

# Canada - Quebec

## STRUCTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

### Description:

Higher education in Canada, as well as primary, secondary, vocational or technical education, are the constitutional responsibility of the provinces. In Quebec, higher education is delivered by two main types of institutions: universities and colleges. There are 18 universities organized as follows: 3 English-speaking degree granting universities (McGill, Concordia and Bishop's); 7 French-speaking degree granting universities (Laval, Montréal, Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal, HEC-Montréal, Sherbrooke, Université du Québec, Université du Québec à Montréal as associate university) and 8 other institutions related to the Université du Québec hereby located in the main cities of the province (Université du Québec à Rimouski, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, Université du Québec en Outaouais, Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Ecole nationale d'administration publique, Ecole de technologie supérieure, Institut national de la recherche scientifique). Except for the Université du Québec, created by an Act of the National Assembly of Quebec, each other institution has a private charter. Although the Quebec government provides a major portion of their funding, these institutions operate independently in all academic matters (admission, programmes of study, evaluation, management, staffing ...). The Collèges d'enseignement général et professionnel (CEGEP) are offering two different types of programmes: 2 years pre-university programmes leading to university and 3 years technical programmes mainly for entry into the labour market. There are 48 public CEGEPs (43 French-speaking and 5 English-speaking) located in large and medium cities of the province. There are also 25 private subsidized institutions under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Leisure and Sports (18 French-speaking; 3 English-speaking; and 4 French-English-speaking). Some institutions are under the responsibility of other Ministries such as Music Conservatories, or Agricultural Institutes. The programmes offered by these institutions are approved by the Ministry of Education, Leisure and Sports. There are also 32 private colleges under licence of the Ministry of Education, Leisure and Sports.

### Stages of studies:

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

In Quebec, the undergraduate university level usually leads to a Bachelor's Degree after 3 or 4 years of study (teacher education, engineering, medicine). A Bachelor programme can include a Major and one Minor or a choice of 3 certificates. Universities also offer short programmes, recognized by an undergraduate Certificate.

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

In Quebec, the graduate university level usually leads to a master's degree normally requiring 2 years of study after a Baccalauréat and a dissertation. Universities also offer short programmes (a year) recognized by a Diplôme d'études supérieures spécialisées (DESS). Graduate students include medical residents whose clinical training period may vary by specialty (min. 2 years).

#### *University level third stage: Ph.D / Doctorate*

Post-graduate studies lead to a PhD, requiring 3 years of study after the Master's degree and the submission of a major thesis (doctoral dissertation).

#### *Distance higher education:*

Some colleges and universities offer distance courses and programmes of study as part of their general education mandate. Furthermore, the University of Quebec is offering online only programmes through the Télé-université (TELUQ) at all three university levels; since October 2005, Télé-université has been integrated to the Université du Québec à Montréal. At the same time, a consortium of colleges has created [cegep@-distance](#).

## ADMISSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION

### Admission to non university higher education studies:

*Name of secondary school credential required:* Diplôme d'études secondaires

*Alternatives to credentials:* Admission based on the pertinence of the applicant's life experience and general knowledge, evaluated by the establishment in question, is possible. In this case, acquisition of a secondary school diploma is not necessary.

*Numerus clausus:* In Applied Ecology, Inventory and Research in Biology, Natural Environment, Nursing, Police, Social Work, Leisure Studies and Adult Education.

*Other requirements:* Certain courses, in particular Science and Maths courses, must be completed successfully for entry to some college programmes.

### Admission to university-level studies:

*Name of secondary school credential required:* Diplôme d'études collégiales

*Alternatives to credentials:* Universities set their 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. Quebec universities have introduced "prior learning assessments" (PLA) in considering admission to some degree programmes.

*Numerus clausus:* Universities decree numerus clausus in some programmes, mainly in the health sector. In medicine, a numerus clausus is decided by the Government, including a quota for foreign students.

### 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:* Generally, in order to attend courses at university level, a high school diploma or equivalent will be required including a preparatory programme lasting one year of studies. A lack of proficiency in English or French will be taken into account by the Quebec or Canadian immigration office in the evaluation of the application.

*Entry regulations:* Before you come to study in Quebec, you will need: a "Certificat d'acceptation du Québec (CAQ)" from the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles (MICC); a "Study Permit" from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) 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:* Quebec requires foreign students to provide proof of health insurance. The universities offer a health insurance policy to foreign students. Medical examinations are not required by institutions but are required by Citizenship and Immigration Canada for students from many countries.

*Language requirements:* Universities offer language training programmes.

## RECOGNITION OF STUDIES

### Quality assurance system:

Recognition of studies is given by colleges (public and private) and by universities. For some professional bodies, supplementary conditions have to be met.

### Special provisions for recognition:

*Recognition for non-university level studies:* In general, no special requirements. Any "restrictions" on admission to the colleges are determined by the institutions themselves, given available teaching and other resources, but in some instances are a result of government policy.

