

# Study in Ontario: international students

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 [ontario.ca/page/study-ontario-international-students](http://ontario.ca/page/study-ontario-international-students)

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Information for international students interested in attending college or university in Ontario.

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### How to choose a school

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Before you choose a school, you can get important information in what's called a course calendar. This book has details on:

- programs
- the qualifications you need to get into a school or particular program
- housing
- tuition fees and other costs
- scholarships and financial aid

You can get a copy of a course calendar through the admissions office at a college or university. You can also contact the nearest Canadian diplomatic mission for more information.

### Qualifications/admissions

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Each college and university sets its own admission standards. The standards can change from year to year. You will need to check a school's website for the most current information.

### When to apply

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#### Universities

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Application deadlines depend on the program and school. Deadlines start as early as September.

#### Colleges

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In general, you will need to apply **before February 1**, if you want to start school in September. The admission process can take up to 9 months, so it's a good idea to get an application in early.

# What you need to apply

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In most cases, you will need to gather these documents before you apply:

## Transcripts

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Original or certified copies of your high school diploma/record and any postsecondary education records, including courses you took and grades you achieved.

## Proof of language skill

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Acceptable test results from a certified language test that measures your skill in reading, writing, understanding and speaking either English or French. Generally accepted tests include:

- test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
- the International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
- the Canadian Academic English Language (CAEL) Assessment

## Proof of good health

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Depending on your citizenship, you might also need to pass a medical exam. The exam has to be done by an authorized doctor.

If you need an exam, it's a good idea to make an appointment when you are accepted to an Ontario college or university. Otherwise, it could take up to three months longer to process your application.

[Medical exam list: Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#)

[List of authorized doctors](#)

## A study permit

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In most cases, you will need to apply for a study permit before you come to Canada. If you plan to stay **6+ months**, you need a permit in all cases.

You can apply for a permit at the Canadian visa office in your country. Check with the local office in your area to see what supporting documents you will need.

[Find an international visa office](#)

[Get a study permit application](#)

## Bring a spouse or child/children

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If you plan to bring family members with you, you will need to submit additional documents. Contact the nearest international visa office for more information.

# How to apply

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## Undergraduate programs

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First check each school's website. You will either apply directly to the school or use one of two application centres:

- the Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC)
- the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS)

## Graduate studies

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You will apply directly to a university.

## Get credentials evaluated

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You can have your existing credentials (degrees, diplomas, courses) evaluated through:

- the Canadian Centre for International Credentials
- World Education Services

## Health insurance

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**Public universities:** you need to enrol in the [University Health Insurance Plan](#).

**Public colleges and private colleges/universities:** you will need to contact the international student office at the school for more information on health insurance for international students.

## Work while in school

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You don't always need a work permit to get a job while you are in college or university. It depends on where you work.

### Work on campus

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You can work on campus at a school **without a work permit**, if you:

- have a valid study permit
- are a full-time student, at a public college or university or private university

### Work off campus

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To work off campus, you will need a work permit. To be eligible for a work permit, you need to be a full-time student at a public college or university.

You can apply for a work permit through Citizenship and Immigration Canada, a federal government department.

[Get a work permit application](#)

[Work permits for spouses/common-law partners](#)

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## Scholarships and bursaries

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You could be eligible to get money to help you pay for your college or university education in Ontario. You will need to contact the **financial aid office** at the school you plan to attend.

### Ontario Trillium Scholarships

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Each year, Ontario awards 75 Trillium Scholarships - worth \$40,000 per year - to the best doctoral students from around the world to support their studies in Ontario.

These scholarships can be renewed for up to 4 years.

Each university selects and awards scholarship candidates based on merit and program criteria. For more information, you can contact a university's office of graduate studies.

### Federal government scholarships

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The federal government also offers a series of scholarships for international students.

[More information: Scholarships Canada](#)

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## Student Loans

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**International students with study permits:** you are not eligible for bank or government student loans in Canada.

**Plan to apply for landed immigrant status:** you could become eligible for loans once status is granted.

**Emergency loans:** some colleges and universities offer 1-time emergency loans for international students. You will need to contact a school's financial aid office directly for more information.

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## Work after graduation

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**You could be eligible to get a special work permit to allow you to work in Canada – for up to 3 years - after you graduate.**

[Post-graduate work permit: Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#)

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## Live/work in Ontario permanently

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Through a program called **the Provincial Nominee Program**, you could be eligible to live and work permanently in Ontario.

## How the program works

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Ontario nominates individuals for permanent resident status to the federal government.

## Eligibility

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To be eligible, you need to:

- be a recent graduate or graduating soon
- have graduated or will soon graduate from a publicly funded college or university in Canada
- have a qualifying permanent, full-time job offer from an employer in Ontario

Masters and PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) graduates can apply, without a job offer.

## Apply to the program

Descriptive transcript: Ontario Universities Welcome International Students

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## Related information

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