<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_school_districts_in_Quebec>

The majority of the population in Montreal speaks French as a first language. Thus, French is the language of instruction at public schools in Montreal. But support is provided to those children whose first language is not French.

Children start school at the age of five and finish when they are 17. High school in Montreal only goes up to grade 11, instead of up to grade 12 as is the case in the general [education system of Canada](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/education-and-schools-canada). For this reason, students who wish to continue on to university must first complete another two years at a post-secondary college.

**Public schools in Montreal**

Children in Montreal start going to school at five years old in a *maternelle*. Grade 1 to 6 is *ecole primaire* and *ecole secondaire* is from grade 7 to 11. Students then move on to post-secondary college for grades 12 and 13 if they want to continue on to university.

Unless expat children are very young or have a good grasp of the French language, public school is not the best option for them.

**Language in schools in Montreal**

All children in Quebec are encouraged to attend French-language public schools. However, there are also English-language public schools for children who have already received some of their education in English. This service is, however, only available to children whose parents are Canadian citizens.

In French language schools, English is taught as a second language and English immersion programmes are also available. There are also fully bilingual schools in Quebec, where both English and French are taught as a first language. Many of the private schools in Montreal are also bilingual.

**Private schools in Montreal**

A large proportion of children in Montreal attend private schools. This is because the government subsidises certain private schools that meet its requirements. Most private schools are high schools and many are affiliated with a certain religion.

Children who want to attend a private high school will have to pass an entrance exam and will have to have performed well throughout primary school.

Non-subsidised private schools in Montreal are expensive. Annual tuition differs between schools but can cost more than 25,000 CAD per year at elite institutions.

**International schools in Montreal**

[International schools in Montreal](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/montreal/international-schools-montreal) are the most popular choice for non-Francophone expats. There are numerous international schools in the city and many different languages and curricula are catered for.

Tuition at international schools can be expensive, with fees frequently being in the region of 25,000 CAD.

Application requirements vary from one international school to the next. Generally, expats applying to an international school usually need to provide the following:

* Application form
* Application fee
* Copy of their child’s birth certificate
* A recent school report card
* School records from previous school
* A photograph of the child
* A copy of the applicant’s *Déclaration d’admissibilité à l’enseignement en Anglais* (declaration of eligibility for instruction in English) issued by the Ministry of Education

**More information**

►Get an idea of the different [Areas and Suburbs](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/montreal/areas-and-suburbs-montreal) around Montreal

►[Getting Around in Montreal](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/montreal/getting-around-montreal) explores the best ways of navigating the city

**Are you an expat living in Montreal?**

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Expat parents will find that the standard of education and schools in Canada is high, and the sheer assortment of schooling options impressive. In fact, even just the number of organisations charged with ranking and evaluating theschools in Canada is a force to be reckoned with. Canada prides itself on its transparent systems and education is no exception.

It makes sense then that concerned parents moving to this geographically large country with their little ones can stop worrying and start sifting through the resources that can help them make an informed decision. For those parents who would like to do a little "sizing up" of their own, the Fraser Institute annually issues both public and private schools in each province their own report card, measuring and comparing schools' academic performances.

Parents should note that Canada has no nationalised system of education, and instead grants the responsibility of execution and assessment to the thirteen individual provinces and territories. As a result, the systems in each region will be largely similar, but they won't be identical. There are varying differences in curriculum, language, methods of evaluation and accountability policies. The compulsory education age range is also controlled by the individual jurisdictions and may vary, though most demand attendance between the ages of six and 16.

Once expats have decided in which province or territory they'd like to make their home, they'll need to be more pointed in their research and consider whether a public or a private school will best suit the particular needs of their child. Both have their pros and cons, but cost and curriculum are often the factors that carry the most weight in the decision-making process.

### Public schools in Canada

Public schools in Canada are subject to the steady hand of each respective province or territory. It follows that curricula are an accurate reflection of that area's population, corresponding with the geography, language, history and culture of the surrounding space.

For example, as the province of Quebec claims a predominately French-speaking population, the primary language of education is French. New Brunswick follows a bilingual language policy, while the other provinces are English.

While some public schools may also offer International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) curricula, this is certainly not the norm.

Expat students with a residence permit can attend Canadian public schools for free, but those without will need to pay the tuition fee appointed by their province/territory.

