

# An Indian student's guide to Study in Canada



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## Overview

Canada is one of the top destinations for students looking to study abroad. Apart from a number of world-class institutions, Canada offers a high-quality standard of living and growing career opportunities in almost every field. It's no surprise then that year after year, the number of Indian students going to Canada has increased exponentially. In 2020, the country issued over 1.3 lakh study permits to Indian students! Safe to say, if you're looking to do your masters degree abroad, Canada is one of the best places to be. And [LeapScholar](#) is your best partner for pursuing your dream to Study in Canada.



## Why study in Canada?

### World-class universities & colleges

The quality of a Canadian education is more than comparable to that in the United States, United Kingdom or Europe.

3 canadian universities - feature in the **Top 50** of the QS World Universities Rankings 2020.



University of Toronto



McGill University



University of British  
Columbia

Additionally 14 more Canadian universities feature in the **Top 500** World Universities.

The Canadian government places great emphasis on education, which can be seen in the quality of both public and private institutions in the country. Cutting-edge research in fields such as medicine, artificial intelligence, pharmaceuticals attracts some of the world's best researchers and faculty.

## Affordable tuition fees and living expenses

The cost of tuition and living expenses are considerably lower in Canada than the United States, Australia or United Kingdom.

	Canada	USA
2-year Masters Programme	20 - 23 Lakhs INR	45 Lakhs INR
1-year PG Diploma	11 - 15 Lakhs INR	Not available

## Work while you study

The ability to work while studying is one of Canada's biggest selling points to international students.

During School	During Holidays
20 hours / week Part time	30+ hours / week Full-time



If you work while studying in Canada, you can easily pay for your own living expenses - and most Indian students in Canada work alongside college.

## Multicultural society with high quality of life



Canada has a unique culture that embraces diversity and multiculturalism. The Canadian people and government are very welcoming to immigrants. Canada is also consistently ranked #1 in the world for Quality of Life. It is a safe, peaceful country with a vibrant culture.

## Pathway to Permanent Residency (PR)

Canadian policies for international students are very pro-immigration. Students are awarded a Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) for up to 3 years. They can use this work experience to qualify for permanent residency in Canada. It has one of the most welcoming immigration policies in the world.

## Types of courses in Canada and top institutions

While 'university' and 'college' are generally used interchangeably in most of the world, the two are very different types of educational institutions in Canada.

**90+ Universities**

**130+ Colleges**

**11,000+ Degree Programmes**

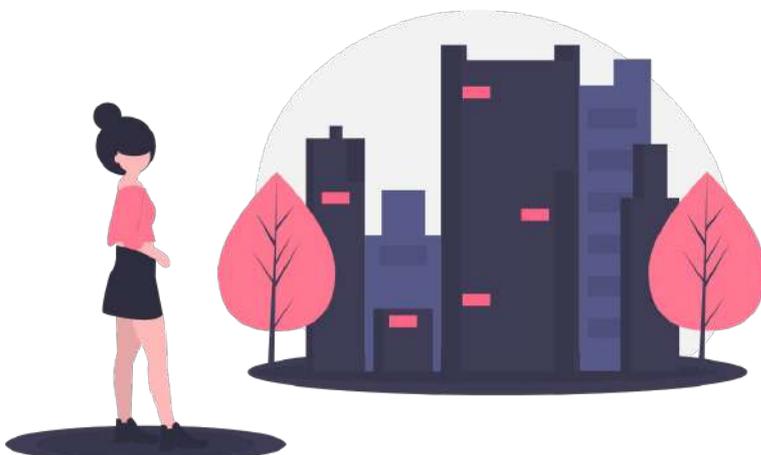
### Universities

[LeapScholar](#) is partnered with all the top universities of Canada, such as University of Alberta, McGill University and University of Toronto. International students can apply for both Bachelors degree and Masters degree at these universities. Bachelors programs are typically of three or four years duration, and Masters programs are typically of two years duration.

