

CANADA

Canada is becoming a popular destination. Its overall education system is generally of a high standard regardless of location, size and university area. Canadian government-funded universities are members of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) www.aucc.ca.

Canadian universities generally offer 4 year Bachelor (undergraduate) degrees and graduate degrees at the Master's and PhD levels. Some 4 year degrees are often called Honours degree. It does not always mean high grades – in the fourth year specialty topics are usually taken to prepare a student for graduate studies.

Students usually take 5 courses per semester. Each course is about 3 hours of classroom study per week. Some programmes such as engineering and science require lab work in addition to the classroom study. There is a lot of independent study as well! Most courses are counted as 3 credits. So one semester (usually 5 subjects) will total 15 credits and four years 120 credits. Nearly all courses are 4 years.

Many universities offer **co-operative** (co-op) programs which provide you with work experience in a company or organization before you graduate.

Community colleges generally provide vocational courses for school graduates and adults. They offer certificates and diplomas in 1, 2 or 3 year programs. There are some that will offer degrees programs. For more information check www.accc.ca

University colleges are a combination of undergraduate university and a community college. A student can enter either a degree or diploma program and some diploma programs allow the student to continue into the third year degree program.

Private colleges (called 'career colleges') and private training institutions are licensed to operate in Canada and receive no government funding. Often these are run by companies and industry and offer industry certification programs such as in gas and oil and information technology and beautician, hairdressing etc. www.nacc.ca.

You must check if they are accredited and how long they have been operating.

If you wish to study in Canada and are not yet clear on what you want to study check out

www.canlearn.ca
www.schoolfinder.com
www.studyincanada.com.

In Canada & USA you have to do a bachelor's degree first before going onto a medical degree

Canadian universities are competitive and have high standards for both Canadian and international students and generally accept students who have good grades. Some programs have a limited number of places for international students.

First you need to check whether you need TOEFL or IELTS. Generally speaking if you have English first language and/or your secondary education has been in a British curriculum school you don't need it. You must check with each university.

Requirements are normally 2/3 Advanced level subjects. Some universities will accept 2 ASs as one Advanced level. Make sure you check with the university you are interested in what their requirements are and whether they specify any particular subject/grade at IGCSE, AS or advanced level.

Many Canadian universities offer scholarships to exceptional international students. You need to check the websites of the universities you are interested in to see what is available and you can also search www.canlearn.ca, www.schoolfinder.com and www.cbie.ca

When applying to universities give plenty of time before the deadline. See whether they have their own application form. Universities in Ontario have one application form called the Compass: www.ouac.on.ca.