

Canada - New Brunswick

STRUCTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Description:

Higher education in Canada is the constitutional responsibility of the provinces. The two main types of institutions providing higher education are universities and a provincially-supported college system, which provides diverse technical and vocational programmes usually leading to a Certificate or Diploma. The former are degree-granting institutions, while the latter are not (though some offer university-level transfer courses). The governing bodies of the eleven New Brunswick Community Colleges include provincial government representatives. Besides various government-support pre-employment, apprenticeship and other vocational programmes, there are also about 64 private training organizations operating in New Brunswick (which are required to register under the Private Occupational Training Act). Universities are independently-administered institutions with full autonomy on admissions and all other academic matters. New Brunswick provides funding to four public universities. Private universities do not receive government funding. There are three not-for-profit private chartered institutions operating in the Province. In 2001, New Brunswick adopted the Degree Granting Act, allowing private for-profit institutions to confer university degrees. To date, four institutions; Lansbridge University, Yorkville University, University of Fredericton and Meritus University have been designated to confer specific degree programs.

Stages of studies:

University level first stage: Bachelor's Degree

Most undergraduate study 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. The first stage also includes undergraduate diplomas (1-3 years of study) and short (up to 1 year) special Certificate programmes; these may enable entry to degree programmes and are frequently given in close cooperation with professional bodies. In addition, the first stage includes other professional programmes that typically require no university-level prerequisites and 4 years of study, e.g. Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.Sc.N) and Bachelor of Commerce (B.Comm.) and also first- and second-year university transfer programmes offered by provincially-supported community colleges.

University level second stage: Master's Degree

The Master's Degree normally requires at least one year's study after an Honours Bachelor's Degree or equivalent. Some Master's programmes, e.g. in Business Administration, necessitate at least 2 years. A thesis is usually required, often course work as well. Examples are: M.A., M.Sc., M.Ed., M.B.A. Besides graduate level Diplomas (considered as intermediate between the Bachelor's or first professional degree and the Master's Degree), the second stage also includes first professional degree programmes requiring prerequisite university studies - followed by perhaps 3 years for a Bachelor of Law (LL.B.) or typically 2 years for a Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) while a few others normally require 4 years.

University level third stage: Doctorate Degree

The Doctorate is the highest qualification awarded by Canadian universities and (in all provinces except Quebec) it comprises the third stage of university-level studies. This degree normally requires at least 3 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). Universities may choose to allow a PhD graduate to pursue Post-Doctoral studies which do not lead to another degree and may be combined with entrance-level professorial responsibilities.

Distance higher education:

All universities and colleges in New Brunswick are currently offering distance education courses using various methods. Four private for-profit degree-granting institutions operate completely online.

ADMISSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Admission to non university higher education studies:

Alternatives to credentials: Adult High Diploma and Certificate of High School Equivalency (GED).

Numerus clausus: Enrolment is limited to the number of seats available. When there are more students than seats, a selection process occurs. It consists of academic performance in English, maths and other subjects that are prerequisites for the programme. Some programmes have special requirements, i.e. applicants must submit proof of a satisfactory medical exam; demonstrate 2nd language proficiency. The admission age for academic upgrading programmes is 18.

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.

Quotas: There is a quota applied at institutional and state level.

Admission requirements: Generally, as for domestic students, a high school diploma or equivalent will be required.

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 for 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.

Language requirements: A lack of proficiency in English or French will be taken into account by the Canadian immigration office in the evaluation of the application.

RECOGNITION OF STUDIES

Quality assurance system:

All four public universities consider possible transfer credit for applicable coursework completed at New Brunswick community colleges. However, the transfer potential of many college programmes is limited by their vocational and specialized character.

Special provisions for recognition:

Recognition for non-university level studies: In general none. 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. Priority is given to province residents first, other Canadian residents, then foreign students.

Recognition for university level studies: In general none. 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. Priority is usually given to provincial residents first, other Canadian residents, then foreign students.

For access to advanced studies and research: In general none. However, if in some high cost or limited enrolment programmes, e.g. Law and Education, qualified applicants outnumber available enrolment capacity, then most universities will establish special admissions committees and provide for proportionately more Canadians than foreign applicants to be admitted.

For exercising a profession: In general none. For each profession, both Canadians and non-Canadians who studied abroad have to meet specified educational and experience requirements, and usually pass registration examinations. Non-Canadians may sometimes also need to pass language tests. Access to most professions is governed by provincial and/or federal statutes and is restricted to Canadian citizens or immigrants accepted as permanent residents. In addition to professional studies, applicants must also meet examination and/or practical training requirements set by the relevant professional body.

PROVINCIAL BODIES

Department of Education / Ministère de l'Éducation

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Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour (Ministère de l'Éducation post-secondaire, Formation et Travail)

Minister: Donald Arseneault
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Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (Commission de l'Enseignement supérieur des Provinces maritimes)

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Role of national body: Advisory body to assist the three Maritime provinces (N.B., N.S., P.E.I.) and institutions in achieving a more efficient and effective utilization of resources.

Data for academic year: 2008-2009

Source: IAU from The Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC), a unit of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), on behalf of the Province of New Brunswick, 2008