

# POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION



## About British Columbia

In Canada, education is a provincial rather than federal responsibility, and there is no national Ministry of Education. In British Columbia (BC), strong levels of government commitment combine with rigorous inspection and a transparent accreditation process to ensure high levels of quality throughout the entire education system. BC is Canada's westernmost province, and its vibrant economy, young and diverse population, close trade links with the world's major economies, and the warmest climate in Canada make it the destination of choice for international students studying in Canada. BC also ranks extremely high on international studies of liveability and student performance. Each year, over 94 000 international students from around the world choose BC for their education.

## Post-Secondary Education

BC's post-secondary education system is known around the world for the incredible choice and flexibility offered to students. Our outstanding and seamless transfer system allows students to move from one institution to another without losing credit. BC's major research universities rank among the best in the world and our regionally based teaching universities rank among the best in Canada. BC's colleges and institutes also offer a diverse range of quality programs. In 2010, BC welcomed over 39 000 international students into our post-secondary system.

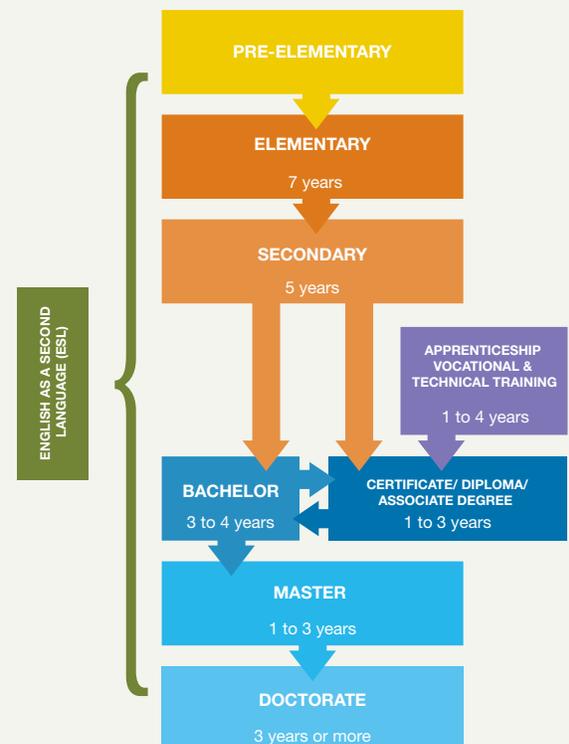
Teaching and research universities offer four-year undergraduate degrees and are located throughout the province, in both large cities and smaller regional centres. Research universities also offer a range of graduate degree programs at both the Masters and PhD levels. BC's research universities rank among the best in the Canada and perform very highly in world rankings.

Community colleges and institutes offer programs that prepare adult learners for further post-secondary studies and provide courses and programs in trades, vocational, career technical, and academic studies leading to certificates, diplomas, associate degrees and applied degrees. Many community college programs also allow students to transfer into university programs to complete an undergraduate degree. BC's seamless transfer system provides international students with many flexible options.

BC also offers international students a wide range of privately-operated career colleges. These colleges and institutions generally offer shorter-term, career-focused certificate programs in specific areas of study. In BC, career colleges and training institutions register with the province through the Private Career Training Institutions Agency (PCTIA) and may seek voluntary accreditation through the same body.

## BC Education System

The province of BC offers international students every chance to experience and benefit from a world-class education. High standards, exceptional student achievement, and the commitment to investing in quality education make BC a natural choice. Explore the variety of options you have for studying in BC.



## Education Quality Assurance - BC's Brand for Quality Education

Established by the province of British Columbia (BC) and administered by BCCIE, Education Quality Assurance (EQA) is BC's assured provincial brand of quality for all sectors of private and public post-secondary education.



### What is BC's EQA?

EQA is a provincial quality assurance designation that identifies all BC public and private post-secondary institutions that have met or exceeded provincial government recognized quality assurance standards and offer consumer protection.

### BC Leads the Way

- Canada's first and only provincial brand of quality for post-secondary education
- International leader in quality assurance as the brand is accessible to all provincial post-secondary institutions, dependent on meeting eligibility requirements.
- BC is the only province with a consolidated list of public and private institutions branded with a provincial government seal (as an assurance to deliver and issue top quality post-secondary education)
- The EQA Registry is published on the EQA and BCCIE websites and is updated daily to reflect any changes in an institution's EQA status

For further information about BC's EQA Designation and to find an EQA-designated post-secondary school, please visit our website at [www.bceqa.ca](http://www.bceqa.ca).

## BC Council for International Education (BCCIE)

The BC Council for International Education (BCCIE) is committed to advancing the international education interests of the province of British Columbia.

BCCIE is a leader in the successful development, promotion and maturation of international education in British Columbia. Through consultation and liaison with the provincial government, the direction of the Board, and broad engagement with the diversity of sectors representing international education, we support our mission through four key strategic goals: leadership, market support, communication and service to the sector, and internationalization.

## Post-Secondary Education Links

**BC Association of Institutes + Universities**  
[www.bcaiu.com](http://www.bcaiu.com)

**BC Colleges**  
[www.bccolleges.ca](http://www.bccolleges.ca)

**BC Ministry of Advanced Education**  
[www.gov.bc.ca/aved](http://www.gov.bc.ca/aved)

**BC Transfer Guide**  
[www.bctransferguide.ca](http://www.bctransferguide.ca)

**Education Planner: Explore Your Post-Secondary Options in BC**  
[www.educationplanner.ca](http://www.educationplanner.ca)

**Private Career Training Institutions Agency**  
[www.pctia.bc.ca](http://www.pctia.bc.ca)

**Research Universities' Council of British Columbia (RUCBC)**  
[www.rucbc.ca](http://www.rucbc.ca)

## Other Useful Links

**BC Council for International Education (BCCIE)**  
[www.bccie.bc.ca](http://www.bccie.bc.ca)

**BC Education Quality Assurance (EQA)**  
[www.bceqa.ca](http://www.bceqa.ca)

**Tourism BC**  
[www.hellobc.com](http://www.hellobc.com)

**WelcomeBC**  
[www.welcomebc.ca](http://www.welcomebc.ca)

**Name:** Mohammad Reza Shaerfaf Akbari  
**Age:** 24  
**Country:** Tehran, Iran  
**Studying at:** University of Northern British Columbia  
**City:** Prince George



### What were your first impressions of BC?

I did some research and I found out Canada is the best option for me. Most universities in Canada have a high quality of education. I am a very outgoing person and I really like outdoor activities, so this was the main reason for me to choose British Columbia.

### What do you do when you're not studying?

I am a member of the Board of Directors at the CFUR, our campus radio station. I have my own radio show program and it is a show about culture, arts, and interviewing different people. I'm also the President of the UNBC Persian Club. The club activities are based on introducing Persian culture, history and art through a variety of fun events. Currently, I work at the Recruitment and Advising Office as the Campus Tour Coordinator.

### What will you miss most about BC?

I love the natural environment of Prince George, BC. I can say it is one of most beautiful places in the world. For the first time in my life when I was hiking, I saw a bear with two cubs. I've experienced some unique outdoor activities such as ice fishing. Winter 2006 was the first time I tried ice fishing, and since then every winter I go a few times. People are very friendly in BC, especially in the north. They always smile at you when they pass you, which was very interesting to me coming from a huge city.