As in most countries, the standard of public schools varies from one to the next; some boasting exceptional reputations and others blacklisted by parents for years. Consult each institution's report card for a better idea of its performance. Furthermore, as students attend Canadian public schools based on catchment zones, parents may want to pick their residential neighbourhood based on the school that corresponds with the area.

### Private and international schools in Canada

Though the majority of Canadian citizens utilise the free public education system, expats who can afford it may also want to consider private schools for their children, including international schools, military schools and special-needs schools.

These institutions are primarily funded by student tuition and private donors and, as in many countries, it's assumed they boast better facilities, a more diverse and comprehensive range of extra-curricular activities, smaller class sizes and an elevated standard of education.

Furthermore, each school can establish its own curriculum, some claiming different language affiliations, teaching styles and religious value systems. This point in particular, may be important to those expats who'd prefer their children continue learning in their native home language, home curriculum, or according to a distinct educational philosophy.

However, such liberties are not without a price tag. Private schools in Canada are far from free, with the range of tuition costs being considerable.

### More information

►For further information on the tuition fees in Canada, see [Cost of Living](http://www.expatarrivals.com/canada/cost-of-living-in-canada)

## Are you an expat living in Canada?

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The cost of living in Canada is high, but when compared to other parts of the world, such as Western Europe, it is relatively cheaper.

There are significant differences in the cost of living in Canada between rural areas and major cities such as [Toronto](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/toronto/moving-toronto) or [Vancouver](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/vancouver/moving-vancouver), which can be very expensive.

Mercer´s 2019 Cost of Living Survey, which measures the comparative cost of items in 209 cities (including housing, transport, food, clothing, household goods and entertainment), ranked Toronto at 115 and Montreal at 139, followed by Calgary and Ottawa at 153 and 161 respectively. While housing is expensive, expats will find these cities to be very liveable thanks to the fact that Canada provides substantial support towards the cost of health insurance and education at public schools.

It is important to note, however, that there are differences in incomes between cities, provinces, and of course, sectors. The highest paid sectors in Canada are mining and oil/gas drilling and work in the utilities – water, electricity, and telecommunications. On the other hand, expats working in the accommodation and food services, arts, entertainment and recreation sectors tend to have lower salaries.

Expats living in Canada should expect to spend about 35 to 50 percent of their income on housing and utilities, including rent (or a mortgage), heating, electricity, phone and water. Under Canadian law, if a person chooses to own a car, it must be insured and registered with the provincial government, which is quite expensive. Moreover, expats in Canada spend approximately 15 percent of their income on food (which can significantly increase if eating in restaurants) and about six percent on clothing.

It is also worth considering the impact of the weather. Expats moving to Canada have to cope with severe Canadian winters. The coastal region of British Columbia is a bit warmer, but the temperature in the interior provinces can be well below freezing and accompanied by piles of snow. Alternately, summers, while short, are hot and air conditioning may be needed. This means more power is needed throughout the year to either heat or cool one's house.

### Cost of accommodation in Canada

Rent costs in Canada vary across different cities and regions. The highest rents are in large cities like Vancouver and Toronto, increasing the closer one lives to the city centre. Expats renting an apartment outside the city can expect to pay lower rents.

### Cost of transportation in Canada

Canada has a transportation system that includes just over over 1 million kilometres of roads, 13 major international airports, 300 smaller airports,  about 72,100km of functioning railway tracks, and more than 300 commercial ports and harbours providing access to the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic oceans, as well as the Great Lakes and the St Lawrence Seaway.

[Public transportation](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/transport-and-driving-canada) in Canada is quite expensive, but the major metropoles are definitely less expensive than other important world centres. Cars are relatively cheap to purchase, as is petrol, and most Canadians own their own car for getting around.

### Cost of education in Canada

Canada is well known for having an abundance of high-quality and affordable schools that attract many international students. Expats with young children appreciate that Canada provides free [public education](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/education-and-schools-canada) to all Canadian citizens and permanent residents from kindergarten until they complete secondary school, which is usually at the age of 18.

Each region administers its own education system, so policies and requirements differ from province to province. Expats who don´t have a permanent resident card or a work permit have to apply for a study permit for their children, who would then be classified as international students and would have to pay tuition, which is nearly as high as at private schools.

### Cost of healthcare in Canada

All Canadian citizens and permanent residents are eligible for health insurance in Canada. The country´s [healthcare](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/healthcare-canada) system is made up of provincial and territorial health insurance plans that are funded through taxes and administered by the provinces and territories themselves.