*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.

*For access to advanced studies and research:* In general, no special requirements.

*For exercising a profession:* In Quebec, adequate knowledge of French is required to exercise any profession. The Office des professions and the Office de la langue française are responsible for the tests administered to candidates who come from outside Quebec. Access to most professions is governed by provincial statutes and is restricted to Canadian citizens or immigrants accepted as permanent residents.

## **PROVINCIAL BODIES**

### **Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport**

Minister: Michelle Courchesne  
Eric Schwartz  
1035, rue De La Chevrotière, 28e étage  
Québec, Québec G1R 5A5  
Canada  
Tel: + 1(418) 643 7095  
Fax: + 1(418) 646 6561  
WWW: <http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca>

*Role of national body:* To direct, promote and develop postsecondary, college and university education, including scientific research and development.

### **Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation**

Minister: Raymond Bachand  
710, place D'Youville, 3<sup>e</sup> étage  
Québec, Québec G1R 4Y4  
Canada  
Tel: + 1(418) 691 5950  
Fax: + (418) 644 0118  
WWW: <http://www.mdeie.gouv.qc.ca/>

*Role of national body:* To promote and develop the overall scientific and technological development required in the country, including applied research in colleges and university research.

### **Conseil supérieur de l'Éducation**

President: Nicole Boutin  
Secretary-General: Josée Turcotte  
1175, avenue Lavigerie, bureau 180  
Québec, Québec G1V 5B2  
Canada  
Tel: + 1(418) 643 3850  
Fax: + 1(418) 644 2530  
EMail: [panorama@cse.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:panorama@cse.gouv.qc.ca)  
WWW: <http://www.cse.gouv.qc.ca>

*Role of national body:* To advise the Minister on the status of education and university research and needs in this area.

### **Conseil de la Science et de la Technologie (Council of Science and Technology)**

President: Edith Deleury  
Secretary-General, Acting: Lise Santerre  
1200, route de l'Église, 3e étage, bureau 3.44  
Québec, Québec G1V 4Z2  
Canada  
Tel: + 1(418) 644 1165  
Fax: + 1(418) 646 0920  
EMail: [cst@cst.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:cst@cst.gouv.qc.ca)

WWW: <http://www.cst.gouv.qc.ca>

*Role of national body:* To advise the Minister on overall scientific and technological development in Quebec.

### **Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial**

President: Nicole Lafleur

800, place D'Youville, 18<sup>e</sup> étage

Québec, Québec G1R 5P4

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Tel: +1(418) 643 9938

Fax: +1(418) 643 9019

E-Mail: [info@ceec.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:info@ceec.gouv.qc.ca)

WWW: <http://www.ceec.gouv.qc.ca>

*Role of national body:* To act as an independent government organization whose evaluation mandate covers most aspects of college education, with special emphasis on student achievement and programmes of studies. Legislation attributes to the Commission the power to evaluate and make recommendations, as well as to exercise a declaratory power.

### **Conférence des Recteurs et Principaux des Universités du Québec - CREPUQ (Conference of Rectors and Principals of Quebec Universities)**

President: Heather Munroe-Blum

Director General: Daniel Zizian

500, rue Sherbrooke Ouest, bureau 200

Montréal H3A 3C6

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E-Mail: [info@crepuq.qc.ca](mailto:info@crepuq.qc.ca)

WWW: <http://www.crepuq.qc.ca/>

*Role of national body:* To act as the voice of Quebec's universities, facilitate cooperation and information-sharing among universities, and coordinate assessment activities on study programmes.

### **Fédération des cégeps**

President: Daniel Marcotte

Director General: Gaëtan Boucher

500, boulevard Crémazie Est

Montréal, Québec H2P 1E7

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Tel: +1(514) 381 8631

Fax: +1(514) 381 2263

E-Mail: [comm@fedecegeps.qc.ca](mailto:comm@fedecegeps.qc.ca)

WWW: <http://www.fedecegeps.qc.ca>

*Role of national body:* To promote education at the college level, and more specifically in the general and vocational colleges known as CEGEPs; the Fédération is the voice of 48 public CEGEPS in Québec.

### **Association des collèges privés du Québec - ACQP**

Secretary General: Daniel Delisle

1940, Henri-Boussara Est

Montréal, Québec H2B 1S2

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Tel: +1(514) 381 8891

Fax: +1(514) 381 4086

E-Mail: [acpq@cadre.qc.ca](mailto:acpq@cadre.qc.ca)

WWW: <http://www.cadre.qc.ca/acpq/>

*Role of national body:* To act as the voice of 22 private subsidized colleges in order to promote education at college level.

### **Groupement International des Secrétaires Généraux des Universités Francophones - GISGUF**

Secretary General: Michel Qimper

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WWW: <http://www.gisguf.org>

*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 Quebec, 2008