



STUDY **AND** LIVE **IN** QUÉBEC

Québec 

DARE TO EXPERIENCE QUÉBEC!

MAKE YOUR EDUCATION AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE BY COMING TO STUDY IN QUÉBEC!
A HIGHLY STIMULATING EDUCATIONAL SETTING IS YOURS IN A CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT
WHERE AMERICA AND EUROPE MEET.

READ THIS BROCHURE TO LEARN ABOUT THE QUÉBEC EDUCATION SYSTEM, THE STEPS TO TAKE
TO ACHIEVE YOUR PLAN, RELATED COSTS, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK DURING OR AFTER
YOUR STUDIES.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN QUÉBEC

THE QUÉBEC EDUCATION SYSTEM COMPRISES
FOUR LEVELS OF TEACHING: PRIMARY
(INCLUDING PRESCHOOL), SECONDARY,
COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.
THE EDUCATION NETWORK INCLUDES BOTH
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS.

ADMISSION IS GENERALLY BASED ON THE
STUDENT'S EDUCATION RECORD. HOWEVER,
CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS REQUIRE APPLICANTS
TO WRITE ENTRANCE EXAMS.

College education

College education, provided by CÉGEPs or private colleges, is the first level of higher education in Québec. Admission requirements are 11 years of schooling or the equivalent of a Québec high school diploma.

CÉGEP and college students can take either a two-year program that prepares them for university or a three-year technical program leading to employment as a technician or technologist. The technical program also gives access to university for those who wish to pursue their education. These two types of programs are recognized by a *Diplôme d'études collégiales* (DEC - Diploma of College Studies).

There are also short technical programs leading to an *Attestation d'études collégiales* (AEC - Attestation of College Studies). These programs are normally intended for adult students (aged 18 and over). Some CÉGEPs also offer an international baccalaureate.

University education

University education is divided into three levels. The first level (undergraduate) is accessible after 12 or 13 years of schooling, depending on the school system in which you studied. This level is sanctioned by a **Bachelor's degree** after three or four years of full-time study, depending on the field. A Bachelor's degree enables students to enter the job market or go on to graduate studies.

EXCHANGE PROGRAMS



Also offered at the undergraduate level are one-year programs sanctioned by a **certificate**. A combination of several certificates can lead to a Bachelor's degree under certain conditions.

An undergraduate year consists of two compulsory semesters, the fall term and the winter term. Full time study is required during these two terms, i.e., you must register for a minimum of 12 credits. You may also study during the summer term, but this is optional.

If you are the holder of a diploma equivalent to a Québec Bachelor's degree, you may enter the second level (graduate). This leads to a **Master's** degree after two years of full-time study and the submission of a thesis or the completion of an internship, depending on whether the master's program is oriented toward research or the practice of a profession. Also offered at the graduate level are one-year programs recognized by a specialized advanced degree called a *Diplôme d'études supérieures spécialisées* (DESS) or a Graduate Certificate.

If you have the equivalent of a Québec Master's degree and your graduate program was oriented to research or you have work experience in research, you can register, under certain conditions, in the third level (doctoral) of university education. A **doctoral** degree can be earned after approximately three years of full-time study including the submission of a dissertation, preparing you, among others, for a career as a researcher.

At the second and third university levels, you are required to study full-time during the fall, winter and summer terms.

BESIDES THE POSSIBILITY OF REGISTERING DIRECTLY IN A QUÉBEC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION TO OBTAIN A QUÉBEC DIPLOMA, YOU CAN ENRICH YOUR ACADEMIC PATH THROUGH AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM OF ONE OR TWO SEMESTERS IN QUÉBEC.

Exchange programs are possible:

- Under agreements covering student mobility between Québec and foreign institutions of higher education;
- Under agreements reached by the *Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec* (CREPUQ) or by *CÉGEP international* with certain foreign institutions.

These agreements allow you to receive part of your education in a Québec educational institution (host institution), while remaining registered in the institution of your country (home institution). Your tuition fees are paid to your home institution and the diploma obtained will be the one granted by your home institution.

Exchanges have a maximum duration of two academic terms. Courses followed under these exchanges must be recognized by the home institution.

For more information, contact your educational institution. At the university level, consult the website of the *Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec* (CREPUQ, www.crepuq.qc.ca). At the college level, that of *Cégep international* (www.cegepinternational.qc.ca).



