



Education System in Canada

Canada spends 7% of its GDP on education (more than 70 billion Dollars). Canada has public education provided, funded and overseen by federal, provincial and local governments. Education is within provincial jurisdiction and the curriculum is overseen by the province. Education in Canada is generally divided into primary education, followed by secondary education and post-secondary. Within the provinces under the ministry of education, there are district school boards administering the educational programs. Education is compulsory up to the age of 16 in every province in Canada, except for Ontario and New Brunswick, where the compulsory age is 18.

Most Canadian education systems continue up to grade twelve (age seventeen to eighteen). In Quebec, the typical high school term ends after Secondary V/Grade eleven (age sixteen to seventeen); following this, students who wish to pursue their studies to the university level have to attend college.

Post-secondary education

Nearly all post-secondary institutions in Canada have the authority to grant academic credentials (i.e., diplomas or degrees). Generally speaking, universities grant degrees (e.g., bachelor's, master's or doctorate degrees) while colleges, which typically offer vocationally-oriented programs, grant diplomas and certificates. However, some colleges offer applied arts degrees that lead to or are equivalent to degrees from a university.

Undergraduate studies

General requirements

Successful completion of the equivalent of a Canadian secondary school academic program with strong marks. Proof of strong proficiency in English (or French if studies in French). Students may be required to provide proof of language proficiency by way of a language proficiency test (For example TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB).

Graduate Studies

General requirements

Requirements for institutions will vary and Sun Education Services will help students to check directly with the institution(s) they are interested in for specific admissions requirements.

- Completion of an acceptable undergraduate degree from an accredited/recognized university
- High level of academic achievement in previous studies
- Strong reference letters
- Written Statements
- Standardized tests such as the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT)

Specialized Programs

To enter programs such as health sciences, law and architecture, students must have already completed up to four years of university study.

Colleges and Technical Institutions

Colleges and technical institutions are a very prominent component of the Canadian educational system. In a growing economy they form an integral part of the human resources pool for the different sectors of economy. They offer to the newcomers to Canada the best opportunity to quickly acquire a qualification adapted to the job market. They offer professional programs of 1 to 3 years (often including a work term) that are highly applicable in the job market.

Colleges are an integral part of the system of higher education in Canada. Most colleges offer university transfer programs that allow students to take courses that are parallel to those offered for the first two years of a four-year university program. Students can then apply to the university to gain admission to complete the last two years of the four-year graduation program.

General requirements

Academic

- Official academic transcripts translated into English or French as requested by the Canadian institution. Some institutions may require notarized official transcripts.
- Completion of the equivalent of Canadian secondary or high school.
- For post-diploma programs students are usually required to have already successfully completed a university degree or college diploma program.

Language

- Proof of strong proficiency in English (or French if studies are in French). For example, a TOEFL score of around 550 or approximately 6.0 for IELTS.
- Some institutions have other forms of English or French language assessment; they may offer their own language proficiency test or, may admit students to academic programs on the basis of having successfully completed that institution's language program.

Age

- Students are usually a minimum of 18 years of age. There are some schools that may accept applications from mature students.

Other

Depending on the program, students may be required to do one or all of the following:

- Submit a portfolio.
- Participate in a pre-admission interview or questionnaire.
- Write a placement test.