

THE EASY GUIDE TO CANADIAN UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS



ABOUT HALE

Hale Education Group is the leading independent educational consulting firm in the GCC focusing on US university admissions. We provide college admissions counseling to Emirati and international students seeking admission to the full spectrum of US universities and colleges. Our innovative model has evolved from our deep background and broad experience in admissions counseling in the United States. We center our services on providing intensive one-on-one counseling and guidance to students in every aspect of US college admissions, based on the philosophy of finding the right "fit." Hale's mission is to guide and empower students seeking to realize their maximum personal, academic, and professional potential through the pursuit of American and Canadian higher education.

To learn more about our team of counselors, please visit:

www.haleeducation.com

We abide by ethical practices, meaning no commission-based deals with universities and no placement fees. Working exclusively in the interests of students is our core value.



ADMISSION STATISTICS 2023

120+
Canadian University
Acceptances

Over
\$500k
in Canada Merit
Scholarships



McGill
UNIVERSITY



Western



University of
Waterloo



HALE SCHOLARSHIPS



B
BROWN



Yale

Over
\$55 million
in merit scholarships

D
DARTMOUTH

NYU

Over \$10 million+ in merit scholarships in 2023 alone




COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY



UCLA

MIT Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

S
Stanford
University

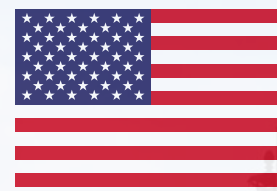
WHY CANADA?

Reputations & Ranking:

Applying to Canadian universities is a wonderful option for students keen to pursue a four year undergraduate education, seek academic flexibility and excellence, and secure a pathway towards permanent residency and citizenship.

Comparatively speaking, leading Canadian universities are much easier to secure acceptance to than top American Universities. This is because Canadian universities are larger and enrollment-driven, meaning while acceptance rates are higher, so are dropout rates.

ACCEPTANCES & RANKING



52%



43%



3%



10%



46%



10%

University of
Waterloo



63%



Western
58%



3%



50%

Affordable Course Fees and Living Costs in Canada

Tuition fees in Canada are affordable, given the quality of education and typically favorable CAD/USD exchange rates. Qualified students can also apply for a range of scholarships to mitigate educational expenses. The cost of living in Canada varies in each province, but is generally lower than that of most US cities/states.

Multiculturalism and Diversity

Canada champions diversity and inclusion. 500,000 immigrants relocate to Canada annually and approximately 25% of Canada's population is comprised of immigrants. 5% of all Canadians claim Indian heritage and there are significant populations of Arabic speakers from North Africa and the Levant.



Co-operative Education (Co-op) in Canada

Co-operative education, often known as Co-op education in Canada, is a program that allows students to integrate paid work experience into the academic curriculum. Students who are on a co-op program typically alternate between four months of studying and four months working full-time. It's a great way for students to apply theoretical lessons they learn in the classroom to practical professional experiences - and hopefully secure a permanent position with their employer after graduation. Almost all post-secondary universities offer Co-op as part of the academic curriculum.

Some of the most popular universities for Co-op programs are:

- **University of Waterloo** - University of Waterloo is one of the largest and most established Co-Op universities in Canada. The university is ranked #1 in Canada for experiential learning and building better student-teacher relationships.
- **UBC** - One of Canada's "Big Three" universities, students can avail of Co-Op experiences in Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities - not just Business, Sciences, and Engineering.



Residency and Citizenship Opportunities

Unlike the UK and the US, Canada offers direct pathways to international university students to secure permanent residency and citizenship to graduates.

Canada offers a post-graduation work permit program that allows students to stay and work in the country. A post-graduation work permit cannot be legal for longer than the student's study program. This opportunity allows international students graduating from a college/university to gain Canadian work experience.