### Colleges

Canada has over 130 colleges. They focus more on applied and technical education. Students who complete programs at colleges receive a diploma, not a degree. After completing Bachelors degrees, international students can apply for postgraduate diplomas at Canadian colleges, which can be one to two years in duration. Leap Scholar has the largest partner network of over 100+ Canadian colleges, including Seneca College, Centennial College and Bow Valley College.

The Canadian education system is flexible - after completion of one postgraduate diploma, students can opt for another one-year diploma. The fees at colleges are generally lower than that of universities in Canada. Moreover, students do not need to submit a Statement of Purpose (SoP) or Letters of Recommendation (LOR) for application to colleges. The postgraduate diploma program is extremely popular among international students in Canada.



## Top Universities in Canada

University of Toronto	McMaster University
McGill University	University of Waterloo
University of British Columbia	Western University
Universite de Montreal	Queen's University
University of Alberta	University of Calgary

## Top Colleges in Canada

Humber College	Vanier College
Seneca College	Southern Alberta Technology Center
George Brown College	Bow Valley College
The Algonquin College	Red River College
Centennial College	Nova Scotia Community College
Selkirk College	College of New Caledonia
Fanshawe College	

[LeapScholar](#) is partnered with all the top Canadian colleges and universities, and can help in your applications to these institutions.



## Requirements for studying in Canada

A student must have completed 12th grade in India to be eligible for admission to a three or four year Bachelor's degree program in Canada. There are no centralized Canada wide entrance tests, each institute sets its own admission standards and assesses the qualifications of each applicant individually. The main factors that the admissions committee focuses on are past academic performance and proficiency in English. In case you want to pursue a specialised course such as engineering you may be required to have taken related subjects in your 12th grade. Depending on whether you want to study a Masters program or a Postgraduate Diploma, the entry requirements can vary. 16 years of education is a must for Masters, and for both the courses IELTS results are very important. Leap Scholar guides students wishing to pursue any course in Canada to pick the right university/college suited to their profile and needs.

Depending on whether you want to study a Bachelors program, a Masters program or a Diploma, the entry requirements can vary.

### Academic Requirements

Programs	Entry Requirements
Bachelor's Degree/Undergraduate Diploma	12 years of full-time education Good academic performance
Masters Degree	16 years of full-time education 65% and above in Bachelor's degree
Postgraduate Diploma	15 years of full-time education 50-55% and above in Bachelor's degree

### English Language Requirements

In order to get an admit to a university/college, and also for the student visa, it is compulsory to give an English language proficiency test such as IELTS or TOEFL or DuoLingo.

However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, several Canadian universities and colleges have made an exception - they are giving conditional admission offers on the basis of the Duolingo test. This is an online English test, it only costs \$49 and you get the results within 2 days. LeapScholar can help you with which universities are accepting Duolingo tests, and guide you with applying for these courses.

For Degree and Diploma Programs	
IELTS	Minimum overall score of 6.5, with no individual band less than 6.0
TOEFL	Minimum score is between 70-90 based on institute