STEPS TO TAKE TO STUDY IN QUÉBEC

1- Apply for admission

First of all, choose a program and educational institution that meets your interests and your education path.

For admission to a CÉGEP, you must send your completed admission application with the required documents and payment to the appropriate regional admission service: *Service régional d'admission au collégial de Québec* (SRACQ), *Service régional d'admission du Montréal métropolitain* (SRAM) or *Service régional de l'admission des cégeps du Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean* (SRASL). Contact your CÉGEP to find out the regional admission service to which you must send your admission application.

For a private college or university, the admission application, required documents and payment must be sent directly to your chosen educational institution.

The deadline for sending in your admission application varies depending on the program and educational institution.

2- Apply for a Québec Acceptance Certificate for studies

After receiving a letter of admission, you must promptly apply for a Québec Acceptance Certificate (CAQ) for studies and send your application form to the:

Ministère de l'Immigration
et des Communautés culturelles
Service aux étudiants étrangers
285, rue Notre-Dame Ouest, rez-de-chaussée, bureau G-15
Montréal (Québec) H2Y 1T8
CANADA

The Québec Acceptance Certificate (CAQ) for studies is compulsory except for a stay of less than six months. Delivery time for obtaining a CAQ for studies is about four weeks, excluding mailing time, when the application is properly completed.

The Application for a CAQ for studies can be filled out on line. It can be found on the website of the *Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles*, Foreign Students section, along with the conditions for obtaining the CAQ for studies and related fees:

■ www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca

3- Apply for a study permit

After obtaining a CAQ for studies, you must apply to the Canadian Visa Office (CVO) for a study permit. The study permit is compulsory except for a stay of less than six months. It is usually issued for a period matching the validity period of the CAQ for studies. The websites below give contact information for the different CVOs and conditions for obtaining a study permit:

■ www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/offices/index.asp

■ www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/index.asp

Depending on the country in which you live or have recently stayed, you may need to undergo a medical examination. To find out if you must take this examination and to obtain a list of doctors authorized by the Canadian government to perform the examination in your country, consult the following link:

■ www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/medical/index.asp

4- Health and hospitalization insurance

You must have health and hospitalization insurance throughout your academic stay in Québec. If you study at the **college** level, find out from your institution if you are covered by group insurance or if you must purchase private health and hospitalization insurance. At the **university level**, you are automatically covered by the group insurance of your educational institution.

Students covered by a social security agreement between their country of origin and Québec can contact their health agency before leaving for Québec to obtain an insurance certificate. This will allow them to benefit from protection under the Québec Health Insurance Plan during their studies. A list of signatory countries to this social security agreement is available at:

■ www.ramq.gouv.qc.ca/en/citoyens/assurancemaladie/arriver/ententes_ss.shtml

ESTIMATED COSTS FOR YOUR STUDIES IN QUÉBEC

TO COME AND STUDY IN QUÉBEC, YOU MUST DEMONSTRATE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PAY APPLICABLE TUITION FEES AND YOUR LIVING EXPENSES THROUGHOUT YOUR ENTIRE STUDY STAY.

To get an idea of what costs you should expect for a study stay in Québec, consider the following items:

- your **tuition fees**¹ and other study-related expenses such as registration fees, student association fees, the purchase of school material (books, lecture notes, etc.). Note that tuition fees vary depending on the number of credits the student registers for, level of studies, curriculum and educational institution;
- your **living expenses**² (2009 rates), an annual minimum of about \$11,000 for one adult, \$5,500 for one child, \$16,100 for two adults, \$14,800 for one adult and one child, \$18,100 for two adults and one child. Living expenses include housing, food, transport costs in Québec and clothing;
- your **travel expenses** (return trip);
- the cost of **health and hospitalization insurance**³ for yourself and accompanying family members;
- your **expenses for getting settled** (about \$500) for the first year of your stay in Québec.

¹ Under a France-Québec agreement on education, French students pay the same tuition fees as Québec students.

² The fees mentioned are in Canadian dollars.

³ Under a France-Québec agreement on social security, French students (except for residents of overseas Territories, Countries and Collectivities) are insured by the Québec Health Insurance Plan.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU CARRY OUT YOUR ACADEMIC PROJECT IN QUÉBEC. IT COULD BE AN EXEMPTION FROM THE LUMP SUM CHARGED TO FOREIGN STUDENTS OR A SCHOLARSHIP COVERING ALL EXPENSES RELATED TO YOUR STAY.

