

DISCOVERY BAY
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
愉景灣國際學校

Discovery Bay
International School

Applying to Study in Canada



Why Study in Canada?

Highlights

- A **vast country** with a wide array of big cities and beautiful countryside.
- **Cheaper education** than its neighbouring USA, with prices ranging from \$1,500 to \$20,000, depending on the course and the institution.
- According to the Times World Ranking, 30 Canadian institutions rank **among the best in the world**.
- Canadian institutions place **more weight on recent grades** and less on ACT or SAT. Also, **A Levels are highly regarded**, and a B in A Level is often considered an A equivalent in Canada.
- Studying in Canada can put students on the fast track to **permanent Canadian residency**. Students automatically have a one-year, no-strings-attached **visa after studying**, so they can work and stay in Canada to look for more opportunities.
- Private, university and government **scholarships** are widely available on the basis of need, merit (academics or sport, for example) or which country you are from.

The Different Provinces – Alberta

Popular for skiing and hiking, with great scenery, hot summers and cold winters.

Key Universities:

- **The University of Alberta:** Tuition fees of **\$14,000 to \$16,000**. Good for research and **humanities, sciences, creative arts** and **business**.
- **The University of Calgary:** Tuition fees of **\$14,000 to \$16,000**. A research university.



The Different Provinces – British Columbia

An international province with **mountains** and **coastline** and home to **Vancouver**, voted by Resonance Consultancy as the second-best city in Canada to live.

Key Universities:

- **The University of British Columbia:** In the QS **top 50 universities in the world**. Tuition fees of **\$26,000 to \$28,000**. **Good scholarships** and provides **specialised degrees** in areas like journalism.
- **Simon Fraser University:** One-third of students are **international**, and it has a great reputation for **sport**.



The Different Provinces – Manitoba

A **prairie state** with sweeping landscapes and a **continental climate**. The home of **Winnipeg**, known as the Chicago of the North.

Key Universities:

- **The University of Manitoba:** A **research-intensive** institution and an elite university for **sports**.
- **The University of Winnipeg:** **Small classes** and a commitment to **environmental sustainability**. It also has a mission to **raise awareness** about the **indigenous population** with a compulsory unit on the subject for all new undergraduates.



The Different Provinces – New Brunswick

A **coastal province** with areas of **dense forest**. **Temperate** in the south and **subarctic** in the north. Quite **sparsely populated**, and one-third of the population is **French speaking**.

Key Universities:

- **The University of New Brunswick:** Two **amazing picturesque campuses** with access to the **famous local food**, such as seafood, and the **vibrant** New Brunswick **culture**.
- **The Université de Moncton:** Wholly **French speaking** and one of the only universities that teaches **French common law**.



The Different Provinces – Newfoundland & Labrador

A coastal province known for **whale-watching**, **glaciers**, and views of the **Northern Lights**.

Key Universities:

- **Memorial University:** The **only major university**, but other colleges and higher-education universities exist. One of the top 20 universities in Canada, providing **online learning**. Awards over 75 **scholarships**, so is worth checking out for students with financial concerns.



The Different Provinces – Nova Scotia

The **second smallest Canadian province**, famous for **seafood** as well as **wildlife** such as puffins and seals. **Two national parks** and a number of **music and arts festivals**.

Key Universities:

- **Dalhousie University:** **3,600 courses** in over **180 degrees** in research, under- and postgraduate. An **internationally respected** university with a renowned **Faculty of Agriculture**.
- **Mount Saint Vincent:** A small institution providing **distance-learning opportunities** with a small list of **personalised learning courses**.



The Different Provinces – Ontario

Home to the cities of **Toronto** and **Ottawa** (the capital). **38%** of of the **Canadian population** live here. It has long winters and short summers and is **close** to the **Great Lakes** to the south.

Key Universities:

- **The University of Toronto:** In the **QS top 30 universities in the world**. An all-round **excellent reputation** as a public university, with **11 different colleges** providing unique culture, traditions and accommodation, without limiting academic choice.
- **The University of Waterloo:** Close **industry connections** and is considered number one in the world for **student–employer partnerships**, with 87% of students getting a job within six months of graduating.



The Different Provinces – Prince Edward Island

The smallest but most densely populated province in Canada, and one of the oldest settlements.

