



Guide for IB students applying to Canadian institutions

This guide provides a brief introduction to the Canadian higher education system and its application process, as well as information specifically relevant to IB students applying to Canadian institutions from outside of Canada.

The Canadian context

Throughout Canada's 10 provinces and 3 territories, there are 98 higher education institutions. Rather than having a centralized federal higher education system, each province and territory has its own distinct education system.

Public and private

There are public and private institutions throughout Canada, however the majority of universities are public institutions. Most public institutions have province-wide admissions requirements, whereas private institutions do not need to follow provincial or territorial admissions requirements. Both public and private institutions might offer one or several types of degrees and programmes.

Public institutions receive most of their funding from the provincial, territorial and/or federal government, making them generally less expensive to attend than private institutions. Because of the high number of faculty research grants, public institutions tend to have large departments offering a variety of degrees.

Private institutions receive the majority or entirety of their funding from alumni donations, faculty research grants and tuition fees. This makes them more expensive to attend, but allows for more resources available to students.

Bachelor's degrees

Bachelor's degrees can be obtained at many higher education institutions and are completed in three or four years of full-time study, depending on the province and whether the programme is general or specialized. Some students might complete an honours bachelor's degree, which indicates a higher level of concentration within the subject as well as a higher standard of academic achievement.

Liberal arts education

Liberal arts programs offer courses in the arts, humanities, languages, mathematics and social and physical sciences, and they aim to cultivate general intellectual capacities. When obtaining a bachelor's degree in the liberal arts, students will specialize in their chosen programme (also known as a major or subject), but will also receive generalized education across the spectrum of courses.

Vocational education and community colleges

Canada also has professional, technical or vocational institutions, as well as community colleges (often referred to as just "colleges"), which tend to provide more specialized courses of study.

Colleges are government-regulated institutions offering various degrees, including pre-professional certificates, two-year associate's degrees and, in some cases, four-year specialized bachelor's degrees. There are more than 150 colleges in Canada, with approximately 900,000 full-time and 1.5 million part-time students. With this option, students can graduate from college and be prepared for a career or transfer to a four-year institution to get a bachelor's degree. Colleges tend to be less expensive than other types of institutions. As college faculty generally do not conduct research, there is a stronger emphasis on teaching, but there are fewer research opportunities for students.

Accreditation

Canada does not have an accreditation system that assesses the quality of higher education institutions, although some provinces have charters or legislation that serves as a substitute. Without a national system, however, you should verify that your degree is recognized in the specific province to which you are applying.

University rankings

There is no official ranking system for higher education institutions in Canada, but there are independent bodies that conduct subjective rankings annually. Canadian universities are commonly ranked among the highest globally. For example, the QS World University Rankings 2014/15 listed five Canadian universities among the top 100 universities in the world.

Applying to Canadian universities

Who to contact

There is no centralized application procedure for Canadian institutions; students apply to each institution individually. While some provinces have general admissions requirements for their public institutions, each institution will outline the requirements on its website, alongside any additional requirements for that specific school.

The exception is the province of Ontario, which uses a standardized application system to the public institutions in that province; the [Ontario Universities' Application Centre](#) allows students, including international students, to submit one application that is sent to their chosen institutions in Ontario.

Choosing an area of study

While many institutions allow students to study a variety of subjects, most application processes require students to choose a programme or area of study that is intended to be their focus throughout their education. Specific programmes or faculties within a university might have their own admissions requirements, which may include additional application materials or specific grade or IB score requirements. Because of this, it is important for students to focus on their academic performance and search for institutions that match their interests and level of academic rigour.

The application

There is no national university entrance exam, and each institution has its own admissions standards and evaluation process. Most applications can be completed online, and most institutions require biographical information, education background (including transcripts, IB predicted grades, and IB final grades when available) and intended area of study. Some universities might ask for letters of recommendation, personal essays or test scores, so students should find out what an application will require well in advance of the application deadline.

Timeline

It is important to check the application deadline for each institution, as deadlines may vary, but many are in December or January. Some institutions have a rolling admissions process, which means that there might not be a strict application deadline. Decisions from a university might be sent out as early as three weeks after the application is received, or they may take several months. Some institutions offer conditional acceptances, and when final grades and/or IB scores are sent, the offer is either rescinded or made official.

Information for IB students

Many Canadian higher education institutions offer benefits to IB students. Benefits are determined by each institution individually, but might include credit for certain IB scores, scholarships or tuition assistance. Some universities allow IB students to enter their institution as second-year students, meaning the undergraduate education will be three years instead of four.

Students taking Diploma Programme (DP) courses but not the full diploma might be able to receive credit from institutions for individual courses, but policy is also determined by each institution, and sometimes each individual programme or faculty within the institution. Most institutions indicate their IB recognition policy on their website.