Exemption from the lump sum

Under cooperation agreements between Québec and certain foreign governments, foreign students may be exempt from applicable supplemental tuition fees so that they pay the same tuition fees as Québec students. These countries are listed on the website of the *Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport* (www.mels.gouv.qc.ca).



WORK DURING AND AFTER YOUR STUDIES

Other scholarships

Find out about available scholarships from your country's Education Department or from the Québec institution where you wish to study. However, be advised that they are generally granted on a priority basis to the most deserving students in higher university levels, whose studies are geared to research.

You can also find information at the Canadian Embassy, the *Délégation générale du Québec* or its representative in your country, or from the following organizations:

- Agence canadienne de développement international (ACDI) : www.acdi-cida.gc.ca
- Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) : www.cbie.ca
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) : www.acdi-cida.gc.ca
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC) : www.crdi.ca
- Fonds québécois de recherche sur la nature et les technologies (FQRNT) : www.fqrnt.gouv.qc.ca
- Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (FAITC) : www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

TO COME AND STUDY IN QUÉBEC, YOU MUST HAVE SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOUR NEEDS FOR THE ENTIRE DURATION OF YOUR STUDIES WITHOUT HAVING TO WORK. NEVERTHELESS, IN CERTAIN CASES, YOU COULD BE AUTHORIZED TO WORK DURING AND AFTER YOUR STUDIES.

For more information about conditions that apply to each of these programs, consult the website of Citizenship and Immigration Canada:

- www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/work.asp

Cooperative programs and internships

Some academic programs include compulsory internships or take a cooperative form with work-study alternation.

If you are registering in this type of program, you must obtain a work permit before starting your internships or work periods. You can apply for this permit at the same time as your study permit.



QUÉBEC OFFERS YOU A REPUTABLE EDUCATION SYSTEM, INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED DIPLOMAS AND AN EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE, AS IS SHOWN BY ITS LEADING POSITION IN THE ANNUAL RANKING BY THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD).

LET QUÉBEC HOST YOUR STUDIES!

On-campus work

You may be employed on the **campus** of your educational institution without a study permit provided you hold a valid study permit and are engaged in full-time studies.

Off-campus work

To qualify for a permit to work off campus, you must have completed, in the 12 months prior to your application, **at least six months of full-time study** in an institution participating in the program, still be studying full time and have obtained satisfactory academic results.

Your work permit will authorize you to work **a maximum of 20 hours a week during regular school terms, and full time during vacations provided in the school calendar** (such as winter and summer vacations and school breaks).

Students in exchange programs are not eligible for the off-campus work program.

A list of institutions participating in the off-campus work program can be consulted at:

- www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/institutions/participants.asp

Post-graduation work

After successfully completing your academic program in Québec, you may obtain a post-graduation work permit valid for up to three years.

General information

Québec government portal: www.gouv.qc.ca

Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles

General address: www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca

Foreign Student Service

285, rue Notre-Dame Ouest
Rez-de-chaussée, bureau G-15
Montréal (Québec) H2Y 1T8
CANADA

Montréal region and from overseas: 514 864-9191
Elsewhere in Québec: 1 877 864-9191
E-mail: renseignements@micc.gouv.qc.ca

Other Departments and Agencies

- Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport:
www.mels.gouv.qc.ca
- *Étudier au Québec* guide: www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/ens-sup/ftp/etudier_quebec-ang-2008.pdf
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada: www.cic.gc.ca

Groups and organizations

Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec : www.crepuq.qc.ca
Cégep International : www.cegepinternational.qc.ca
Association des collèges privés du Québec : www.cadre.qc.ca/acpq
Site des universités du Québec : www.etudierauquebec.ca
Les Offices jeunesse internationaux du Québec (LOJIQ) : www.lojiq.org

Regional admission services (for CÉGEPs)

Service régional d'admission au collégial de Québec (SRACQ) : www.sracq.qc.ca
Service régional d'admission de Montréal (SRAM) : www.sram.qc.ca
Service régional de l'admission dans les cégeps du Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean (SRASL) : www.srasl.qc.ca



www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca



**Immigration
et Communautés
culturelles**

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