Key Universities:

- **The University of Prince Edward Island:** There are a handful of universities and higher-education institutions, but the main university is this one. It has a **historic campus** with a rich history of **over 200 years**. It boasts **small classes**, **personalised learning** and a **wide range of degrees**.



The Different Provinces – Quebec

A primarily **French-speaking** province that is the **second largest**. The south sees hot summers and cold winters, while the north has arctic conditions. **Mostly bilingual**, so accessible to English speakers. **Famously, Quebecers love their province** as well as **ice hockey and their national dish: poutine**.



Key Universities:

- **McGill University:** An excellent international reputation, receiving students from 150 different countries every year. It is in the QS top 50 universities in the world. It has an excellent academic record in both the arts and the sciences.

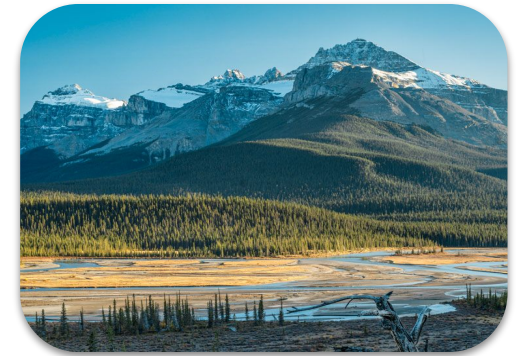


The Different Provinces – Saskatchewan

Nearly **10%** of the province is made up of **lakes, rivers and reservoirs**. It has a **rich agricultural industry** and is famous for **hiking, fishing and hunting**. A continental climate but with cold winters in the north especially.

Key Universities:

- **The University of Saskatchewan:** Signature research areas include agriculture, water security, energy and mineral resources. It is known also for its pastoral support of students while they are studying.



Before researching, please take the time to think about where you might study. Canada is an exciting but huge country with varying landscapes, remoteness and weather. If the cold affects you, look closer to the US border. Also consider cost. Think about how close the university is to an international airport, how long a flight home would be and how much living expenses are. For example, the University of British Columbia is in Vancouver, one of the most expensive cities in the world.

Types of University

Public Universities

Mostly government funded, more expensive for international students with less scholarship options, but well respected in the job market. Offer the chance to work part-time while studying, and offer post-graduate working visas for a year.

Private Universities

Privately funded and offer good scholarships. They often retain the best teaching staff due to their purchasing power and research funding.

Liberal Arts Colleges

Place a particular emphasis on undergraduate courses in the liberal arts, namely the humanities but also social, natural and formal sciences.

Colleges/Polytechnic Institutes

These are Canadian institutions offering a range of technical diplomas and applied degrees. It's also worth noting that some Canadian universities also offer some shorter diplomas and career-based programmes.

Types of Degree

Academic Degrees

Canada sits in what could be called a **'sweet spot'** between the US system and the UK system of higher education. This means that, like the British system, **applicants apply to a course of study**, but they have **flexibility** to make their **own path** to the degree. You can expect to take around **five courses per semester**; it is these classes which make up the degree programme. Typically, each course is made up weekly of **two hours of lectures** and a **one-hour tutorial** where a teaching assistant leads a discussion based around that lecture or the week's reading.

Applied Degrees

Applied Degree programmes in Canada combine the academic focus of a **university degree** with **practical, job-ready skills**. A number of **colleges and technical institutes** across Canada, as well as **some universities and university colleges**, have introduced Applied Degree programmes to respond to today's demanding job market. Applied Degrees fill the need for educated and **highly-skilled workers** by producing graduates who bring a strong combination of technical and theoretical skills to the job.

Differences Between Quebec & the Rest of Canada

In Quebec, 'college' (or 'CEGEP') refers to either a **two-year pre-university programme** or a **three-year professional programme**. These could be thought of as **equivalent to a British 'Sixth Form'**. Students are then expected to do a typically three-year course at a university to gain a Bachelor's degree. Everywhere else in Canada, 'college' refers to a community college or a technical school where students can earn a certificate, diploma or associate's degree.

Admissions & Entry Requirements

How the Application Process Works in Canada

Students apply to **courses/programmes**, not just universities. If you're familiar with the US admissions process, this may surprise you. It doesn't mean that students are locked into one series of modules for their whole university life – there's **lots of choice** within the programmes. However, they do need to apply to a programme of study (such as Actuarial Science, English or Biology). **Having found the right course**, it's necessary to look at the **deadlines** and **requirements** because they can vary from province to province, as well as from university to university!