After applying for public health insurance, expats may have to wait before they become eligible to use it. These periods can be covered by temporary private health insurance. The officially recommended period for which expats should purchase temporary coverage is three months.

Those who would like services that are not covered under their province or territory´s health insurance plan can buy private health insurance which usually includes prescription drugs, dental costs, private hospital rooms, ambulance services and prescription glasses.

### Cost of food in Canada

Food and drinks in Canada are priced fairly but cannot be considered cheap, even though they're generally cheaper than in Western European countries. Food is a bit more expensive compared to the United States. However, food prices in Canada have been increasing over the last few years.

Canadians eat a lot of beef and chicken, and less pork and lamb, which is less available and more pricey. It's easy to get other specialty meat such as bison, especially in larger cities. Fresh fruits and vegetables are available throughout the year for prices that are generally a little cheaper than in Western Europe. Canadian bread is of good quality and taste, but costs slightly more. In addition, Canadians drink a lot of soft drinks, called “pop" and “soda," which are usually cheap when bought in large packs.

### Cost of other goods in Canada

Alcohol and cigarettes are expensive in Canada, as they are heavily taxed. Canada has numerous large breweries and wineries, and their beer and wine are popular among locals as well as expats.

Clothes and accessories from branded shops are usually expensive, but clothing has become more affordable due to the growth of Chinese-imported products, wholesales, factory outlets, and heavy competition between stores.

### Cost of living in Canada chart

Prices may vary depending on product and service provider. The list below shows average prices for Toronto in July 2019.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Accommodation (monthly rent in a good area)** | |
| Furnished two-bedroom house | 3,100 CAD |
| Unfurnished two-bedroom house | 2,600 CAD |
| Furnished two-bedroom apartment | 2,100 CAD |
| Unfurnished two-bedroom apartment | 1,600 CAD |
| **Shopping** | |
| Milk (1 litre) | 2.90 CAD |
| Loaf of white bread | 3.20 CAD |
| Chicken breasts (1kg) | 18 CAD |
| Rice (1kg) | 4.60 CAD |
| Dozen eggs | 3.70 CAD |
| Pack of cigarettes | 16 CAD |
| **Eating out** | |
| Big Mac meal | 11 CAD |
| Coca Cola (330ml) | 2.40 CAD |
| Cappuccino | 4.30 CAD |
| Bottle of beer (local) | 8 CAD |
| Three-course meal for two at a mid-range restaurant | 80 CAD |
| **Utilities** | |
| Mobile call rate (per minute – mobile to mobile) | 0.45 CAD |
| Internet (average per month) | 68 CAD |
| Basic utilities (per month for a small apartment) | 145 CAD |
| **Transportation** | |
| Taxi rate/km | 2 CAD |
| City centre bus/train fare | 3.25 CAD |
| Petrol (per litre) | 1.20 CAD |

# EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS IN CANADA

* **Purchase the complete**[Expat Arrivals Canada Guide (PDF)](http://www.expatarrivals.com/guide/expat-arrivals-canada-guide-pdf)

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The Canadian education system follows a three-stage system:

* Primary
* Secondary or Elementary
* Post-secondary

Primary and secondary education is publicly funded. Schooling begins with kindergarten at age 5 and ends with Grade 12 (at about age 18) in a K-12 system. It is administered by the [Ministry of Education](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/) (*Ministère de l'Éducation*)

Children attend school Monday to Friday for six hours a day for approximately 190 school days per year. The school year begins in September, after Labour Day, and finishes at the end of June. Students receive a one to two week break from school at Christmas, a week break in either February (Spring Break) or March (March Break), as well as public, provincial, and territorial holidays.

Education System in Québec

The system within Québec is overseen by the [Ministry of Education, Recreation and Sports](http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/index_en.asp) (*Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport*). The education system is made up of public and private French and English educational institutions. Education is compulsory in Canada up to the age 16. The primary language of instruction is French. Québec's education system is a bit different from Canadas in that it has four levels:

* Elementary (includes preschool)
* Secondary Cycle I
* Secondary Cycle II
* College and university

Education is free at the elementary, secondary and college levels. University students are required to pay tuition, which is relatively low by North American standards.

