

Your Guide to Getting Started with Study Abroad in Canada

A guide for students with WASSCE, NECO, or SSCE results, here is what you need to begin planning your Canada studies.



1. Your Passport

Make sure you have a valid international passport with at least a year of validity left. This is the starting document for every part of the process.

2. Your WASSCE, NECO, or SSCE Results

Download your official results from the WAEC or NECO portal as soon as they are released. Some Canadian institutions ask for a WES (World Education Services) evaluation of your results alongside the originals, so check with your chosen school.

3. Know What and Where

Have a rough idea of the course you want to study in Canada, and the type of institution or city you are drawn to. Only Designated Learning Institutions (DLIs) can accept international students onto a study permit, so this is where we start. This helps us shortlist the right options for you.

4. Know Who Is Funding You

Decide who will be paying for tuition and living costs, whether that is a parent, guardian or sponsor. Canada asks for proof of funds through a Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC), currently around CAD \$20,635, on top of your full first year tuition, rather than the UK style 28 day bank balance.

5. English Language Requirements

Most Canadian institutions recognise your WAEC or NECO results directly, so IELTS is often not required if you have a good grade in English, generally a C6 or above. For some courses, if your English grade is on the lower side for what that course needs, the institution may ask for additional evidence of English proficiency. We will confirm what applies once we know your course.

6. Your Medical Exam

Depending on your programme and how long you plan to study, you may need an upfront medical exam from an approved panel physician. We will confirm if this applies to you once we know your programme.

7. Scholarships, Realistically

Some institutions offer partial scholarships or fee discounts for strong applicants. Fully funded scholarships covering everything are not available, so it is best to plan your budget assuming you will need to fund the course yourself.

8. Pathway or Direct Entry?

Many Canadian colleges and universities accept SSCE results directly, provided your grades meet the specific requirements for your course, while others ask for a foundation or pathway year first. We will help you work out the right route for your results and your target institution.

9. Statement of Purpose

You will need a Statement of Purpose (SOP) explaining your study plans and intent to return home after your studies, this is a key part of the Canadian application. We will guide you through writing this once you begin the application process.

10. What to Budget For

(All figures below are correct as of 2026 and are reviewed annually, so please treat them as a guide.)

- Tuition: many college programmes sit between CAD \$15,000 and \$25,000 per year, with university programmes and fields such as engineering or business running higher, up to around CAD \$40,000 or more
- Study permit and biometrics fees: around CAD \$235 in total
- Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC): currently around CAD \$20,635 to \$22,895 for living costs, refundable if your application is refused
- Medical exam, where required: a further cost on top of the above, confirmed once your programme is known
- Travelling with dependents: if your spouse or children are joining you, the funds required increase, for example to around CAD \$28,500 for a couple, and around CAD \$35,040 for a couple with one child, on top of tuition

Your Application Journey

1

Choose a Designated Learning Institution

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2

Apply and receive your Letter of Acceptance

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3

Pay your tuition deposit

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4

Receive your Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL)

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5

Apply for your study permit with proof of funds

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6

Biometrics and medical exam, where required

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7

Decision

Ready to Start?

Get in touch with a Panoba advisor with your passport, SSCE results, course and location ideas, and your budget. We will help you find the right pathway and institution, and guide you through the rest of the application. Canada's rules and processing times have been changing quickly, so it is worth having support to make sure everything is submitted accurately.