

## **Canada: A Destination of Choice for Higher Education**

### **Why Choose Canada**

The combination of Canada's reputation for high-quality education and its globally recognized degrees in addition to its natural and safe environment are just a few of the things that attract tens of thousands of international students to Canada every year. Canada offers vibrant cities and beautiful natural spaces, an exceptional quality of living and an education system that is recognized world-wide in attracting high-achieving students to all levels of study.

Everyday more and more international students are choosing to study in Canada because of the following:

- **Quality**  
Canadian degrees and diplomas are recognized throughout the world. Graduates have had strong success in their goals and alumni from Canadian campuses have secured prestigious roles globally and specifically in India. Canadian work experience is highly desirable by multi-national companies who actively recruit on Canadian campuses.
- **Variety**  
Students coming to Canada have over 90 degree granting universities, 175 community colleges, numerous private language schools and many corporate training facilities to choose from. The Canadian education system includes strong student support services, opportunities for career counselling and options to participate in internship or co-op programs. Small classes, flexibility in program choices and active campus communities enrich a personalized learning experience. Also, because Canada is officially a bilingual country, you can choose to study in French or English.
- **Cost**  
Canada spends more per capita on its education system than any other country in the world. As a result, Canadian universities and colleges offer lower tuition rates for international students than their counterparts in most other countries. The cost of study in Canada is considerably less than the USA, Australia and the United Kingdom.
- **Multicultural & Welcoming Society**  
Canada's international reputation as a peace-keeping nation extends to its citizens. Canadians comprise of many different cultures, religions and races from around the world. Students coming to Canada will experience a secure, peaceful, multicultural environment in cities and towns with people who are friendly and interested in learning about other cultures.
- **Standard of Living**  
In the last decade, Canada has repeatedly been chosen by UN as one of the best places to live in the world. The reasons listed included: high education enrolment levels; high-quality, low cost education; universal healthcare system; an uncompromising respect for fundamental rights and human dignity; clean and safe cities; and cosmopolitan, multicultural ethnic cities with many recreational amenities.
- **Possibility to work in Canada after graduation**  
International students who have graduated from a Canadian university or college have the opportunity to work in Canada, with a work permit, for up to three years, depending on the length of their program of study. During their study years, international students can work on campus without a work permit, and also off-campus, with a work permit, up to 20 hours per week during regular academic sessions and full term during scheduled breaks.

### **Indian Students in Canada**

Indian students enrolled in Canadian educational institutions, mainly post-secondary, are on the rise. Study Permits issued to Indian nationals in 2008 totalled 3,712, which represented an impressive increase over

the previous year's level. Currently, India is the fourth largest source country for Canada's student population. In 2008, total entries of foreign students in Canada were 79,509, while the stock of foreign students in the same year totalled 178,227.

**Key alumni:**

Kanti Bajpai, currently at Oxford University and formerly Headmaster, Doon School, Professor JNU; Vishnu Som, NDTV; Kavita Sharma, Director, India International Centre are just a few examples.

**Trends on Asian student attitudes with respect to subject preferences, career and employment choices**

Asian students, as with almost all students globally, are seeking the most competitive programs that will offer cutting edge technology, the opportunity for work placement during their studies and the opportunity to combine programs so they may offer more flexible skills to employers. Students seek Canada as a destination of choice because of the leading teaching and research facilities as well as ties to local, reputable employers who offer students work, co-op placement for credit or collaboration to apply skills directly to research innovation on the campus labs.

Graduates who can combine degree interests in science, business, communications, engineering or other related fields find they have quite an advantage in bringing transferable skills to an employer. As students compare options, many choose Canada for the additional communication, managerial or analytical skills that come from Canada's student-focussed approach to teaching, problem solving and applying knowledge in a practical setting.

**Education Systems in Canada**

In Canada, education is not centrally administered by the federal government. Each of Canada's ten provinces and three territories is responsible for education matters within its borders. While there are a number of differences in the ways that each one delivers and administers education and training, there are also many similarities, including the high quality of programs available across Canada.

Post-secondary (or tertiary) students can choose to study at a university or college. The term 'university' refers to an institution with a mainly academic or research focus. Universities offer Bachelor, Masters (also called Graduate), Doctorate and Postdoctorate (also called Postgraduate) degrees, as well as specialised professional training for those who want to become physicians, lawyers, engineers or accountants. The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) has a searchable database on their website [www.aucc.ca](http://www.aucc.ca) of programs available at all levels at any of the 90 publicly funded universities in Canada.

The term 'college' (also called a 'community college') is used for those institutions which offer mainly vocational or trades-based training. Colleges offer diplomas or certificates in a wide range of fields, including the building trades (carpentry, electrical and plumbing), office administration (computer technician, secretarial and bookkeeping) and services (medical technician, aesthetician, hospitality and tourism). Some colleges in Canada have entered into agreements with their provinces or with other universities and are able to offer Bachelors degrees in a variety of subjects. The Association of Canadian Community Colleges website at [www.accc.ca](http://www.accc.ca) has information about many of the publicly funded colleges in Canada. The National Association of Career Colleges [www.nacc.ca](http://www.nacc.ca) includes many of the private career colleges in Canada.

**Selection criteria for international students**

Canadian universities and colleges select students primarily on the basis of academic merit. Science programs, in particular, are competitive as many of the best and brightest students around the world seek admission. In

India, students would submit an application based on the school minimum admission grade average expected based on pre board or final secondary school exam results. It is also imperative that students find out about any required courses such as Maths, Chemistry or Biology as admission may be affected by courses selected in secondary school or perhaps at the undergraduate level. Many engineering programs require courses in all three areas.