English Language Schools

Québec has publicly funded French and English schools. According to the Charter of the French Language, all students must attend French language public schools, except:

* Children whose parents have done most of their elementary studies in English anywhere in Canada and the parents are Canadian citizens,
* Children that have already done all or most of their elementary or secondary studies in English anywhere in Canada, or has a sibling that has received most of their education in English anywhere in Canada, as long as the parents are Canadian citizens.

These rules do not apply to temporary residents of Québec or First Nation children. If a parent had the right to attend English schools, but did not, they do not lose the right for their children. English is taught as a second language in French schools from Grade 1, and a few schools also offer English immersion programs for advanced students. English schools offer a wide range of programs that include French as a second language, French immersion, and fully bilingual programs that teach both English and French as first languages.

Grading

On report cards, marks are shown as letters and an average of the three marks associated to the subject will be calculated. For example, if a student achieves A, A- and B+ in a subject, teachers will calculate an average of the three marks (in this case, 90%). The passing mark in Québec is 60%.

Stages of Education

Primary School

Kindergarten (*maternelle*) begins between the ages 5-6 and primary or elementary school (*école primaire*) ends in either Grades 6 or 8. Middle schools or junior highs are intended to prepare students for secondary education. These schools generally offer Grade 5, 6 or 7 to 8 or 9.

At a primary school level, one classroom teacher instructs students in all general subjects. Specialized teachers may instruct students in music, visual arts, or physical education.

Secondary School

Secondary schools are commonly referred to as high schools or *école secondaire*. Secondary School is five years, called Secondary I-V (or Sec I-V) or simply grades 7-11. This is divided into two "cycles", corresponding to junior high school grades 7-8 and senior grades 9-11. High school students who complete Secondary V receive their high school diploma.

Areas of education at the secondary school level may include math, chemistry, physics, biology, history, economics, political science, visual arts, performance arts, information technology, robotics, literature, French language, foreign language (Spanish, English, etc.). Individual instructors teach each subject.

Private School

Québec has the highest proportion of children going to private schools in North America with about 17% of the student population. This number rises even higher, at about 30%, within the city of Montréal. Private schools may be the best option for an expat family as they can offer an elevated level of education, or cater to a specialty like language or religion. Most private schools are secondary institutions, though there are a few primary schools. Private secondary schools usually select their students by having them go through their own scholastic exams and by making a study of the entire primary school record.

It is important to visit a school to determine the best fit for you and your child. Most private schools have open days for prospective parents, but it is wise to ask to make an appointment to visit on a normal working day.

Questions to Ask

* **Special needs**: Does the school have facilities and suitably qualified and experienced staff to look after any special needs your child may have? Is there a program for gifted and talented children or special provision for those with physical disabilities? Is their a language requirement that could aid your child?
* **Curriculum**: Is it broad and balanced? Will your child have an adequate range of options? Are there specialist teachers?
* **The staff**: How well qualified are they? Is there reasonable staff stability? Do the teachers stay long in post?
* **Extra activities**: Does the school offer an exciting extra-curricular activities programme that will stimulate your child's interest? If you are considering boarding school, you will want to know what activities the school provides for children in the evening and at weekends.
* **Diploma**: What kind of certification is available upon completion? Is it accepted internationally? Do they offer the IB?

Fees

Fees range from school to school so make sure to compare. The government of Québec gives a pro rata subsidy for each child to any private school which meets its standards and follows its prescriptions. To receive a grant, private and independent schools must be accredited in Québec and hire certified teachers. This can reduce tuition to approximately 30% of non-subsidized private schools. Ask at the school for scholarship opportunities and subsidy information.

Extra activities like instrumental instruction, school uniforms, or school trips may require additional fees. Many private schools have their own second-hand shops selling uniforms and other supplies.

Private Schools in Montréal

[**Herzliah High School**](http://utt.qc.ca/)  
Address: 4840 St. Kevin, bureau 210  
Montréal, QC H3W lP2  
Tel: (514) 739-2291  
Tuition: $3,160 - $5,620 per year

Jewish Co-Ed school providing classes from grades kindergarten - 6th grade.

[**Trafalgar School for Girls**](http://www.trafalgar.qc.ca/)  
Address: 3495 Simpson  
Montréal, QC H3G 2J7  
Tel: 514-935-2644  
Tuition: $13,075 -$13,075 per year

All girls school serving grades 7-11. It was established as the first English girls; school in Montréal.