## Canadian student visa

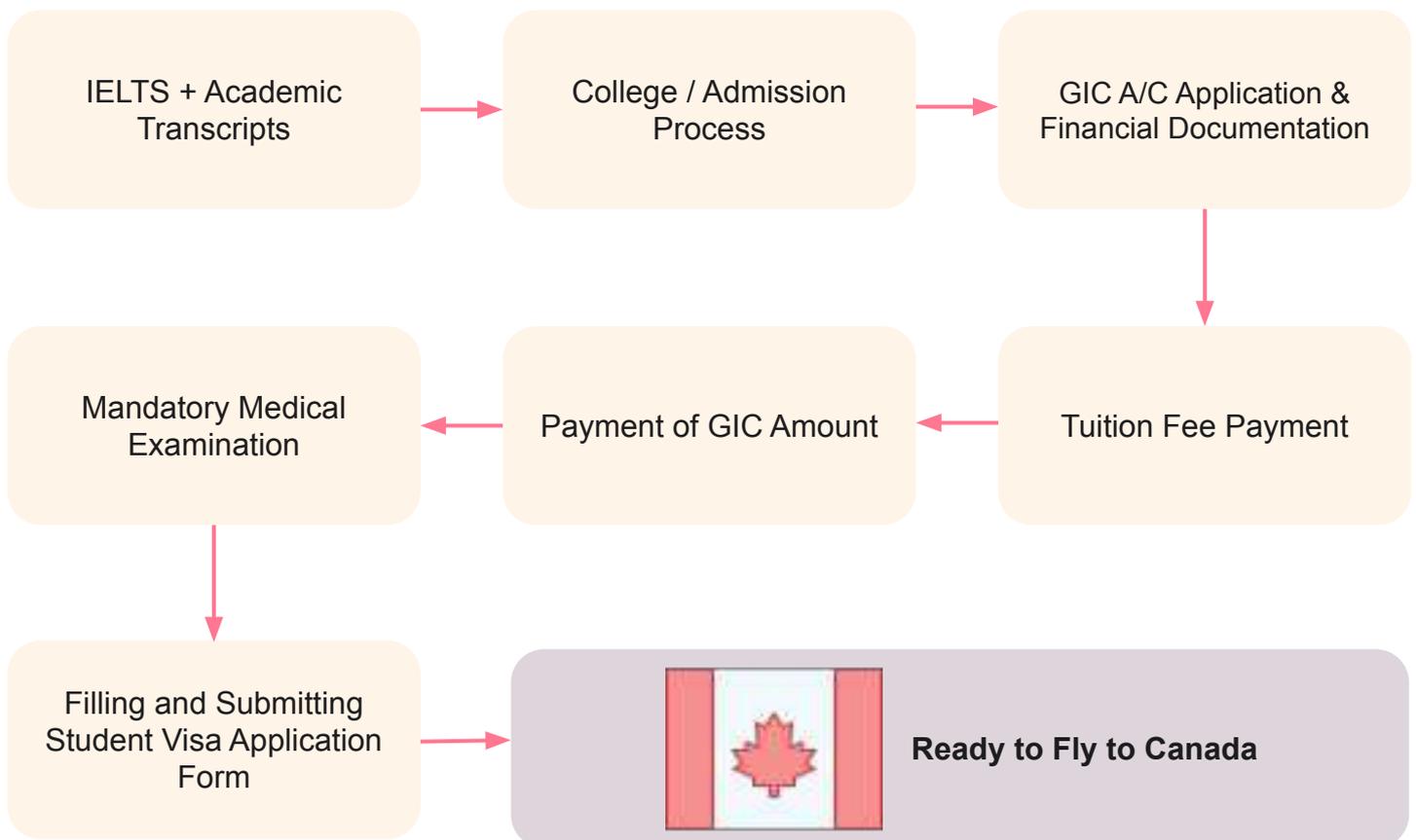
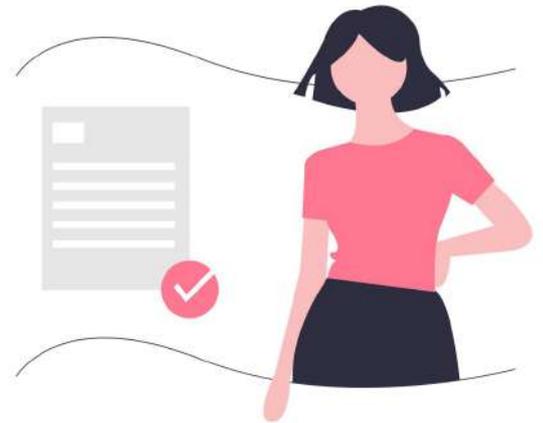
To gain entry into Canada and study there, each international student requires a study permit and student visa. You can apply for the study permit and visa once you have received an offer of admission from a Canadian university/college and paid the tuition deposit. Leap Scholar offers end-to-end support to all students for the student permit and visa procedure.