Because there is no Canada-wide entrance test, each institution sets its own admission standards and assesses the qualifications of each applicant individually. A strong emphasis is placed on a student's academic record for admission and entrance award purposes, while extracurricular participation and achievement are typically only considered for specific top-level scholarships and limited enrolment programs.

### **Study Permits**

An international student who wishes to study in Canada for a period of more than six months will need to apply for a Study Permit, and a student who is a citizen of certain countries, such as India, will also require a visa to enter Canada. To study in Quebec, students also must have a Certificate of Acceptance from the Province of Quebec. For information about study permits and visas, as well as news about work opportunities while studying in Canada, please consult the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website at: <http://cic.gc.ca/english/study/index.asp>. For India-specific information on student visas, please consult the following websites: Canada in India at: [www.india.gc.ca](http://www.india.gc.ca) ; VFS Canada Visa Application Centres at: [www.vfs-canada.co.in](http://www.vfs-canada.co.in)

### **Tuition Fee and Cost of living in Canada**

Most universities and colleges in Canada are funded by the government, and as a result the tuition fees are considerably lower than fees in many other countries. Each institution determines its own tuition fee rates, and there can be a wide range even within the same province. While fees are generally more expensive for non-Canadian students, the levels of government funding do make it possible for institutions to offer education at a lower rate to all students. There is also a growing number of private institutions in Canada which are not publicly funded, and which charge the same or very similar tuition fee rates to both Canadian and international students.

Compared to many other countries, the cost of living in Canada is very affordable. As a rough guide, a student is likely to need between C\$15,000 and C\$30,000 annually to cover tuition and living expenses. This cost range is an average only and will vary according to the institution and program a student is enrolled in, location, and living choices. The education cost calculator at [www.educationau-incanada.ca](http://www.educationau-incanada.ca), can help a student determine the funds needed to for a specific program and institution.

### **Scholarships**

Due to the levels of government subsidisation in the education system, there are a limited number of general scholarships available. Most of those scholarships available to international students are based on merit and academic standing, not financial need. Most universities offer their own scholarships to international students, and at the Masters/Graduate and Doctorate/Post-doctorate levels many universities offer substantial scholarships and teaching/research assistant positions (which include a salary or stipend) to strong candidates. Some scholarships, such as the Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship Program, are available for Indian students. For more information, see: [www.scholarships.gc.ca](http://www.scholarships.gc.ca).

To promote the world-class excellence in research and education, the Government of Canada has recently launched the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship Program which awards 500 international and Canadian doctoral students with three-year scholarships valued at C\$50,000 per annum. To apply and for more information, consult: [www.vanier-cgs-bes.gc.ca](http://www.vanier-cgs-bes.gc.ca)

## **Working While Studying and Work After Graduation**

Many post-secondary international students are eligible to work both on and off campus while studying. Recent changes to Canada's Post-Graduation Work Permit Program allow qualified international students to obtain an open work permit with no restrictions as to the type of job and no requirement for a job offer. These students will be eligible to work for up to three years anywhere in Canada. For more information see: [www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/work.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/work.asp)

## **Partnerships and linkages**

Canada has a historical and growing relationship with India. On the academic front, a growing number of Canadian and Indian education institutions are showing a greater degree of interest and appetite for bilateral academic collaboration. Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada's survey on internationalization shows India as a top priority among members for pursuing both academic partnerships and research collaboration links. Currently, there are over 40 active official international exchange agreements between Canadian and Indian universities, involving approximately 20 Canadian universities and 35 Indian institutions. The sectors of collaboration range from engineering and technology to natural sciences and business administration.

Please see [www.aucc.ca](http://www.aucc.ca) or [www.accc.ca](http://www.accc.ca) for current and new developments as India is one of the priority countries for Canada with new initiatives occurring throughout the year.

Canadian universities are actively participating in the implementation of the Canada-India Science and Technology Agreement, through the International Science and Technology Partnerships Canada. For more details on this initiative, consult ISTP Canada website: <http://www.istpcanada.ca/ProductsServices/IndiaProgram/index.html>

## **Examples of Educational Partnership/Linkage**

- The University of Alberta has formed a partnership with Indian Institute of Technology–Mumbai (earlier Bombay) that could significantly influence India–Canada relations. The three-year agreement would see students and faculty from both institutions working together on health and energy issues.
- The Faculty of Business Administration, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC, and the newly-established Indian Institute of Management, Shillong, Meghalaya ([www.iimshillong.in](http://www.iimshillong.in)) have signed an agreement to collaborate to exchange faculty and students, and to offer executive education programs in India.
- The Association Of Universities and Colleges Of Canada (AUCC) and The Association Of Indian Universities (AIU) have signed a memorandum of understanding to promote internationalisation of higher education based on institutional cooperation between the scientific and academic communities of Canada and India.
- York University's [Schulich School of Business](#) is pursuing a partnership arrangement with S P Jain School of Business, Mumbai to offer its MBA program in India.
- Algonquin College, Ottawa and Manav Rachna International University (MRIU), Faridabad are collaborating to offer various diploma and degree programs in areas of advertising, graphic and machine design, etc.

- Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC) and Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) has signed an agreement to explore collaborative initiatives that will address the skill requirements of the construction industries in both India and Canada

**General program and research information is available at: [www.educationau-incanada.ca](http://www.educationau-incanada.ca)  
or [www.aucc.ca](http://www.aucc.ca) for universities and [www.accc.ca](http://www.accc.ca) for colleges**

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