Admissions & Entry Requirements

University Application Deadlines

Applications normally open up in **autumn, around September**. It is advisable to start looking into **scholarships straight away** as well. The best advice for both counsellors and students is to check, double check and triple check before the application process begins as things may vary each year for different universities and different provinces!

A **typical deadline is 1st March**, but it can be **as early as 1st November for some programmes**. Students are strongly **encouraged** to submit their application **far in advance** of the posted deadlines. Spaces fill quickly for popular universities and programmes, and it is **common for a programme to close before the application deadlines listed**.

Admissions & Entry Requirements

Other Requirements

Students will be required to offer an **academic transcript** with their grades and **predicted Grades for A Level**. The final grades will also have to be submitted when exams are completed. Some universities, such as the **University of Toronto**, might stipulate a requirement for a standardised test such as the **SAT or ACT**. English proficiency may be required through an **IELTS or TOEFL** for students without a passport from an English-speaking country.

Tuition fees at universities in Canada vary depending on the institution and the course, ranging from \$1,500 to \$20,000. As a general rule, humanities courses tend to be less expensive than courses in medicine, engineering or dentistry.

- **University scholarships:** Almost every university in Canada will offer some kind of financial aid. It is a very good idea to look up scholarships as part of the university research. Many universities, such as the The University of Manitoba and the University of Alberta, offer what are known as entrance scholarships, where they will offset either all, or part of, the cost of tuition fees. These scholarships will be awarded based on academic merit.
- **Need-based scholarships:** These are based on evidence of need of financial support to study.
- **Merit-based scholarships:** These scholarships are typically aimed at students who are either academically gifted or excel at sports/athletics. The university entrance scholarships we discussed above are often a form of merit-based scholarship.

- **Country-based scholarships:** If your school is based in a qualifying country, it's worth seeing what financial aid is on offer.
- **Government-funded scholarships:** The Canadian government offers a number of scholarships for international students.
- **Privately funded scholarships:** Some private companies and organisations may offer scholarships for international students. They are likely to be targeted at students from specific countries, or from minority backgrounds.

Examples of Applications

OUAC

Applications open in September the following year. The earlier you apply, the better.

For important dates, use the following link: <https://www.ouac.on.ca/guide/105-dates/>

If you look on the right-hand side of the the website home page that this takes you to, you will be able to see the **how-to videos**. These are very useful to take you through the process **step by step**. They explain everything from **how to start the application** to **browsing and choosing programmes, completing your applications, editing applications** and **accepting offers**.

Make sure when you register that you choose a **memorable username** and an **email you check regularly**. When you get communications from OUAC and eventually from universities, please remember to **check your junk mail or spam folders** as they tend to end up there at first.

Examples of Applications

University of British Columbia

Many universities will have how-to videos, and UBC is no exception. If you are interested in UBS, please check out this link, for example:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D262eMQV-UQ>

The link mentioned in the video to help you look at specific requirements for courses is

<https://you.ubc.ca/applying-ubc/how-to-apply/>

All other information, such as how to complete your personal profile essays (these can be completed in advance before you apply in Year 13), is available here. The **application deadline** is usually **mid-January**. However, **scholarships** require you to complete the application really in **December of the preceding year**.

Be Prepared

Students must be **organised**, **determined** and **dedicated** to their research to find the right fit for them, with the **right location**, the **right university community**, the **right courses** and the **right cost**. The Canadian system is fantastic, with **some of the best universities in the world**, and **with the right attitude, the application process can be smooth**. We can help and guide, but if students are disorganised or disengaged, the Canada application system can become an arduous task.

When searching, students should make a document filling in the information listed below. Remember that OUAC opens at the beginning of Year 13 in September and the earlier you apply, the more likely you are to get in – it's as simple as that. **You should have a shortlist made before the start of the year.**

University
name &
state

Major

English
reqs

OUAC or
state
specific (if
so copy &
paste
admission
website)

Specific
reqs
(including
essays)

SAT or
ACT reqs

Deadline

Financial
aid

Reference
reqs



Please ask any questions via the chat function