

Canadian Universities: Undergraduate, Master's and PhD Study

Canada offers university programmes across a wide range of subjects at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level. International students can enter Canadian higher education through several different qualification routes, although individual universities and programmes set their own academic and language requirements.

Undergraduate Entry Requirements

Canadian universities consider a wide range of international school qualifications. These can include WAEC or NECO, KCSE, GCSE/IGCSE and A Levels, the International Baccalaureate and national secondary school qualifications from other education systems.

Applicants need to check how their qualification is assessed and whether their grades and subjects meet the requirements of the chosen university and programme. Requirements vary considerably, so students should check the specific criteria before applying.

Master's and PhD Study

Applicants for a master's degree will normally need an appropriate bachelor's degree or equivalent. Canadian universities assess international qualifications according to their own academic and programme-specific requirements.

PhD entry requirements vary. Many programmes require a relevant master's degree or equivalent and evidence of strong academic and research ability, although alternative routes may be available in some disciplines and universities.

Research-based programmes may require a research proposal, research statement or statement of intent setting out the applicant's proposed area of research. Applicants should check the requirements of the individual programme.

English and French Study

Canada has two official languages, English and French. Universities and programmes may offer study in either language, depending on the institution, its location and the programme selected.

Applicants may be required to provide evidence of proficiency in the language of instruction, according to the university's requirements.

Choosing and Applying to a University

The application process involves researching suitable programmes, checking entry requirements, preparing the required documents and applying. Postgraduate and doctoral applicants may also need to provide references, statements, research materials or information relating to potential academic supervision, depending on the programme.

WorldStudentAdvisors can help students compare suitable Canadian universities and programmes, understand entry and language requirements, manage the university application process and prepare for the Canadian study permit process.

The Key Message

Canadian universities offer undergraduate, master's and PhD study across a broad range of subjects, but admission requirements vary considerably between institutions, programmes and levels of study.

International students should check how their qualifications are assessed, the grades and subjects required, language requirements and any programme-specific application requirements before applying. For postgraduate research, particular attention should be given to research requirements and academic fit.

Disclaimer: This information is provided in good faith and was believed to be accurate at the time of publication. Fees, dates, entry requirements, visa regulations and other information may change. Students should check current requirements before making any financial or study commitments.