CANADIAN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

- Canada's universities and colleges are well known for their **high standards and educational excellence.** This high level of quality is consistent right across Canada. There is no ranking amongst the Canadian universities.
- The educational system is **publicly funded.** In Canada, universities receive about 2/3 of their operating funds from government. Donations and tuition fees make up the rest.
- The higher education system is also **decentralized.** In Canada, education is the responsibility of the 10 provinces and 3 territories.
- Finally, the system is **diverse**, offering students a wide range of choices. Universities in Canada range from large urban, multi-campus and research-intensive universities to small liberal arts college, offering a wide range of undergraduate, graduate and professional programs.

TYPES OF DEGREES OFFERED

- Undergraduate programs leading to a bachelor's degree (3 to 4 years depending on the province).
- Master's degrees generally require at least one year of full-time studies including a thesis (a long essay based on original research), practicum or research paper.
- **Doctoral, or PhD degree.** Doctoral programs require a minimum of three years of full-time study.

RECOGNITION OF CANADIAN DEGREES

- Canadian university degrees are recognized around the world.
- Canada does not have an institutional accreditation process similar to that found in the U.S. The closest equivalent to accreditation is the appropriate provincial charter coupled with membership in the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). AUCC members offer academic programs of the highest quality, with a reputation that extends far beyond our borders.
- In addition, across Canada, provincial higher education bodies or government departments review and appraise all new university programs and monitor existing programs, usually on a 5 to 7 year cycle. This on-going quality assurance takes place at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- In addition, professional accrediting bodies (for example, in the fields of nursing, architecture, engineering) participate in the establishment and periodic review of curriculum standards and content.



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