

Ways to Pay for School

The average post-secondary student in Canada graduates with about \$27,000 of debt. But there are literally millions of dollars of funding out there. Through [HigherEdPoints.com](https://www.higheredpoints.com) students can use anyone's loyalty points to fund tuition and student loans. We're also obsessed with making sure everyone knows about other sources of funding out there; we created this guide with a few of our favourite [Ways to Pay for School](#).

Before you go...

As early as possible:

- 1 Start looking at **what** and **where** you want to study.
- 2 Research **expenses** for your top 3 choices: tuition, books, living expenses.
- 3 Compile the **sources of funds** you've already got lined up.
- 4 Investigate **scholarships, entrance awards** and **government loans** so you know what's required for each.

While you're there...

As soon as you're enrolled:

- ✓ Meet your **Campus Financial Aid Officers (FAOs)**— true campus heroes—they are dedicated to helping students find funding for school.
- ✓ Ask about **campus work study** programs (plum jobs that go quickly!)
- ✓ Enrol for any **scholarship/bursary alerts** at your school so you don't miss out on new funding that comes along through the year.
- ✓ Also visit the **campus Career Center** as they can connect you with part time jobs and career fairs. Many employers offer summer jobs

After you graduate...

If you've got **Canada Student Loans** and/or provincial loans (e.g. OSAP in Ontario) you won't have to repay the principal for 6 months post-graduation, but interest may start to accrue—if you can, **start paying back your loans before you graduate and during your 'grace period'** to reduce the overall interest you'll pay (we calculated repaying \$250 before graduation will save \$130 in interest over the average 8-10 years it takes a grad to repay their loans!).

Even after you graduate, your campus Career Center can help you find a job. Sign up for their alerts and keep your school email active.

#1 Tips for each stage & great sites to find more \$\$\$

Apply for every scholarship you can in Grade 12 – it's the very best time in your educational career to land some free money!

If you foresee a financial bump in the road, deal with it right away! FAO's can likely assist.

Attend campus student loan repayment sessions and read your repayment notices to understand the details.

❑ [HigherEdPoints.com](https://www.higheredpoints.com)

Use loyalty points for tuition & student loan repayments

❑ [Canlearn.ca](https://www.canlearn.ca)

Government student loan site

❑ [ScholarshipsCanada.com](https://www.scholarshipscanada.com)

Canada's largest database of scholarships

❑ [indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com)

Jobs for all stages

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The best way to prepare for post-secondary financially is to understand the expenses, and to line up all your funding before you get to campus. At HigherEdPoints.com we want students and parents to find the needed funds, so you can focus on studying, not stressing about money!

Expenses

Year of study:	Per Year	Sources/Tips
Tuition	\$	Campus website; SchoolFinder.com
Residence/Rent	\$	Campus website
Meal Plan	\$	Campus website
Food	\$	Even with meal plan, budget for extra food
Books	\$	Average is \$500/term
Other course supplies	\$	e.g. Software, scrubs for nursing or medical students
Transportation	\$	Transit passes may be included in student fees
Entertainment	\$	It's easy to spend lots of money here. Budget well!
Clothing	\$	
Telecom	\$	Cell phone, internet
Personal Care	\$	e.g. Shampoo, toothpaste, prescriptions
Room/house supplies	\$	This is a much larger category than most expect
Travel home	\$	Air Canada, Via Rail, MegaBus have student rates
Other	\$	e.g. Student clubs, exchange program
TOTAL	\$	

Sources of Funds

Year of study:	Total	Sources/Tips
RESP	\$	Search "RESP" at Canada.ca for info
Personal Savings	\$	
Support from family	\$	Important! Who is paying for what??
HigherEdPoints.com	\$	You can use anyone's loyalty points!
ScholarshipsCanada.com	\$	Visit often , new awards are added all the time
Entrance awards	\$	
Bursaries	\$	
Government Financial Aid	\$	Visit Canlearn.ca
Working while at school	\$	Go into the campus career center
Loan/line of credit	\$	
Gap year	\$	Earn money & discover your true passions
Co-op program	\$	
TOTAL	\$	
<i>Minus</i> Total Expenses	\$	
GAP	\$	

Visit HigherEdPoints.com
We can help you close the gap!

HigherEdPoints.com has helped students and families fund over \$1,800,000 in tuition and student loans—that's more than 300 Million loyalty points! Find out how it works at HigherEdPoints.com

If you'd like more *Ways to Pay for School* tips, or info about HigherEdPoints' seminars get in touch! Email us at info@HigherEdPoints.com or give us a call at 1-855-435-8941.