

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) University-College Applications

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➤ **General**

1. Why do students choose to study in Canada?

- Canada qualifications are recognized around the world; the education in Canada is well established and respected globally.
- The living conditions and environment are perfect in Canada, and the multicultural community will narrow the barriers between local people and international students.
- Tuition fees and living expenses are affordable; Canada offers the lowest tuition rates for foreign students compared with the U.K., Australia, New Zealand and the US.
- High possibility of immigration. You may choose to gain Canadian work experience and immigrate to Canada after graduation from a post-secondary institute.
- International students graduating from a 4-year university program in Canada can work for 2 years after graduation on their student visa.

➤ **University-College Terminology**

2. What is the relationship between university colleges, universities and colleges in Canada?

Universities offer undergraduate bachelor degrees and graduate (master’s and doctoral) degrees. They also offer professional programs such as dentistry, medicine and law. University professors usually conduct and publish research in addition to teaching. Most university programs are more theoretical in nature, and prepares students for further studies after graduation.

Colleges offer full-time and part-time certificate, diplomas, and sometimes bachelor degree programs. Their programs are usually taught by people working in the field of study they are teaching. Most college programs are more hands-on and practical in nature and prepares students for the work environment after graduation.

A university college is a degree-granting institution that provides university-level coursework but does not have full or independent university status. A university college is often part of a larger university. For example: King's University College and Brescia University College are a part of Western University. They have their own programs, separate facilities and teaching staff, however the degree that is granted is from Western University.

3. What are campuses?

Many universities and colleges have more than one campus. Campuses are different locations of the same school, however the programs offered are different. For example, the University of Toronto has 3 campuses, St. George, Scarborough, and Mississauga. Students live and attend classes at their chosen campus. The programs offered at each campus are different, however the degree granted is the same, they all come from the University of Toronto, and there is no mention of campus.

Students in one campus may be able to select courses in another campus if it is approved and necessary.

Other examples of campuses are:

Wilfrid Laurier has two campuses: the main campus is in Waterloo, Ontario, while their second campus is in Brantford, Ontario. The programs offered are different, however graduates from both campuses will receive a degree from Wilfrid Laurier University.

➤ General Program Information

4. What is the "Co-op", "Practicum" and "Internship"?

They are all "hands-on" learning opportunities gained through direct experience.

Co-op education is an educational system that allows students to combine academic studies and practical work experience in their field of study to **earn credit** toward a degree. There is no extra pay for the co-op program. Co-op education programs vary widely in how and when you apply to them, how the university implements them, and how you obtain a practical work placement once enrolled.

Practicum is a component of a university/college course that consists of unpaid **supervised** practical work.

Internship is a program that provides hands-on work experience in an occupation or profession, often a component of an educational program. It is a **temporary position** that may be **paid or unpaid, part-time or full-time**.

5. What is the relationship between "Subject of Major Interest" and the degree program?

A subject of major interest is a specialization within a general degree program. For example, a university might have a degree called "Arts", but through that program, you could potentially

study a number of subjects of major interest, including History, Drama, Economics, English, French, Sociology, Philosophy, etc. Usually you will be asked to choose your "subject of major interest" when you apply for the general degree program. You will take the majority of your school credits in that major.

6. What are the differences between finance and economics program?

Finance is typically run through the Faculty of Business, whereas Economics is usually run through the Bachelor of Arts. Finance is more business related, economics is more the theories of economics, with applications beyond Business.

7. Which program in a business school is less competitive?

Every program in the School of Business have the same competitiveness. Since students are going into the Business program, there are a certain number of seats for all Business students, no matter what major/program they go into.

➤ **Program Requirements**

8. What are the differences between "grade range" and "grade cut-off"?

The grade range is a general guideline based on a program's admission average in the previous academic year. This range varies by university each year, according to the number and quality of applicants. It is not a cut-off point. If fewer students apply to a given program this year, the grade range will likely decrease, and vice-versa if more students apply.

A grade cut-off refers to the academic average required for admission to a program. The cut-off varies by university each year, according to the number and quality of applicants.

9. Would the university be interested in the Grade 11 grades?

Yes, in some cases, universities will consider your Grade 11 U/M marks for early offers of admission, where Grade 12 U/M marks are incomplete or not available.

British Columbia schools will look at Grade 10-12 grades.

US schools will look at Grade 9-12 grades.

