

Canada - Prince Edward Island

STRUCTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Description:

Higher education in Canada is the constitutional responsibility of the provinces. The two main institutions providing higher education on PEI are the University of Prince Edward Island and Holland College; the latter provides diverse technical and vocational programmes usually leading to a Certificate or Diploma. The University, independently administered with full autonomy on admissions and all other academic matters, offers mainly undergraduate degrees, and houses the regional Atlantic Veterinary College. UPEI does offer post-graduate studies in Education, Science, Biology and Chemistry with the Master of Education in Leadership and Learning, the Master of Science in Biology and the Master of Science in Chemistry programmes having recently been added to its delivery options. The Atlantic Veterinary College provides undergraduate, graduate and continuing education in the field of Veterinary Medicine. Holland College provides different technical and vocational programmes usually leading to a Certificate or Diploma. The governing body of Holland College includes provincial government representatives. Besides various government pre-employment, apprenticeship and vocational programmes, there are also some 20 private vocational or career training colleges registered with the PEI Department of Education. French post-secondary education programmes are delivered through la Société Educative.

Stages of studies:

University level first stage: Bachelor's Degree

Most undergraduate study leads to a General (Pass) Bachelor's Degree (minimum three years) or an Honours Degree (four 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 one 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 four years of study, e.g. Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.Sc.N.), and Bachelor of Commerce (B.Comm.) and Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.), as well as first and second year university transfer programmes offered by provincially-supported community colleges. The courses offered by the University of Prince Edward Island lead to degrees in Arts, Science, Business Administration, Education, Music, Veterinary Medicine and Nursing.

University level second stage: Master's Degree

In 1999, UPEI was granted the authority to offer graduate level degrees. Since then, a Master of Education in Leadership and Learning (M.Ed), a Master of Science in Biology and a Master of Science in Chemistry have been added to its offerings. In addition to the above mentioned programmes, UPEI offers a Master of Science (M.Sc.) programme through the Atlantic Veterinary College (which also primarily serves the other three Atlantic provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland, as well as international students). The first class was accepted in 1986 and about 50 students are admitted each year. The M.Sc. Degree normally requires two years of training after an appropriate first degree.

University level third stage: Ph.D. Degree

The only Ph.D.-level programme offered by the University of Prince Edward Island is in Veterinary Medicine. Following the completion of the four-year Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), some students continue on to also complete a Masters degree or PhD in Veterinary Medicine. The DVM programme, while often considered at doctoral level, is an initial degree programme and is provided through the Atlantic Veterinary College, which serves (primarily) the other three Atlantic Provinces.

Distance higher education:

UPEI, Holland College, Mount St. Vincent, and College Acadie offer some skills-based training through distance and open learning formats.

ADMISSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Admission to non university higher education studies:

Alternatives to credentials: Admission to Holland College usually requires a high school graduation diploma with the appropriate mix of courses, but this may sometimes be changed to admit mature students. Prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR) is used when appropriate.

Other requirements: Holland College tries to select a proportionally equitable mix of men and women among qualified applicants, especially to programmes with limited admissions. Private Training Schools normally require a high school diploma or specific high school credits or a GED (General Educational Development) certificate which serves as an equivalent to a high school diploma. Prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR) is used when appropriate.

Admission to university-level studies:

Alternatives to credentials: The University of PEI sets its own admission 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. Prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR) is used by a few institutions and GED (General Education Diploma) is generally recognized for admittance to certain institutions and for apprenticeship training.

Other requirements: Admission to university programmes usually includes attaining a certain average in high school and completion of certain academic subjects, besides holding a Gr. 12 certificate. Admission to some professional programmes (e.g. Medicine) requires previous university education. Specific admission requirements may vary by field of study and by university (and may include 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.

Quotas: There are quotas at the institutional level for some programmes.

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. UPEI: International students must submit documents which prove that their qualifications are comparable to Canadian applicants. High school admission requirements include: successful completion of final examinations with an overall average of at least 65% or a standing of A, B, or C in at least five subjects. For BA, BBA: English, Mathematics, and three acceptable academic electives; for BSc: English, Mathematics, two Sciences and one acceptable academic elective. There are special requirements for Nursing, Education, Radiography, and Veterinary Medicine programmes. The same subject cannot be counted more than once when taken at more than one level (Advanced or Ordinary level). Students must have 12 years of elementary and secondary education and Senior Secondary Certificate, Higher School Certificate or matriculation as defined by home institution. Students are usually required to pass one of the following English language proficiency tests with a score at or above the acceptable minimum. TOEFL: 550 minimum on paper based test, or 213 minimum on computer based test; MELAB: 80 minimum; IELTS: 6,5 minimum - with a minimum of 6.0 in each category; and Can TEST: 4.5 minimum.

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.

RECOGNITION OF STUDIES

Quality assurance system:

The University of Prince Edward Island grants transfer credit for course work completed at Holland College to graduates of the Atlantic Tourism and Hospitality Institute. This articulated programme provides students with the opportunity to receive a Post-Diploma Degree from the University of P.E.I. The Bachelor of Business Administration in Hospitality is designed to combine an industry-focused education at the Institute with a broadened management education.

Special provisions for recognition:

Recognition for non-university level studies: In general, none. Holland College: To be considered for admission, the candidate must meet the programme prerequisites and have proficiency in the English language to meet the demands of the programme. Candidates must have a General Certificate of Education with five 'senior' level passes, two of which must be English and Mathematics or a 550 minimum score on TOEFL or senior level in their academic system. Applications for admission are to be accompanied by a transcript of education and two letters of reference.

Any restrictions on admission to Holland College are determined by the College given available teaching and other resources, but in some instances are a result of government policy. Priority is usually given to provincial residents first, other Canadian residents, then foreign students.

Recognition for university level studies: In general, none. The University of PEI establishes its own admission criteria and makes decisions in response to individual applications. Any restrictions on admission are determined by the University, 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: Admission to the Atlantic Veterinary College (which has only postgraduate programmes) at the University of Prince Edward Island is mainly restricted to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of the four Atlantic provinces (New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island). However, there is a quota set for international students each year.

For exercising a profession: In general, none. For each profession, both Canadian 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 a language test. Access to most professions is governed by provincial and/or federal statutes and is restricted to Canadian citizens or immigrants accepted as permanent residents. Usually, applicants must also meet examination and/or practical training requirements set by the relevant professional body or provincial or federal licensing board.

PROVINCIAL BODIES

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Data for academic year: 2008-2009

Source: 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 Prince Edward Island, 2008