

Canadian Universities FAQ

The skills to research, comprehend and engage post-secondary institutions and their websites, terminology, and other factors, including tuition costs, are addressed in Career-Life Education 11 and is continued throughout Career Life Connections 12.

Admissions

In general, university admission is determined by a student's high school grade average across Grades 11 and 12.

Admission is competitive: The more students that apply for a given year, the higher the grade average that may be required.

- ① Some universities may publish a previous year's admission average; however, this is not the rule.
- ② The number of spots available for admission is generally not published.
- ③ In general, the number of spots for admission for a given university will differ not only between faculties but also between programs or departments within a given faculty.
 - a) As a result, in general, universities will ask for a student to have a second choice on their application in order to give them a better chance to receive an offer for admission.

Please see each specific universities' website and admissions department for specific and up-to-date information.

In general, each faculty (area of study) will have different requirements for courses required to be taken during high school.

- ④ In general, requirements for high school courses will differ in the Grade 12 year between the different faculties at any given university.
 - a) For example, a Faculty of Science may require two Grade 12 science courses to be taken, while a Faculty of Social Sciences may require two Grade 12 humanities courses.
- ⑤ We offer all compulsory courses at BCS, however, online courses may be available.

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Applications for the start of the university year (September) generally open during September of the Grade 12 year.

- ⑥ Applications for Canadian universities generally close during the month of January.
- ⑦ Conditional (non-final) grades for Grade 12 are generally required to be submitted between January to March.
 - a) In general, the earlier that grades are reported the better, as it may open your application up to be evaluated for conditional offers of admission earlier.
 - b) Conditional offers of admission require that students maintain their grades until you submit your final Grade 12 report card.

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Costs and Fees

Universities in Canada, generally, determine fees based on the number of course credits (or units) taken in a semester.

- ① Fees for courses are charged based on the number of credits a course is deemed.
 - a) In general, a course will be either 3 or 4 credits each.
 - b) A degree at UBC or SFU will require that 120 course credits to be taken. Therefore, for a four-year degree, a student can expect to take 30 credits, on average, of courses per year.
- ② Canadian universities charge much higher fees for international students.
 - a) For example, a Canadian Citizen may pay \$200 per credit, while an international student \$1000 per course credit.
 - b) In general, fees for course credits are increased each year and are not fixed.
- ③ Some universities communicate and charge fees yearly, while others on a semester basis.
- ④ Additional compulsory fees are generally charged each semester.
 - a) Student Union, Recreation, Medical Insurance, Public Transportation (in BC this is compulsory), etc.
- ⑤ Costs for required textbooks for a given course are generally not included in fees.

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Scholarships at each university may be available and determined by demand (vs. funds available) and academic success.

- ⑥ Scholarships available are generally divided into two categories: Canadian Citizens and international students.
 - a) Entrance scholarship application deadlines close earlier than university applications and are competitive.
- ⑦ The Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) offers scholarships to Japanese nationals for studying abroad.
 - a) The scholarships offered are very limited and highly competitive. Please see JASSO.GO.JP.

Please see each specific universities' website and admissions department for specific and up-to-date information.