



The global shift from resource-based to knowledge-based economies has resulted in a growing demand for education and training services all over the world. Mature and emerging economies alike recognize that a highly educated and trained workforce is one of a country's most important resources. Canada has gained international respect and admiration for the excellence of its educational system and training programs.

Canadians have always placed a premium on education. The percentage of adults who have received a college, technical or university education is higher in Canada than in most other member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), including the United States, the United Kingdom and France. Canada has made significant investments to prepare for a knowledge-based economy by creating an infrastructure supported by multi-dimensional educational content. Canadian education and training providers offer their international clientele high-quality education and state-of-the-art facilities.

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Education and training is not only an industry in itself but a significant component of other leading economic sectors including information and communication technologies, finance and banking, transportation, agriculture, energy and natural resources, health care, environment and aerospace.

Canadian universities are widely known and respected around the world as centres for leading-edge technical development and training, all of which offer top-quality programs and instruction in English or French, or in both languages.



Canada's community colleges, which provide training for specific careers, also offer excellent post-secondary education and training. Often, a course of study will emphasize technical skills coupled with hands-on experience. Many Canadian students now combine university degrees with college degrees to ensure they obtain the highest level of academic qualifications possible and specific training in a targeted employment area.

Learning is a lifetime occupation in Canada. Many Canadians undertake mid-career training through continuing education courses to upgrade their qualifications, acquire new professional skills and keep pace with technological changes and new workplace theories and practices. Canadian educational institutions and corporations offer courses specifically designed to meet the needs of a rapidly changing workforce and even more rapidly changing technology.

In 1999, there were 114 167 international students authorized to study in Canadian education and training institutions. International students who have studied in Canada speak highly of its safe and clean surroundings, high quality of instruction and state-of-the-art facilities.

Tuition fees for international students vary among institutions and programs of study, and in many cases are lower than in the United States and the United Kingdom.

