

Education in Canada

Canadian education is known throughout the world because of its standards, innovative teaching methods, and individual attention given to each student.

Many students of different nationalities choose Canada to complete one or two semesters.

Students may choose which communities and schools they would like to live in and attend (subject to availability). Both public and private schools follow a curriculum established by each province.

All Canadian secondary schools uphold a high standard of education. Any student graduating from any secondary school in Canada is eligible for entrance into any college or university program in Canada, the U.S. or abroad, depending on the academic success of the student.

PROVINCIAL DIFFERENCES

The educational system is autonomous in each province; therefore educational policies vary across the country. There is no federal Ministry of Education in Canada.

PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Schools are divided between private and public. There may be differences from province to province, as Catholics in Ontario have “public” schools whereas in British Columbia, Catholic schools are private and students pay a fee to attend.

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Christian Schools exist across Canada and are private and fee paying.

Many of these schools require the students to be Christian, but there are some exceptions.

Please contact Red Leaf for more information.

Note re French instruction:

All English schools in Canada offer instruction in French. Students who wish to study French in a Canadian high school must be able to enter the course of the appropriate grade level. Those wishing to enter a purely French school or a French Immersion course must have strong French-language skills.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Public schools are managed by the school board of each municipality or region. In addition to a nondenominational school board, some provinces also have Catholic school boards which run government supported schools. In each school board, taxpayers, parents, students and teachers work together to attain the best possible management and control of the system.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FEES

While public schools are free of charge for Canadian students, the fees that foreign students pay to attend them are set by each school board. These fees are waived only if one of their students has been provided a free space in another country's school system.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

The main objective of most private schools is to prepare students for university. They offer a more personalized education with a reduced number of students per class. The relationship between students and teachers is a closer one than in most public schools, and school policies are strictly enforced. Private schools also run excellent extracurricular activities and sports programs. They are increasingly popular due to the particularly high standards that they offer. As each school sets up and follows its own policies, Christian schools, non-religious schools and other special schools can be found in the private educational sector.

PRIVATE SCHOOL FEES

Private schools are not subsidized by the government and they obtain their budget solely through the fees that students pay. Thus their fees tend to be higher than public schools. A uniform is usually required and students must purchase their books in the private educational sector.

SCHOOL PLACEMENT

Red Leaf chooses public and private Canadian schools that might be called “typical” in that none of them are limited by offering only a special type of course (for example, a special arts or sports program). We may also call them typical in the sense that the student will find there a student body largely made up of Canadians with a small percentage of foreign students. Red Leaf does not refer students to “visa schools”, which are Canadian high schools that exist almost entirely to provide foreign students with a Canadian high school diploma entitling them to enter university in Canada.

ACADEMIC YEAR SCHEDULE AND HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Depending on the province, the course begins in late August (Alberta and Quebec) or early September (Ontario and British Columbia) and ends in late June. Canadian schools have two holiday periods, one during Christmas, which is from approximately December 20 to January 3 or 4, and the second one, which is in February or March and lasts one to two weeks. At holiday times, students in homestays may stay in Canada or may return to their countries if they prefer. Boarding schools usually require students to leave the school during holiday periods.