

An illustration at the top of the page shows several black graduation caps with gold tassels. Some caps are being held up by hands of various skin tones, while others are falling or floating in the air. The style is watercolor and artistic.

# Orientation to Ontario

## POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

### COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Colleges offer career-focused programs leading to jobs in technology, health, business, hospitality, tourism and other occupations. Certificate programs usually require one year of study. Diploma programs require two or three years of full-time study. For more information about Ontario colleges, visit [ontariocolleges.ca](http://ontariocolleges.ca)

Universities offer academic undergraduate (bachelor's) and graduate (master's and PhD) programs in arts and sciences, as well as professional programs in education, medicine, dentistry, law and engineering. For more information about Ontario universities, visit the Ontario Universities' Application Centre at [ouac.on.ca](http://ouac.on.ca)

### ADMISSION

Generally, a high school or secondary school diploma is required for admission to either a college or a university. If you did not graduate from high school, you may be able to apply as a mature student based on your experience. Mature students must be 19 years or older and a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

To learn about important dates for admission at universities, visit the Ontario Universities' Application Centre at [ontariocolleges.ca](http://ontariocolleges.ca) or [findlink.at/OnColleges](http://findlink.at/OnColleges)

Many school boards in Ontario offer free high school diploma programs for adults. Visit the website of your local school board for more information.

It is also possible to complete your secondary school diploma online. Visit the Independent Learning Centre at [ilc.org](http://ilc.org)

You may be able to get credit for courses you have completed at an overseas college or university. Every institution has its own evaluation process.

For more information about Ontario colleges and universities, visit the Ministry of Colleges and Universities: [ontario.ca](http://ontario.ca) or [findlink.at/findschool](http://findlink.at/findschool)

For information about French-language colleges and universities, visit the Ministry of Colleges and Universities at [ontario.ca](http://ontario.ca) or [findlink.at/Frenschool](http://findlink.at/Frenschool)

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Students at Ontario colleges and universities may be eligible for financial assistance from the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). For more information, visit [osap.gov.on.ca](http://osap.gov.on.ca)

The federal government also provides some funds through the Canada Student Loans program: [canlearn.ca](http://canlearn.ca)

1-855-626-0002

<https://settlement.org/o2o>

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## APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

An apprentice learns a skilled trade on the job, under the direction of experienced workers. As an apprentice, you are considered an employee and earn a salary. More than 150 skilled trades can be learned through apprenticeship training.

Learn more about apprenticeship training at [ontario.ca](http://ontario.ca) or [findlink.at/trades](http://findlink.at/trades)

Learn about the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program for high school students at [oyap.com](http://oyap.com)



### DID YOU KNOW?

*Private career colleges in Ontario are not regulated in the same way as public colleges, and they charge higher fees.*

*It is important to research all options carefully.*

