

Education Options

Welcome to Toronto Package

There are different options for schooling in Canada. What you choose will depend on your interest, career goals, time and resources.

What is the difference between College, University and Trade schools in Canada?

	Colleges	Universities	Trade Schools (or Vocational School)
What you receive	Diploma or certificate programs *	Degree programs (bachelors, masters, PhD)	Associate degree, diploma, certificate or license
Focus of the school	Career focused and most include placements (where you spend time in a work setting related to your field of study).	Focus is on subjects (like arts, sciences, etc). An honours degree is needed if you want to do a graduate program (masters or PhD) after your bachelors degree	Train you for a job or position that requires specific manual or mechanical skills (like electrician, carpenter, hairstylist, etc.)
Length of schooling	Certificate in 1 year, diplomas usually 2-3 years	Bachelor degrees usually take 3-4 years	Usually take 1-2 years
Public (government supported) or private	Can be private (“career colleges”) or public (government supported)	Public universities get funding from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.	Can be public or private

* Some colleges also offer bachelors degrees in “applied areas” (specific to a job or profession).

Adapted from www.settlement.org and www.vocationalschools.ca

What is the difference between Distance Education and Continuing Education?

A lot of schools offer **continuing education** courses or programs. These are courses offered to people who already have a degree or diploma and want to upgrade their skills.

Distance education is the term used to describe schooling that can be done online or not on the school’s main campus (location). Distance education can be a good option for people who are working or are unable to attend classes during the daytime or on campus.



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Finding Schools:

Ontario has 20 public universities, 24 colleges and over 400+ registered private colleges. You can search schools at www.cicic.ca (click on “Studying in Canada,” then “Directory of Universities, Colleges and Schools in Canada”), or visit www.ontario.ca/page/go-college-or-university-ontario.

Applying for School:

Usually, you need to complete high school to go to a college or university. Each school and program sets their own entrance requirements. You can find out what entrance requirements are needed by going to the school’s website or contacting the school’s admissions department.

Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)

OSAP is a program to help students who can show they are in financial need, pay for their schooling. Money is given out in the form of both loans (that need to be paid back) and bursaries (which do not need to be paid back). There are 24 different OSAP programs, including 30% off of tuition and grants for students in special situations such as those with disabilities. When applying online at <https://osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal> you are considered for all of them.

OSAP is open to Ontario residents who are a:

- Canadian Citizen
- Permanent Resident
- Protected Person

When determining eligibility, the government considers:

- Your status (e.g. married or a dependent student)
- The school you attend/will attend (school needs to be approved by OSAP)
- Program of study
- Course load (full or part-time)
- Study period (how long you will be studying)
- Academic progress (how far along you are in the program)
- Education expenses
- You and your family’s financial contributions

You may not be eligible for OSAP if

- Have defaulted on a student loan
- Failed a credit check
- Declared bankruptcy
- Are an international student

For more information, visit <http://www.ontario.ca/education-and-training/how-get-osap>

