studies. As the Canadian immigration ideology values multiculturalism, immigrating to Canada is much easier than immigrating to the US or the UK. In addition, possession of a Canadian undergraduate degree can increase your chances of obtaining Permanent Residency (PR) status and eventual citizenship in Canada.

Cost and program selection

Studying in a Canadian university can be cheaper than studying at a comparable institution in the US or the UK. For example, tuition at the Faculty of Arts & Science, University of Toronto for the academic year 2014/2015 was CAD \$35 280. At the Faculty of Arts & Science, McMaster University, it was CAD \$23 450. Cost for room, board, and textbooks is around CAD \$10 000 per academic year. Certain programs such as engineering and commerce are slightly more expensive. The total cost for a 4 year undergraduate program usually ranges from CAD \$140 000 to \$180 000.

In Canada (like the United States), students usually spend their first year pursuing courses that align with their interests (within the broad areas of science, social science, or the humanities). Students then spend subsequent years further specializing in a 1-3 specific discipline (e.g. biochemistry, biology, economics, fine arts, etc). It is easy to switch between majors, minors, and specialist programs should a student wish, and many courses can meet requirements for a variety of programs.

Application process

High school education

Students applying to Canadian universities must be in their final year of secondary studies (e.g. last year of high school) and may receive their offer of admission before completion of high school. However, students must complete high school in order to enrol in a university. Some high school courses may count as credits towards university courses (this is largely school and program dependent). All universities in Canada offer entrance scholarships based on high school academic performance.

English language requirement

The English language requirement may be waived if the applicant's first language is English, or if he/she has spent 3 or 4 years immediately before coming to Canada at a secondary institution in a country where English is the primary language of communication.

Acceptable language competency examinations include TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language, offered over 50 times a year globally) and IELTS (International English Language Testing System, offered 48 times a year globally). You usually need a minimum TOEFL score of 86 (with a minimum of 20 on each of the sections). Alternatively, you usually need an IELTS average score of 6.5 (with no section below 5.0). Since both exams are offered many times throughout the year, it is easy to book an exam date that is convenient for you.

Application deadlines for International Students (e.g. University of Toronto)

January 14 - Architecture, Landscape, and Design (including International Foundation Program)

January 14 - Music (including International Foundation Program)

January 30 - Applied Science and Engineering

January 30 - Faculty of Arts and Science, U of T (St. George campus)

January 30 - International Foundation Programs

January 30 - Kinesiology & Physical Education

January 30 - Nursing

March 1 - Medical Radiation Sciences

Once your online application is received, you will receive an email acknowledgement of your application and directions for submitting supporting documents (high school transcripts, personal statements, reference letters, etc).

Visa application

Once you receive an offer of admission, you must apply for a student visa (study permit) to study in Canada. For Asia, the processing time can vary between 3 weeks (India), 6 weeks (China), and up to 10 weeks (Thailand).

Further reading

1. **The World University Ranking 2014-2015 | Times Higher Education.** Accessed at: <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/world-university-rankings/2014-15/world-ranking>
2. **Ranked 4th in the world | UofT News.** Accessed at: <http://news.utoronto.ca/tags/rankings>
3. **The Best Places to Live | The Economist.** Accessed at: <http://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2014/08/daily-chart-13>
4. **Toronto Facts | City of Toronto.** Accessed at: <http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vnextoid=57a12cc817453410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>
5. **Study in Canada | Government of Canada (also information on immigration after studying).** Accessed at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/study.asp#stay>
6. **IELTS test dates.** Accessed at: http://www.ielts.org/test_takers_information/how_do_i_register/test_dates.aspx
7. **TOEFL test dates.** Accessed at: <http://www.ets.org/bin/getprogram.cgi?test=toefl>
8. **English Language test requirements.** Accessed at: <http://future.mcmaster.ca/admission/admission-requirements/>
9. **University of Toronto International Student Application Process and Deadlines.** Accessed at: <http://www.adm.utoronto.ca/admissions/?p1=true&domain=adm&page=APPLYING105>
10. **Costs**
University of Toronto: <http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/link/students/fees15.htm>
McMaster University: <http://future.mcmaster.ca/money-matters/cost-estimator/>