

# Canada - Newfoundland & Labrador

## STRUCTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

### Description:

Higher education in Canada is the constitutional responsibility of the provinces. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the institutions providing higher education are the provincially-supported Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN, categorized as a comprehensive university), and the College of the North Atlantic (CNA), which provides diverse technical and career-oriented certificate, apprenticeship and diploma programmes. As an affiliate of MUN, the Marine Institute (MI) provides training in all aspects of fisheries and marine technology. MUN is a full degree-granting institution, while CNA is not (although it does offer university-level transfer courses). MUN is an autonomous institution largely dependent on government for funding, whereas CNA is more closely tied to government given its history, nature of programming, and strong rural presence. Besides MUN and CNA, there are also 26 provincially-registered private training institutions which also provide technical and career-oriented certificates and diplomas.

### Stages of studies:

#### *University level first stage: Bachelor's Degree*

Most undergraduate study leads to a "General" (Pass) Bachelor's degree (4 years of full-time study) or an "Honours" degree (additional year) as well as professional degrees in areas such as Business Administration, Engineering, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Social Work. Degrees are normally titled in broad descriptive groups, e.g. B.A., B.Sc., B.N. The first stage also includes undergraduate Diplomas (1-3 years of study) and short (up to 1 year) special Certificate programmes. The Fisheries and Marine Institute offers Bachelor's degrees in Maritime Studies and Technology, and a Master's degree in Maritime Studies. In addition, first-year university transfer courses are offered by CNA.

#### *University level second stage: Master's Degree*

The Master's Degree normally requires at least one year's study after a Bachelor's (Honours) Degree or equivalent. Some Master's programmes, e.g. Business Administration, necessitate at least two years. A thesis is usually required supplemented by course work. 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 (e.g. Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)).

#### *University level third stage: Doctorate Degree*

The Doctorate is the highest academic 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 three years of study after the Master's degree; the submission and defence of a major thesis (dissertation); along with supplemental course work. The degree "Doctor of Philosophy" (Ph.D.) is the designation that is 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).

#### *Distance higher education:*

Through the Telemedicine and Educational Technology Resource Agency (TETRA), MUN employs state of the art technology including telewriters and satellite links to serve the Province's scattered population. A variety of credit and non credit courses are available from MUN using distance techniques and technology. Distance Education and Learning Technologies (DELT) at MUN is one of the largest providers of distance education among Canadian comprehensive universities offering distance programming in degree areas such as business, education, health and maritime studies. Website address: <http://www.distance.mun.ca/> .

Each year learners from more than 250 communities in the Province access over 200 CNA credit courses online through the Distributed Learning Service (DLS). Several complete diploma and certificate programmes are available in this format and many courses have credit transfer status with other colleges and universities.

The Distributed Learning Service is also a provider of customized e learning solutions to organizations and educational institutions worldwide. Website address: <http://dls.cna.nl.ca>.

The Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation (CDLI) established by the Department of Education increases learning opportunities and career options for students, particularly those in small and isolated schools by developing and delivering e learning programmes and services for students and teachers. In 2008/09, e teachers are delivering 43 distance education courses to students. Website address: <http://www.cdli.ca>.

## ADMISSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION

### Admission to non university higher education studies:

*Alternatives to credentials:* Institutions determine their own admissions policies. The College of the North Atlantic recognizes other types of credentials including Basic Training for Skills Development (BTSD), Adult Basic Education Level III Certificate, and General Education Development (GED) Test.

*Numerus clausus:* Enrolment in each program at the College of the North Atlantic is restricted to the number of seats available.

*Other requirements:* Applicants must meet the College's entrance requirements for the program as set out in the particular program. For most college programs, the entrance requirement is graduation from a secondary school with certain programs requiring achievement in specific subject areas. Proof of proficiency in the language of instruction.

### Admission to university-level studies:

*Alternatives to credentials:* Secondary School Diploma. Alternatives: Memorial University sets admission policies and requirements for various categories of applicants including local high school students; high schools students from other Canadian provinces and abroad; mature students (aged 21 or more); Adult Basic Education (ABE) students; senior citizens (aged 60 or more); and transfer students.

*Numerus clausus:* There is a numerus clausus at institutional level.

*Other requirements:* At least 70% overall average in select high school courses. Proof of proficiency in the language of instruction.

### 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:* Neither MUN nor CNA set quotas for international students. Students are advised that admission to certain professional programmes (e.g. MUN Pharmacy) is highly competitive and selective. In some cases, priority is given to applicants who are bona fide residents of Newfoundland and Labrador.

*Admission requirements:* Generally, as for domestic students, a high school diploma or equivalent will be required. A lack of proficiency in English or French will 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.

*Language requirements:* Both MUN and CNA require the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) - minimum mark is 550 (written) or 213 (computer-based).

## RECOGNITION OF STUDIES

### Quality assurance system:

MUN: Before making a regulation providing for a new course of study or a change in an existing course of study, the Senate will refer to the appropriate faculty council and appropriate faculty of affiliated colleges or institutions for consideration. University programmes are accredited and reviewed by accrediting bodies where appropriate.

CNA: The Board of Governors must assess the education and training needs of the Province and of the region in respect of which CNA is responsible for providing educational services, as those needs are perceived by community committees, local organizations, private citizens or other groups.

MUN and CNA have agreements that enable students to obtain transfer credit for some courses offered at both institutions. Transfer of credits is considered on an individual basis and is subject to appropriate departmental evaluations and institutional regulations. Both MUN and CNA award credit for courses completed at other recognized post-secondary institutions in Canada and abroad.

### Special provisions for recognition:

*For exercising a profession:* Access to most professions is governed by provincial and/or federal statutes and, in some cases, may be restricted to Canadian citizens or permanent residents. Applicants must also meet examination and/or practical training requirements set by the relevant professional body or provincial or federal licensing board.

## PROVINCIAL BODIES

### Department of Education

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*Role of national body:* Responsible for providing education to all its citizens from pre-school to post-secondary and beyond. At the post-secondary level, the Department administers the Acts governing post-secondary education in the Province. The Department also supports the internationalization of the post-secondary education sector.

*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 Newfoundland and Labrador, 2008