Canadian Geography

While Canada is the world's second largest country by landmass, it is also one of the least densely populated countries in the world, with a population of 39 Million (9% that of the US). It is split into ten semi-autonomous provinces, four of which are most relevant for international students:

- **Ontario** is Canada's most populous province, located in the eastern part of the country (though not on the coast). It is home to numerous popular universities, such as the University of Toronto, University of Waterloo, Queen's University, and McMaster University.
- **Quebec** is Canada's second-most populous province, located on the country's east coast with its regional capital in the bilingual city of Montreal. Quebec's most famous universities include the predominantly anglophone McGill University and Concordia University, as well as the francophone Université de Montréal.
- **British Columbia** the country's third-most populous province, located on the country's west coast. Boasting a wet, comparatively temperate climate and outdoorsy culture not unlike that of the US' Pacific Northwest region where the University of British Columbia's main campus is located.
- **Alberta** located directly to the east of British Columbia, the most populous of Canada's so-called "Prairie Provinces" (named because of their midwestern location and sprawling plains).

Prominent Canadian Universities

While Canadian university rankings are just as subjective and volatile as those of US universities, the ten following universities are generally regarded as the best in the country. Listed in no particular order (outside of the University of Toronto, McGill University, and the University of British Columbia, which are near-universally regarded as the “Big Three” of Canada):



University of Toronto (Toronto, Ontario)

Main campus is located in the heart of Toronto (known as the St. George campus), with satellite campuses located in Mississauga and Scarborough (both Toronto suburbs).

Strong Programs: Engineering, Computer Science, Business, Economics, Literature, Social Sciences - quite strong across the board.

Additional Notes:

U of T has a number of different residential colleges that students must rank in order of preference upon application - make sure that students research this before the OUAC application is submitted!

Learn more about each of the residence colleges [here](#). Note that some of the residence colleges require separate applications with essays and other materials, though not all do.

U of T Engineering is famous for its challenging weed-out courses; prospective engineers who will struggle in an intense academic environment should beware, as while acceptance rates to these programs are high, so are the relative drop-out rates.

Boasts a strong co-op program

UTSC (Scarborough) has a really strong Management Co-op program and a good program for International Development

UTM (Mississauga) has strong options for students interested in the sciences

Students can cross register in classes across all 3 campuses so they are not limited by their main campus and when applying, they can apply to more than one campus and will receive separate admissions decisions for each one.

McGill University (Montreal, Quebec)

Located centrally in Montreal - no satellite campuses

Strong Programs: Political Science, Economics, Medicine, Neurology, Psychology, Engineering (particularly Electrical and Biomedical), History, Mathematics, Social Sciences/Humanities generally speaking

Additional Notes:

Despite Montreal being a bilingual city, the vast majority of McGill's courses are conducted in English.

University of British Columbia (Vancouver, British Columbia)

Main campus is located in Vancouver, with a satellite campus in Okanagan

Strong Programs: Biology, Agriculture, Engineering, Psychology, Computer Science, Geography, Political Science, Education, Business

Additional Notes:

UBC has offered Hale students fairly substantial merit aid in the past.



University of Waterloo (Waterloo, Ontario)

Strong Programs: Computer Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Software Development,

Additional Notes:

Very strong co-op program - a great option for STEM-oriented students

University of Calgary (Calgary, Alberta)

Strong Programs: Petroleum Engineering, Geology, Biology, Business, Energy, Kinesiology

McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario)

Strong Programs: Health Sciences, Life Sciences, Medicine, Biology, Nursing, Computer Science

Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario)

Strong Programs: Business, Mineral Engineering, Education, Medicine



Additionally, prominent mid-tier Canadian universities include the following:

Concordia University (Montreal, Quebec)

Strong Programs: Business, Engineering, Digital Arts

York University (Toronto, Ontario)

Strong Programs: Business, Computer Science, Engineering, and Humanities programs

Toronto Metropolitan University PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS RYERSON (Toronto, Ontario)

Strong Programs: Business, Architecture, Fashion

Simon Fraser University (Burnaby, British Columbia)

Strong Programs: Business, Kinesiology

Dalhousie University (Halifax, Nova Scotia)

Strong Programs: Architecture, Psychology

Application Process

Application Process for Canadian Universities

Compared to the US system, the Canadian university application process is significantly more decentralized. The closest equivalent to the Common App that Canada uses is the **Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC)**, a universal application for Ontario universities; universities outside of Ontario, however, will all have their own institutional applications that will need to be submitted separately.

*Other portals to keep in mind: Education Planner, Apply Alberta
Most Canadian universities (with the notable exception of UBC) require students to submit application requirements and information in two separate 'applications'.