[**The Priory School**](http://www.priory.qc.ca/)  
Address: 3120 The Boulevard  
Montréal, QC H3Y 1R9  
Tel: 514-935-5966  
Tuition: $8,670 -$12,390 per year

An English co-ed school with a strong French program, this school serves kindergarten to 6th grade. It was founded in 1947 on Catholic traditions, but today welcomes all religious backgrounds.

[**St. George's School of Montréal**](http://www.stgeorges.qc.ca/)  
Address: 3100 The Boulevard  
Montréal, QC H3Y 1R9  
Tel: 514-937-9289  
Tuition: $14,300 -$14,300 per year

St. George's School is Montréal's oldest co-ed English Language Independent School.

[**Collège Regina Assumpta**](http://www.reginaassumpta.qc.ca/)**(CRA)**  
Address: 1750, rue Sauriol Est  
Montréal, QC H2C 1X4  
Tel: 514-382-4121  
Tuition: $2,750 - $2,750 per year

Founded in 1955, the CRA is a secondary school with instruction in French. The building and building are owned by the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre-Dame. The College is also a member of the Federation of Private Educational Institutions (FEEP).

[**College Jean de Brebeuf**](http://www.brebeuf.qc.ca/accueil)  
Address: 3200 Chemin de la côte Ste-Catherine  
Montréal, QC H3T 1C1, Canada  
Tel: (514) 342-9342

A private French-language educational institution offering secondary school and CEGEP college-level instruction. It is a co-ed establishment for students in their final year of secondary school and in college. It is boys-only in the first four years of secondary school. It retains a dress code, but no specific uniform. It also provides a boarding school for college students wishing to reside at the college from Monday to Friday.

[**College Jean Eudes**](http://www.jeaneudes.qc.ca/)  
Address: 3535 Rosemont Boul  
Montréal, QC, Canada  
Tel: (514) 376-5740

Elite private French-language high school. Prospective students must pass an entrance exam to be accepted in the school. A maximum of 350 students are admitted each year to form and maintain 10 groups of 35 in each grade. Students must wear uniforms.

[**Lower Canada College**](http://www.lcc.ca/)**(LCC)**  
Address: 4090 Royal Ave  
Montréal, QC, Canada  
Tel: (514) 482-0951  
Tuition: $13,475 to $17,415 per year

An elementary and secondary level co-educational private school offering classes from Kindergarten through Grade 12. Students graduate from Grade 11, and then have the option of leaving the school and going on to CEGEP, which is the university preparatory system in Québec, or returning to LCC for the Pre-University year.

University

Post-secondary education in Québec begins following Grade 11, also known as Secondary V. Québec is the only province that requires 11 (rather than 12) years of study in order to obtain the high school diploma. While standard admission to college is based on the secondary school diploma of Québec (representing completion of grade 11), completion of the two-year college program does not give students the equivalent of a university Diploma. Holders of the two-year college diploma still must complete a minimum of three years of university education in order to obtain a Bachelor's degree.

There are a mix of French and English, private and public universities in Montréal. Degrees include undergraduate (3-4 years), master's (2-3 years) and doctoral (3-5 years) programs. The degrees awarded meet the highest international standards. The fall semester begins at the end of August or in early September. The winter session begins in the first week of January. Some universities offer a summer session which normally runs from early May to mid-August.

CEGEPs

Public collegiates in Québec are commonly referred to as CEGEP (*Collège d'enseignement général et professionnel*), known officially in English as a "General and Vocational College". CEGEP can only legally be used to describe state-run post-secondary schools, but this is not strictly adhered to. CEGEPs offer two-year pre-university programs and three-year technical programs leading to a Diploma of College Studies (DCS). They also provide shorter technical programs leading to an Attestation of College Studies (ACS). These students can specialize in a number of different vocational or pre-university fields.

Tuition & Funding

Tuition fees are lowest in Québec, which receives the most public funding for post-secondary education in Canada. Public CEGEP's have little or no tuition fees. Some Canadian universities may offer entrance scholarships ($500-$10,000) to encourage international students to enroll.

Many people take out private loans to facilitate higher education. Private companies, such as the Paras Education Foundation, offer student loans to international students studying in Canada. No collateral or margin money is required, and repayment periods are up to 20 years. Loans are available to all international students, regardless of nationality, with a cap of up to $65,000 USD per year per co-guarantor. Interest rates range from 7% to 8%. The Global Student Loan Corporation offers similar services and does not require a Canadian cosigner. In addition to covering your tuition, Global Student Loan Corporation also provides funding for other school related essentials such as insurance, electronics, travel, and housing.

