
COVID-19: Programs for Students

Summary of various programs available to aid students

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CONTENTS

Canada Emergency Student Benefit	3
What it is:.....	3
Who is eligible:	3
When can it be received:	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Amount that can be received:	Error! Bookmark not defined.
How will it be received	4
Multiple Benefits	5
Canada Student Loans Program – Deferral	5
What it is:.....	5
How to apply:.....	6
Canada Student Loans Program – Loans	6
Canada Student Loans Program – Grants	6
What it is.....	6
How much can be received	6
Canada Student Service Grant.....	6
What it is.....	6
Further details	6
Multiple Benefits	7
Indigenous Post-Secondary Students	7
International Students.....	7
What it is.....	7
Time period available	7
Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)	7
Research Scholarships, Fellowships and Research Grants	7
Student Jobs	7

CANADA EMERGENCY STUDENT BENEFIT

WHAT IT IS:

This is a benefit for students that can provide \$1,250 per month (\$2,000 for those with disabilities or eligible dependants) for the period of May 2020 to August 2020

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- Did NOT apply, receive nor qualify for the CERB or EI benefits for the same eligibility period
- Are one of the following:
 - Canadian citizen
 - Registered Indian
 - Permanent resident
 - Protected person (An individual who is recognized by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) and Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) as a person in need of protection.)
- Are studying in Canada or abroad
- One of the following applies:
 - You are enrolled in a post-secondary educational program (at least 12 weeks in duration) that leads to a degree, diploma, or certificate
 - Recognized post-secondary educational institutions:
 - courses taken at a university or college level, or secondary level vocational training in Quebec
 - Educational institutions listed on:
 - [Master List of designated educational institutions](#)
 - [Master List of certified educational institutions](#)
 - [Quebec's directory of educational institutions and programs](#) (universities, colleges, and secondary level vocational training)
 - Indigenous institutions recognized by their province
 - You completed or ended your post-secondary studies in December 2019 or later
 - You completed or expect to complete high school, or received, or expect to receive your high school equivalency in 2020, and have applied for a post-secondary educational program that starts before February 1, 2021
- One of the following applies:
 - You are unable to work due to COVID-19
 - You are looking for, but cannot find work due to COVID-19
 - You are currently working during the COVID-19 pandemic, but your income from employment and self-employment has been \$1,000 or less (before taxes) during the 4-week period you are applying for

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ELIGIBILITY FOR TOP-UP

If you meet all of the conditions above, you may also be eligible for an extra \$750 for each 4-week period if at least one of the following applies:

- You have a disability as defined for this benefit
 - Disability = Any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment — or a functional limitation — whether permanent or episodic in nature, or evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person’s full and equal participation in society.
- You have at least one child under the age of 12 or other dependants
 - Dependant meaning:
 - A child (adopted child, stepchild, or foster child) who is under 12 years old and is completely dependent on the student, student’s spouse, or common-law partner for support, care, and upbringing
 - A person with a disability who is completely dependent on the student, student’s spouse, or common-law partner for support, care, and upbringing

ELIGIBILITY PERIODS

4-week period cycle	Start Date	End date
1	May 10, 2020	June 6, 2020
2	June 7, 2020	July 4, 2020
3	July 5, 2020	August 1, 2020
4	August 2, 2020	August 29, 2020

WHICH PERIODS YOU CAN APPLY FOR

Post-secondary students:

The CESB is available to eligible post-secondary students, post-secondary graduates, and students who have recently left their post-graduate studies.

You can start applying during the May 10 to June 6 eligibility period. If your situation continues, you must re-apply for another 4-week eligibility period.

Eligibility periods for post-secondary students:

- Period 1
- Period 2
- Period 3
- Period 4

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Graduating high school students:

The CESB is only available to eligible students who:

- **Completed or expect to complete high school**, or received, or expect to receive their high school equivalency in 2020
- applied for a post-secondary educational program that starts before February 1, 2021

If you complete high school:

- **before June 7, 2020**, your high school completion date must be before the start of the first eligibility period you are applying for
- **after June 7, 2020**, you can only apply for 2 eligibility periods, starting from the July 5 to August 1 eligibility period

APPLICATION

All applications for this benefit must be submitted before September 30, 2020.

