

Canada - Manitoba

STRUCTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Description:

Higher education in Canada is the constitutional responsibility of the provinces. The main types of institutions providing higher education in Manitoba are universities, university colleges and community colleges. The community colleges provide diverse technical and vocational programmes leading to a Certificate or Diploma, while the universities are degree-granting institutions. The one university college in the province offers degrees, certificates and diplomas. Colleges, university colleges and universities in Manitoba are independently-administered institutions with full autonomy on admissions and all other academic matters. The governing bodies of universities and the university college are a mixture of provincial and institutional representatives and the college boards are all composed of provincial representatives. In addition to the public post-secondary institutions and various government-supported re-employment, apprenticeship and other vocational programmes there are also numerous private vocational or career training institutions.

Stages of studies:

University level first stage: Bachelor's Degree

There are four public universities in Manitoba which offer undergraduate degree programmes; the University of Manitoba, the University of Winnipeg and Brandon University offer programmes in English, while the Collège universitaire de Saint Boniface is a French language institution. Most undergraduate study in Manitoba leads to a "General" Bachelor's Degree (minimum 3 years) or an "Honours" Degree (4 years and prescribed subject concentration). Degrees are normally titled in broad descriptive groups, e.g. B.A. and B.Sc. Universities also offer undergraduate Diplomas (1 2 years of study) and short (up to 1 year) Certificate programmes. Certificate programmes may enable entry to degree programmes and are frequently given in close cooperation with professional bodies. The undergraduate stage includes professional programmes that require no university level prerequisites such as the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) and the Bachelor of Commerce (B.Comm) and others that have prerequisite university studies such as the Bachelor of Law (LL.B) or a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.). In Manitoba, a Bachelor of Education degree is offered either as a five year concurrent programme or a two year after degree programme, which requires a three year undergraduate degree prior to entering the programme. Manitoba has one private religious university which receives public funds, the Canadian Mennonite University (CMU). CMU offers one certificate programme, as well as Bachelor's and Master's level degrees. Programmes offered include general Arts, Music and Theology. These programmes are accepted for university transfer where agreements exist with Manitoba universities. Graduates of CMU have gone on to complete graduate studies in Canada and internationally. In Manitoba, there are three partially funded private degree granting religious institutions; Providence College and Seminary, Steinbach Bible College and William and Catherine Booth College. These colleges are special purpose institutions which offer certificates, diplomas and degrees, as well as seminary studies. General Arts, Science and some Religion programmes are accepted for university transfer where agreements exist with Manitoba universities. Graduates of private religious colleges in Manitoba have gone on to complete graduate studies in Canada and internationally.

University level second stage: Master's degree

Most graduate work is done at the University of Manitoba, although Brandon University, Collège universitaire Saint Boniface and the University of Winnipeg offer a limited number of Master's programmes. The Master's Degree normally requires from one to two years' study after a four year Bachelor's Degree or an Honours Degree. A thesis or comprehensive examination is usually required in addition to course work. Examples are: M.A., M.Sc., M.Ed., M.B.A.

University level third stage: Doctorate

The Doctorate is the highest academic qualification awarded by Canadian universities and it comprises the third stage of university-level studies. This degree normally requires at least five years of study after the Bachelor's Degree; the submission and defence of a major thesis (dissertation) are the principal requirements, and

supplemental course work is usually also required. The degree “Doctor of Philosophy” (Ph.D.) is the designation most commonly used to signify the Doctorate. It is a generic title, applicable to degrees in most disciplines (the Doctorate should not be confused with certain first professional degrees in the Health Sciences, e.g. Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry). The University of Manitoba is the only doctoral degree-granting institution in Manitoba.

Distance higher education:

The University of Manitoba, the University of Winnipeg, Brandon University, Collège universitaire de Saint Boniface, Red River College, Assiniboine Community College and the University College of the North have been engaged in distance education learning programmes for many years. The three universities offer an Inter Universities North programme in Northern Manitoba, a programme that is coordinated by the University College of the North. Additionally, Campus Manitoba is a consortium of colleges and universities and UCN that offers degree programmes through distance technology to further expand accessibility to higher education for Manitobans in rural and remote areas.

ADMISSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Admission to non university higher education studies:

Alternatives to credentials: Institutions determine their own admissions policies and criteria. Admission to public colleges usually requires a Secondary School Diploma, although some courses are now requiring some post-secondary training for admission. Some institutions have mature student entry. The Prior Learning Assessment is in effect after a student is admitted.

Other requirements: Many provincially-supported institutions take students on a first come-first served basis.

Admission to university-level studies:

Alternatives to credentials: Universities set their own admissions policies and requirements. These do not involve separate entrance examinations, and usually include flexibility for mature students, i.e. applicants aged 21 or more, who have not completed secondary school.

Numerus clausus: Universities limit enrolment in professional programmes because of the number of allotted seats based on anticipated demand in the workforce as estimated by the professional bodies, e.g. Medicine. Percentage of students admitted varies with size of applicant pool. Order of preference: provincial residents, those of other provinces, and foreign students (in Medicine, about 25% of applicants across Canada are admitted).

Other requirements: Admission to some professional programmes (e.g. Medicine, Dentistry, Law) requires previous university education. Specific admission requirements may vary by field of study and by university and may include such factors as interviews and references.

Foreign students admission:

Definition of foreign student: Foreign (International) Students are students who are neither Canadian citizens nor permanent residents of Canada, and are enrolled full-time in a recognized academic, professional or vocational training course at a university, college or other educational institution in Canada.

Admission requirements: Institutions have their own policies on international students. The universities will accept international students on a pre-established list of high school equivalents. As well, students must provide proof of English language proficiency if the student’s first language is not English (or French if attending CUSB). This may be done through various internationally accepted tests. A lack of proficiency in English or French will also be taken into account by the Canadian Immigration Office in the evaluation of the application.

Entry regulations: Before you come to study in Canada, you will need: a “Study Permit” if the programme of study you will be admitted to is longer than six months in duration, regardless of the length of your stay in Canada; a letter of acceptance from the school of your choice; proof that you have enough money to pay school fees and living expenses; to establish that you will return home at the end of your studies; to pass a medical exam if required; and to qualify as a temporary resident in Canada, including holding a temporary resident visa (required for citizens of many countries). A small number of students do not require a Study Permit by virtue of their status in Canada (e.g. diplomats and their children).

Health requirements: Most education institutions require international students to buy health insurance in addition to their tuition fees; those that do not will require proof of independent health insurance coverage. Medical examinations are not required by institutions but are required by Citizenship and Immigration Canada for students from many countries.

RECOGNITION OF STUDIES

Special provisions for recognition:

Recognition for non-university level studies: Any restrictions on admission to provincially-supported institutes of technology and community colleges are determined by the institutions themselves, given available teaching and other resources, but in some instances are a result of government policy. For restricted programmes, priority is usually given to provincial residents first, other Canadian residents, then international students.

Recognition for university level studies: Universities establish their own admissions criteria and make their own admissions decisions in response to individual applications. Any restrictions on admission are determined by the institutions themselves, given available teaching and other resources, but in a few instances are a result of government policy. For restricted programmes, priority is usually given to provincial residents first, other Canadian residents, then international students.

For access to advanced studies and research: In general, none. However, some high cost, limited enrolment programmes, e.g. Medicine and Dentistry, limit enrolment to Canadian citizens.

For exercising a profession: For each profession, anyone who has not obtained their credentials within Canada must meet specified educational, experience and language requirements and pass registration examinations. A special programme gives immigrants who are foreign-trained professionals improved access to acquiring Canadian experience by creating new full-time positions in certain areas for up to one year.

PROVINCIAL BODIES

Manitoba Advanced Education and Literacy (Enseignement postsecondaire et Alphabétisation Manitoba)

Minister: Diane McGillord
162 Legislative Building
Canada
Tel: + 1(204) 945 0825
Fax: + 1(204) 948 2216
WWW: <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ael/index.html>

Council on Post-Secondary Education - COPSE (Conseil de l'Enseignement Postsecondaire)

Chairperson: James Allum
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