The initial application form is typically quite basic; the student will be asked basic information about themselves and the program(s) they want to pursue at the university in question, but they will not have to complete any essays, extracurricular lists, etc. After paying the application fee and submitting the initial application, the student will then receive an online applicant portal for the university.

That portal will contain a checklist of documents that the student must submit to the university (transcripts, test scores, video interviews etc.), and will also contain any essays or additional forms/requirements that the student must complete. After all the items on the university checklist have been completed and updated by the student/counselor on the portal, the counselor should follow directions on the portal for how to proceed.

Second Choice/Backup Programs

Most Canadian universities allow students to list down a second program/choice when applying. Counselors should recommend their students to put down a less competitive program to increase their chances of acceptance. There is no additional application fee/process required. Both programs are reflected on the portal and students can receive acceptance for both of their choices.

*Counselors should ensure that all supplements required for the second program are also completed before the deadline.

Academic Requirements for Canadian Universities

The Components:

Compared to their American counterparts, Canadian universities have relatively minimal application requirements for prospective students; in most cases, they have fewer essay requirements, do not ask for recommendation letters or references, and do not weigh extracurricular involvement as heavily in their admissions decision.

Personal Statement:

Unlike the Common Application, there is no universal personal statement for Canadian universities. It is common for students to not have to write any supplemental essays for Canadian universities, though this will vary depending on the university and program that the student is applying to. The essay prompts that students do have to answer are often relatively short (roughly 200-250 words) and straightforward, asking questions typical of supplemental essays at American institutions.

Examples of when essays appear in Canadian Applications:
Students who can generally expect to encounter some essays are those who are applying to programs including: Engineering, Business, Kinesiology, Architecture/Design, and Computer Science - though this varies by university. Similarly, at the University of Toronto, some residential colleges require essays as part of their entry requirements (Trinity College and Victoria College).

Interviews:

Some Canadian universities (namely UBC and the University of Toronto for select programs) will ask students to conduct a video interview as part of their application. This "interview" will often not require the student to speak with an interviewer in real time, but rather will give the student the opportunity to record video responses to questions.

Portfolios:

Students applying to Architecture, Design, Fashion, and Fine Arts programs will have to submit a portfolio along with their application, similar to US universities. In most cases, this will be accompanied by a Statement of Interest / Letter of Intent. Usually, portfolios are submitted through SlideRoom (similar to US universities) but some universities - like TMU - require the portfolio as a PDF.

Official Transcripts:

The student's high school will often, though not always, have to submit official transcripts for universities' consideration. In order to confirm which documents the university requires from the student and school, the counselor and student should do a thorough scan of all the student's Canadian university applicant portals. Some universities will allow students to upload unofficial transcripts directly into the portal. Students should check what is required and review their transcripts with their school counselor before uploading them.

Academic Requirements for Canadian Universities

Letters of Recommendation:

UBC requires students to list 2 recommenders admissions might contact; Concordia has an optional letter of recommendation; Western Ivey Business School requires 2 references listed as recommenders; but generally, Canadian universities do not require letters of recommendation.

Standardized Testing and Canadian Universities:

SAT/ACT & TOEFL/IELTS

Canadian universities will only require SAT/ACT scores from students who are applying from American curriculum schools (whether those schools are located in the US or abroad). Students in other curricula can submit their SAT/ACT scores if they feel that their scores are strong enough to bolster their applications.

**Exception - The University of Calgary only requires SAT / ACT scores for students in an American curriculum who are also studying in America.*

Students with non-anglophone passports will also need to submit TOEFL/IELTS scores with the rest of their application materials, regardless of the curriculum of their school. Similarly to American universities, the student should aim to score at least 100 on the TOEFL.

**** With the exception of UBC, almost all Canadian universities accept the Duolingo English Test. Most students still prefer doing IELTS/TOEFL, however, Duolingo is the cheapest and easiest.***

Deadlines



Key Deadlines:

- January 12 - UBC Application Deadline
- January 15 - University of Toronto Deadline
- January 15 - McGill University Deadline
- January 21 - McGill Scholarship Deadline
- March 1 - McGill document submissions Deadline
- March 15 - UBC document submissions Deadline
- November 7th - UofT Early Application
- December 15th - UofT Early Submission (Rotman, Comp Sci, Engineering)

For more information, please contact

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