Apply online through your CRA My Account or by phone.

Application by phone:

- (1) Call 1-800-959-2019 or 1-800-959-2041
- (2) Select your language preference: English or French
- (3) Press "2" to apply for the Canada Emergency Student Benefit"
- (4) Follow the prompts to enter your information including:
 - a. SIN
 - b. Postal code
 - c. Period you are applying for
- (5) Declare that you qualify for the benefit

If your situation continues, you will need to re-apply for each 4-week period that you are eligible for.

MULTIPLE BENEFITS

The Prime Minister's Office also confirmed that a student can collect multiple benefits if, for example, they apply for the \$1,250 benefit, volunteer and hold a job that pays less than \$1,000 a month.

Last updated: May 20, 2020

CANADA STUDENT LOANS PROGRAM – DEFERRAL**WHAT IT IS:**

Effective March 30, 2020, all student loan borrowers under the Canada Student Loan Program (CSLP) will automatically have their repayments suspended until September 30, 2020. No payment will be required and interest will not accrue during this time.

These measures will provide relief to nearly 1 million CSLP borrowers in repayment.

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Students who are currently studying can continue to apply for Canada Student Loans. There will be no change to the application process. If a borrower wishes to apply for student financial assistance during the pause, they should apply through their Province or Territory of residence.

HOW TO APPLY:

Students do not need to apply for the repayment pause, this will be automatic.

Last updated: March 19, 2020

CANADA STUDENT LOANS PROGRAM – LOANS

The maximum weekly amount that can be provided through the Canada Student Loans Program in 2020-2021 has been increased to \$350 from \$210

Last updated: April 24, 2020

CANADA STUDENT LOANS PROGRAM – GRANTS

WHAT IT IS

For Fall 2020, the student financial assistance available through the Canada Student Loan Program will be adjusted so that more students will qualify for supports under expanded eligibility requirements and students will be eligible for greater amounts.

HOW MUCH CAN BE RECEIVED

According to the prime minister, the student grants are being doubled for eligible students – up to \$6,000 for full-time students and up to \$3,600 for part-time students

Last updated: April 22, 2020

CANADA STUDENT SERVICE GRANT

WHAT IT IS

Announced April 22, 2020, this grant will be available students that choose to volunteer instead of work and are aiding in the fight against COVID-19. Those that are eligible can received from \$1,000 to \$5,000 depending on their number of hours.

FURTHER DETAILS

Further details will be made available on the “I Want to Help” Platform over the coming weeks, including

- Eligibility
- Levels of funding available under the grant
- How to apply for a national service position
- How applications will be assessed

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Last updated: April 22, 2020

INDIGENOUS POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS

More than \$75 million in additional supports are being made available for Indigenous post-secondary students

Last updated: April 23, 2020

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

WHAT IT IS

The Government of Canada will remove the restriction that allows international students to work only a maximum of 20 hours per week while classes are in session, provided they are working in an essential service or function, such as health care, critical infrastructure, or the supply of food or other critical goods.

TIME PERIOD AVAILABLE

This temporary rule will be in place until August 31, 2020

ONTARIO STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (OSAP)

The Ontario financial plan includes providing six months of Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) loan and interest accrual relief for students.

Last updated: March 26, 2020

RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

Expiring scholarships, fellowships and grants will be extended to support students and post-doctoral fellows by providing \$291.6 million to the federal granting councils. In addition, the government intends to enhance work opportunities for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows through the National Research Council of Canada.

Last updated: April 24, 2020

STUDENT JOBS

The government will be arranging for an additional 76,000 jobs for young people, which will be created in sectors that need an extra hand. This is addition to the Canada Summer Jobs Program.

The government will be providing specific support to indigenous students.

For student researchers and graduate students, the government will be providing over \$291M to extend fellowships, scholarships, and grants so that these students can also keep working.

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