



Non-Japanese College Guidance

Guide to University Studies in Canada



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Introduction

Canada offers a great academic system for studying at university and has developed a first-rate education system with high standards and academic credentials valued the world-over. The academic approach is closer to the liberal arts than the course-based system, although students apply to general programs or faculties within the university. In addition, the application process is amazingly simple for international students - it is academic-based, so acceptances are evaluated on transcripts (term grades) alone. Most universities place emphasis on Grades 10, 11, and 12, although some schools require Grade 9 grades as well. The application generally does not require essays, teacher or counselor recommendations, or standardized tests. For KLAS students who apply with a Japanese diploma, standardized tests (ACT/SAT) may be required for some schools.

Students apply online for an academic program or faculty at the institution, for example the Applied Sciences program, or the Faculty of Humanities. Each university in Canada has its own policy regarding admission requirements. Since students apply for a Faculty, you should be aware of the requirements for your general area of study. For example, in the Sciences and Math Faculties, certain courses in Math may be required, while not for the Humanities Faculties. In addition, while the Japanese diploma is recognized for direct entry by Canadian universities, each school will have certain English language level requirements, determined by an IELTS or TOEFL score, and students who do not meet these requirements may be asked to take English language courses before or during their university attendance, if admitted.

In the Canadian system, there is a distinction between a university and a college. Universities offer academic degrees at all levels, from Bachelor's to advanced degrees, whereas colleges only focus on technical training and applied arts, similar to a community college.

Canadian universities make a distinction between Canadian and international students regarding the tuition structure. An interesting benefit for international students who study in Canada is that a 3-year work Visa can be applied for after graduating from university for those students who may be interested in staying in Canada after studying to live and work. This is a benefit not offered to students in the UK or the US, for example.

Resources for Researching Courses & Universities

www.universitystudy.ca

This site can be used to search for universities and academic programs throughout Canada.

www.univcan.ca

Association of University and Colleges in Canada, which offers a directory of all Canadian universities.

www.macleans.ca/education/unirankings/

Macleans magazine, which conducts an annual ranking and review of Canadian universities.

www.scholarshipscanada.com

This site is Canada's most comprehensive scholarship portal. This extensive database can help find scholarships, student awards, bursaries and grants, in addition to information about student loans, applications, and budget planning.

www.edupass.org/finaid/canadian.phtml

www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/student-financial-aid.html

These sites offer information about financial aid for international and Canadian students.

Applying to Canadian Universities

In Canada, there is a distinction between a university and a college. Universities grant undergraduate Bachelor's and advanced degrees while colleges focus on vocational and technical training. The academic system takes a liberal arts approach, where students can study across disciplines before deciding on a concentration or major. Most universities are organized within faculties (schools), such as the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences or the Faculty of Applied Sciences and students make their application to a specific faculty or program.

The application process to Canadian universities is very streamlined and simple. Students apply online directly to the university, except for universities in Ontario. Universities in Ontario use a centralized application process called Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC). Students submit a single application to OUAC, which is then forwarded to students' selected universities.

If a student has not passed the English language proficiency level required by a university, determined by his or her IELTS score, he or she may be admitted under the condition that further English training is taken in order to achieve the minimum standards set by the university. Enrollment in the university is, then, granted once one achieves the minimum English language the university requires. There are some universities at which you can participate in English language courses either before entering the university or while taking classes. Students are advised to be aware when considering conditional admission that additional funds over and above the regular cost of four years of undergraduate studies will be required.

The university's online application requests basic background information as well as an online fee payment of approximately 100 CAD. Letters of recommendation and personal statements are usually not required. Some universities, such as McGill University, request that students upload their unofficial transcripts and predicted grades electronically and, if accepted, the official transcripts are then sent by KLAS. If you are uploading your transcript to the application, please request an unofficial copy from your Non-Japanese College Guidance Counselor. Other schools require that transcripts be mailed directly by the school, after the student has completed the online application. In this case, you will need to submit a Transcript Request Form to the KLAS Office.

Deadlines vary for schools so please check each university and program for specific dates. The earliest deadline is January 15 for McGill University.

Canadian universities notify students of acceptances as they make their decisions, any time from three weeks after receiving transcripts to several months, if they are waiting for additional results on which to base their decision.

Canada Visa

- Apply for a Study Permit
- Application requirements:
 - Proof of acceptance
 - Proof of identity
 - Proof of financial support
 - Letter of explanation
- Apply for the Permit online at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/student.asp>.