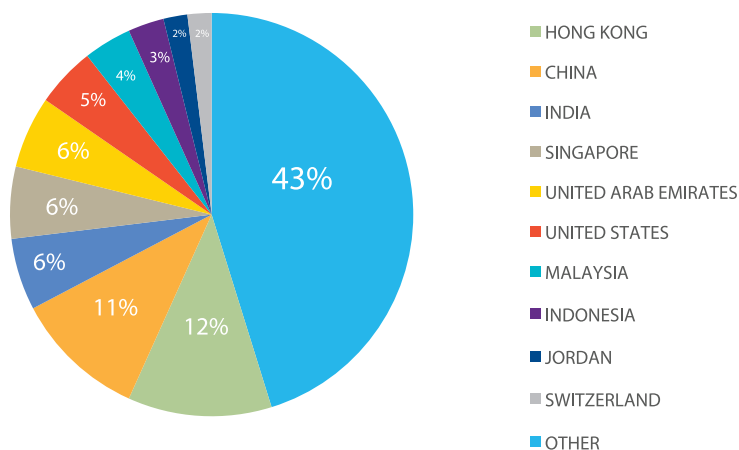
Anticipated grades

It is important to note that the admissions cycle in Canada takes place before IB students even sit exams. Thus, most admissions decisions are based in part on the student's anticipated grades submitted by the school. If a student's final IB scores are significantly below the anticipated grades submitted by the school, it is possible for the university to withdraw its offer. As such, it is vital that teachers and schools report students' anticipated grades as accurately as possible. This is not only important for students' futures, but if a school consistently inflates anticipated grades, it may tarnish that school's reputation with the university.

Who sends transcripts to Canada?

In 2014, 3,440 IB students from schools in 115 countries outside of Canada sent 4,832 transcripts to 102 Canadian institutions, an average of 1.4 transcripts per student. This average suggests that more than half of students only send transcripts to a single institution.

Most common source of transcripts coming into Canada



Where do IB students send transcripts?

The 10 institutions that received the largest number of IB transcripts in 2014 account for nearly 80% of all transcripts sent to Canada¹. All 10 are public institutions, and 9 of the 10 are ranked among the top 500 by QS World University Ranking². Three are ranked in the top 50.

¹For this analysis we combined all campuses and faculties under a single institution.

²<http://www.topuniversities.com/qs-world-university-rankings>



Information on the 10 institutions that received the most transcripts from international IB students³

CARLETON UNIVERSITY		
General admissions information⁴		
Students pursuing the full IB diploma, three standard level (SL) and three higher level (HL) subjects, are required to have a minimum of 28 points (please note that some programmes are more competitive, so will require higher scores). One subject may have a grade of 3, provided it is offset by a grade of 5 or better in another subject. Prerequisite subjects must have a grade of 4 or better. Specific programmes might have additional course requirements.	Total undergraduate enrollment⁵	22k
	Overall acceptance rate⁶	73%
	Global ranking⁷	501–550
	Average DP score⁸	31
Credit and advanced standing		
Students may be awarded advanced standing (transfer) credit for HL subjects with a grade of 5 or better, subject to the discretion of the appropriate faculty to a maximum of 3.0 credits.		
Additional considerations		
For programmes requiring HL or SL English A, HL English B will also be accepted with a minimum grade of 5.		

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY		
General admissions information		
Candidates who complete the full IB diploma with a minimum total of 27 points may be considered for admission to the three-year (90 credits) programmes of study (four years of study in the BEng, BA (Early Childhood and Elementary Education), BEd (TESL), BSc in Athletic Therapy, and BFA (Specialization in Art Education)). Minimum scores in prerequisite subjects as well as a higher overall average may be required for competitive programmes.	Total undergraduate enrollment	25k
	Overall acceptance rate	71%
	Global ranking	411–420
	Average DP score	31
Credit and advanced standing		
Students who have not completed the full IB Diploma Programme but have IB certificates in individual HL subjects may be eligible for credit.		
Additional considerations		
The Group 1 English courses (Language A: Literature, Language A: Language and literature, or Literature and performance) (HL or SL) meet English proficiency requirements.		

³These institutions are listed in alphabetical order, and inclusion here does not necessarily indicate that these institutions have the most generous or appropriate offerings for IB students.

⁴Whenever possible, language taken directly from the university website.

⁵<http://www.topuniversities.com/universities>

⁶Whenever possible, taken directly from the university website. This rate is for the institution overall and is not specific to IB students.

⁷<http://www.topuniversities.com/qs-world-university-rankings>

⁸Based on all overseas full diploma transcripts sent directly to the institution by the IB in 2014. Not all students who send transcripts necessarily go on to enroll at the institution. Does not include retakes.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

General admissions information

DP students must present predicted results of 5 or better in each HL and SL subject as well as school grades during the IB programme that support the predictions. Most programmes will have higher minimum requirements. In addition, students may be required to submit:

- proof of proficiency in English
- placement tests in mathematics and basic sciences
- supporting documentation (that is, official transcripts, external test results, letters of reference or evaluation, extenuating circumstances).