### Student Direct Stream (SDS)

It can take 90-120 days to receive a Canadian student visa. However, for Indian students, there is a special visa application process called **Student Direct Stream (SDS)**. Under the SDS, visa processing time is only 20 days. Students applying for SDS must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Admission to a full-time study program at a Designated Learning Institute (DLI)
- IELTS score of 6.5 overall with a minimum band of 6 for each individual ability (Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking), taken within the last two years
- Purchase of a Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC) of \$10,000 CAD to cover living expenses for first year of stay in Canada
- Proof of payment of tuition fee for one year
- Medical exam at least one week before submission of the visa application

LeapScholar offers guidance to all their students for obtaining a visa under the SDS scheme.



# Work while studying in Canada

Canada has extremely student-friendly work policies. Working while you're studying not only gives you an additional income, it also gives you exposure to Canadian corporate life and adds to your professional growth. Any international student holding a study permit and pursuing an education course at a Designated Learning Institute (DLI) is permitted to work in Canada.

Students can work part-time for up to 20 hours per week during regular academic sessions, and full-time in the holidays such as summer break, Christmas holidays etc. Students can get on-campus employment, off-campus jobs, co-op programs and internships.

## On-campus Employment

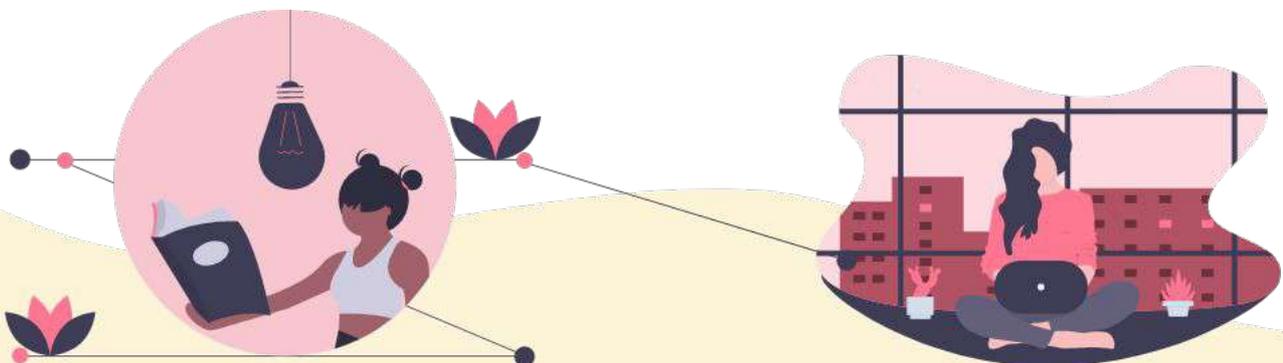
International students can work on-campus in any of the various buildings and offices on their university/college premises.

## Off-campus jobs

Students can join the Canadian workforce as part-time employees, in keeping with the rules of their study permit.

## Co-op programs and internships

Many study programs in Canada include a semester or two of work experience in the course, which is known as co-op programs or internships. This allows students to gain valuable first-hand experience of working in their preferred industry. Co-op programs are mostly paid, while internships may be unpaid as well.



## After graduation - Pathways to permanent residency

After spending a few years studying in Canada, many international students decide that they want to move to Canada permanently. Thanks to Canada's pro-immigration policies, there are many pathways for international students to attain Permanent Residency (PR).

Students who have completed a one year Postgraduate Diploma in Canada, are eligible for a Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) of one year. They can also enroll for a second year of Postgraduate Diploma, which offers them additional duration of the permit. Students who have completed a two-year program are eligible for a 3 year Post-Graduation Work Permit. Likewise, students who have completed any course of a duration of more than 2 years are also eligible for a 3 year Post-Graduation Work Permit.

### The duration of Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP)

Program Duration	PGWP Duration
2 years or more	3 years
1 year	1 year
16 months	1 year (you can get a 3 year PGWP as well, it depends on the discretion of the immigration officer)

### What happens after the Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) expires?

A job holder in Canada is eligible to apply for an extension of PGWP. The application must be done at least 90 days prior to the expiration date and the applicant must also hold a valid passport for the same. You may refer to [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca) for the rules in details.