10. What should I do if universities I applied ask for a reference?

If a reference is required, usually the university will ask you to provide the contact information of one or two referees who know you well and can comment on your preparedness for study in the university.

Examples of referees include an employer, a community member, a coach, a teacher/instructor, or anyone who knows you well or be able to speak to any of your achievement, extra-curriculum activities/experiences. Referees should be a friend, family member, or paid agent.

Please make sure you contact your referees and ask their permission before providing their contact information. In most cases, the university will contact your referees directly, send them the link where they can go through to complete your reference.

There are no Canadian schools that require a reference to write a general reference letter. For US and UK applications, references will be required to write their statements within the CommonApp or UCAS website.

11. What is the supplementary application task? Is this important for my application? What can I do to successfully complete all those tasks?

Some programs may ask you to complete supplementary application tasks, such as, personal statement, video interview, written sample, or resume. The purpose of those tasks is to know more about you in many other aspects, except academic performance seen from your marks.

This is important for your application, and you should be well prepared. Before doing those tasks, think more about yourself, your strengths, achievement, personalities, interests, activities or experience you joined and what you have gained from them. Be specific and involve more specific examples or detail and provide enough contexts and information. Be accurate and try to avoid mistakes in grammar or spelling and sentence structure.

➤ **English Language Requirement**

12. Do universities/colleges prefer IELTS than TOEFL Test? Which one do I need take?

Both IELTS and TOEFL test's results are accepted by universities in Canada (may need to check the specific requirements for each program). There is no preference of these two tests, if you can satisfy the English language requirement of each program which you applied for. Just choose to take the one you can achieve higher score.

13. When and how can students send their English Language Test results?

Please check the "English Proficiency Test Submission Deadline" in the Rosedale University Catalogue file. Students MUST submit an English Proficiency Test Score by that deadline, even if the score does not reach the requirement.

If the student's score is still too low, but their OSSD scores are high enough, they will receive a conditional offer for the university's ESL program. Following completion of the ESL program, the student can go into the academic program immediately.

The student can keep trying to meet the English Proficiency requirements after submitting their original score. If their new score is higher, then they can send the new score to the school (even if after the deadline), and the school may take away the ESL program requirement.

However, students MUST submit at least one IELTS/TOEFL score by the deadline. Schools will not look at a student's application without seeing any IELTS/TOEFL score.

The English Proficiency scores need to be sent through test center. Most schools will not accept the test report sent by students themselves.

14. What kind of students need to go to ESL programs at universities? How to apply for the university's ESL program?

Students who have satisfied the academic admission requirement but cannot satisfy the English Language requirement need to complete the ESL program and improve their academic English skills before study in the undergraduate program.

Please check the “Rosedale-ESL Bridging Canadian” to see more detail information about each Academic ESL program in Canada, including program description, length, tuition, requirement, how to apply, etc.

For many of the schools, it's an automatic conditional offer into the ESL program, so you do not need a separate application. For others, the school will send you the application after they give the student an offer based on their academic marks. The only ones where you need to apply to the ESL program as a separate program directly through OUAC is UofT, Queen's and Ryerson. Most ESL programs (UBC included) have much later dates to submit ESL specific applications. However, if you have students who want to go to UBC but needs ESL, they should apply for Vantage One as soon as possible.

➤ **OUAC Application**

15. How many universities and programs can I choose to apply to on my OUAC application?

You may apply to as many Ontario universities/programs as you wish; however, you are limited to a maximum of 3 program choices at any 1 university (including affiliates).

Some universities may further limit the number of programs you may apply to. For example, Students can only apply for one program at each faculty (like Faculty of Arts and Science) in University of Toronto. Make sure that you carefully read the details and instructions offered by each institution.

16. The university is asking me for my OUAC Reference Number. Where do I find this?

You will receive the OUAC Reference Number after you successfully submitted your OUAC application. Normally, the OUAC Reference Number contains 10 digits, beginning with the current year (4 digits) followed by 6 digits (e.g., 20XX999999). If a university asks for your 11-digit OUAC Reference Number, please add a 0 (zero) at the end of your 10-digit number (e.g., 20XX9999990).

Universities outside of Ontario, like UBC, McGill University and University of Victoria, may ask applicants to provide their OUAC Reference Number to connect their applications to OUAC, and collect students' academic records in Ontario high schools from their OUAC account.