Total undergraduate enrollment	22k
Overall acceptance rate	49%
Global ranking	24
Average DP score	36

Credit and advanced standing

A maximum of 30 credits of advanced standing may be granted for the IB diploma based on HL results of 5 or better.

Additional considerations

Math studies SL is not acceptable for programmes where math is a prerequisite.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

General admissions information

IB diploma candidates must:

- complete the full IB diploma with passes in six subjects with three at HL and a minimum grade total of 28 (excluding bonus points)
- satisfy all admission criteria, including prerequisite courses, for the desired programme
- present a competitive score for the desired programme
- complete and submit a personal statement of experience and supplementary essay.

Total undergraduate enrollment	18k
Overall acceptance rate	42%
Global ranking	206
Average DP score	33

Credit and advanced standing

Students in all faculties and schools may be granted a maximum of 18.0 credit units for HL IB courses completed with a final grade of 5 or higher (6 or higher for some engineering courses).



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

General admissions information

Simon Fraser University welcomes IB students from around the world! Our IB students are studying in almost every area at the university, and participating in cooperative education placements all across Canada and in other countries around the world. IB diploma holders with total predicted IB points in the high 20s, including bonus points, will qualify for early conditional admission to most programmes. To be considered for admission, you must meet the English language admission requirement and the quantitative and analytical skills requirement.

Total undergraduate enrollment	22k
Overall acceptance rate	60%
Global ranking	225
Average DP score	31

Credit and advanced standing

Transfer credit is awarded for all SL and HL subjects passed with a grade of 4 or higher.

Additional considerations

Completion of DP English A1/A2 or English literature and performance (HL or SL) with a minimum grade of 3 satisfies English language requirements.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

General admissions information

For standard English language admissions, successful completion of the IB diploma with a minimum score of 24 points, including at least three HL courses, as well as additional points for the core, is required. Additional programme-specific requirements.

Total undergraduate enrollment	40k
Overall acceptance rate	64%
Global ranking	50
Average DP score	33

Credit and advanced standing

All HL and some SL IB courses will be considered for first-year credit.

Additional considerations

Where English is the primary language of instruction, English A (SL or HL) is required with a minimum score of 3.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

General admissions information

The IB diploma including English HL or SL is accepted for admissions. Prerequisite courses can be presented at either SL or HL. Different areas of study require different predicted scores (more competitive programmes require a higher predicted score).

Total undergraduate enrollment	54k
Overall acceptance rate	69%
Global ranking	34
Average DP score	34

Credit and advanced standing

Credit is granted for HL subjects with a minimum grade of 5.

Additional considerations

To demonstrate English language proficiency: The minimum requirement is a score of at least 4 (predicted or final) in HL or SL English A: Literature or English A: Language and literature. English B HL is not acceptable.

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

General admissions information

The University of Waterloo recognizes IB courses as excellent academic preparation for success at the university level. Subjects that are prerequisites for admission to specific programmes should be at HL whenever possible. Where there are more than 3 prerequisite subjects, SL courses will be accepted. For programmes listing HL or SL English A, HL English B with a minimum grade of 5 will be acceptable. For programmes listing HL or SL mathematics, mathematical studies will not be accepted.

Total undergraduate enrollment	29k
Overall acceptance rate	53%
Global ranking	152
Average DP score	33

Credit and advanced standing

The University of Waterloo will consider awarding transfer credits for individual HL IB courses in which normally a minimum final grade of 5 is attained. The maximum number of transfer credits considered varies depending on the programme you're admitted to. Transfer credits will normally be weighted as 1.0 units each (equivalent to 2 courses).

Additional considerations

Transfer credit will be considered for the completion of the theory of knowledge and the extended essay with a minimum grade of B (Good) in both. Waterloo equivalent transfer credit is PHIL 1XX (1.0 units).

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO–WESTERN UNIVERSITY

General admissions information

The minimal requirements for admission of IB candidates are as follows:

1. successful completion of the International Baccalaureate
2. pass in a minimum of six subjects of which at least three must be at HL
3. a grade total of 28 including additional points for the successful completion of the extended essay and theory of knowledge
4. no mark can be less than four.

Total undergraduate enrollment	23k
Overall acceptance rate	31%
Global ranking	192
Average DP score	33

Credit and advanced standing

IB applicants who meet Western's admission criteria are eligible for transfer credit consideration for each HL subject with a score of 5 or higher

General admissions information

IB diploma with passes in six subjects: three SL courses and three HL courses, OR two SL courses and four HL courses. Minimum IB diploma point scores of 30 or higher recommended (scores of 28 will be considered). Specific programmes might have additional course requirements.

Total undergraduate enrollment	42k
Overall acceptance rate	~80%
Global ranking	441–450
Average DP score	31

Credit and advanced standing

Transfer credit granted for IB courses with HL final grades of 5 or better, depending on the programme (maximum of 30 credits).



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