Also after the completion of PGWP, one may be eligible for Permanent Residency depending on the skills, job, and a few other factors. International students in Canada benefit when applying for Express Entry program for Canadian PR, they are eligible for up to 30 points thanks to their Canadian education.



# Get started on your application with Leap Scholar

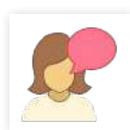
Your dream of studying in Canada is within reach with Leap Scholar.

We at Leap Scholar provide end-to-end guidance to help make your Canadian dream come true. Our team of expert, experienced counsellors work along with successful student mentors currently studying in top Canadian universities to give you the best personalised counselling experience.

## The Leap Scholar Advantage



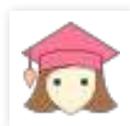
Understanding your requirements



Counselling you through the entire process



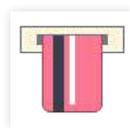
Guiding you on IELTS/Duolingo training



Ensuring you get a successful admission



Finding the right course and college



Providing you the best education loans, forex cards and bank accounts in Canada



Collecting all the necessary documents



Supporting you through the Visa application process



Filling in your college application



Preparing you for your move to Canada

[Sign-up now](#)

# Meet Our Team

## Our Counsellors



### Jaydeep Rege

Head Consultant  
MBA, Texas A&M University, USA.  
15 years of counselling experience

Over the past 15 years, I have worked with more than 2000 students helping them secure admissions to universities across the globe. It's been a wonderful and satisfying journey thus far. Seeing my students succeed in their careers is motivation enough to help others walk that same path.



### Soumita Sen

Consultant  
MBA in Human Resources and Marketing, IIPM Pune.  
10+ years of counseling experience

My expertise is into all round career counseling of which my main forte has been University Guidance. Over 10 years, I have counselled over 500 students for countries like the US, Canada, Australia, Germany, Singapore and UK. The cohort I have guided has students applying for Masters, Bachelors, PG Diploma and Vocational Education.

## Our Mentors

### Saif Razvi

Marketing Management - Humber College



The reason I've signed up to be a mentor is that I WISH there was something like this available when I was researching colleges in Canada. I nearly got scammed during the application process and I want you to avoid this as international education is becoming a big business but with bigger scams every day. I really believe that you can pick up some extremely valuable tips from someone who has been there and done that. Google can only take you so far.

## **Ramyasree Vedantham**

MS - Computer Science (Major - Artificial Intelligence), University of Montreal



Being a student now and having been in the shoes of many students out there, I can guide on the do's and don'ts in the overall process. I can also help my fellow mates with easy ways to get scholarships, looking for part time jobs and finding an accommodation by spending less money. I got help from my network during my application process and I think that it is the best way to give back by signing up as a mentor on Leap Scholar.

## **Kishore Kumar**

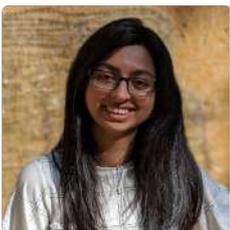
MS - Applied Computer Science, Concordia University



Since I had no mentors during my journey to Canada, I thought this is the best way to help aspiring students fulfill their dream of studying in Canada by helping them through LeapScholar. I am here to share my experience of applying to the best universities, working with professors, pursuing Masters in Computer Science, Living in Canada, Job opportunities and overall experience as an international student in Canada.

## **Rikita Lakhiani**

Professional Financial Services, Fanshawe College & Project Management, George Brown College



Having had the experience of studying in two different cities for my diplomas, I have decided to share my knowledge of applying to colleges, pursuing diplomas in Ontario, living in a small city vs big city, the job scenario, and the overall experience of being an international student in Canada via Leap Scholar.

## **Aneeka Afak**

Master of Management, Schulich School of Business of York University



It would've been so nice if I would've found something like this LeapScholar program. A mentor to guide you through and who'd walk along with you until you reach your goal – isn't that amazing! So, I decided to be a part of such an initiative designed to help you guys in so many ways possible. I'm more than happy to be a mentor for anyone who needs it.