However, if you are planning to pursue graduate or postgraduate studies in Canada as an international student, tuition fees in Canada can be very high. Fees are often two to four times that of Canadian students. For example, the average tuition for an undergraduate humanities program in Canada is $5,000, meaning an international student would have to pay between $10,000 to $20,000 tuition per year. International students studying on a student visa in Canada are not eligible for bank loans or government issued student loans, but some schools offer dedicated scholarships to international students. Inquire at the school. International students are required to provide proof of funds for the entirety of their study period in order to obtain a temporary study permit. (For more information on visas, refer to the section on "Passport, Visa & Permits").

Universities in Montréal

[**Concordia University**](http://www.concordia.ca/)  
Address: 7141 Sherbrooke Street West  
Montréal, QC H4B 1R6, Canada  
Tel: (514) 848-2424

Public university with English as the primary language of instruction. It is among the largest in Canada with about 45,000 students. The school ranks highly in Canada and internationally in fields such as fine arts, social science, journalism and engineering.

[**Université de Montréal**](http://www.umontreal.ca/)**(UdeM)**  
Address: 2900 Boulevard Edouard-Montpetit  
Montréal, QC H3T 1J4, Canada  
Tel: (514) 343-6111

A public research university, this francophone institution has more than sixty departments and two affiliated schools: the école Polytechnique (School of Engineering) and HEC Montréal (School of Business). It offers more than 650 undergraduate programmes and graduate programmes, including 71 doctoral programmes.

[**École de technologie supérieure**](http://www.etsmtl.ca/)**(ETS)**  
Address: 1100, rue Notre-Dame Ouest  
Montréal, Québec H3C 1K3  
Tel: 514 396-8800

ETS is a public engineering school which specializes in applied teaching in engineering and technology transfer. It is ranked first in Québec and third in Canada for the total number of engineering diplomas awarded annually.

[**École Polytechnique de Montréal**](http://www.polymtl.ca/)  
Address: 2900, boul. édouard-Montpetit  
Montréal, QC H3T 1J4, Canada  
Tel: (514) 340-4711

An engineering school affiliated with the University of Montréal. It ranks first in Canada for the scope of its engineering research.

[**HEC Montréal**](http://www.hec.ca/index.html)  
Address: Côte-Sainte-Catherine Building, 3000 Côte-Sainte-Catherine Road  
Montréal, Québec Canada H3T 2A7  
Tel: 514 340-6000

HEC Montréal (formerly known as: *école des Hautes études commerciales de Montréal*), is the independent affiliated business school of the Université de Montréal. It is the oldest management School in Canada and holds accreditations from AACSB, EQUIS and AMBA - one of three schools in North America to hold triple accreditation in management education. It favors a multilingual approach to business education, offering bilingual (French and English) and trilingual (French, English and Spanish) bachelor's degrees, and graduate degrees both in English and in French.

[**McGill University**](http://www.mcgill.ca/)  
Address: 555 Sherbrooke Rue O  
Montréal, QC, Canada  
Tel: (514) 398-3471

McGill University is an internationally-renowned research university. It is listed among the top 20 universities globally. Approximately 34,000 students attend McGill, with international students comprising one-fifth of the student population. The language of instruction is English, but students have the right to submit any graded work in English or in French, except when learning a particular language is an objective of the course. Notable alumni include eight Nobel Laureates, one hundred and thirty-two Rhodes Scholars, three astronauts, two Canadian prime ministers, eleven justices of the Canadian Supreme Court, three foreign leaders, nine Academy Award winners, three Pulitzer Prize winners, and twenty-eight Olympic medalists. McGill University is one of two member-universities of the Association of American Universities situated outside the United States.

[**Université du Québec à Montréal**](http://www.uqam.ca/)**(UQAM)**  
Address: 405 rue Sainte-Catherine Street East  
Montréal, Québec H2L 2C4, Canada  
Tel: (514) 987-3000

The Université du Québec à Montréal is a public French-language university. It is the largest constituent element of the Université du Québec (UQ). The school was founded on April 9, 1969 by the government of Québec, through the merger of the école des Beaux-Arts de Montréal, a fine arts school; the Collège Sainte-Marie, a classical college; and a number of smaller schools. Although part of the UQ network, UQAM possesses a relative independence which allows it to print its own diplomas and choose its rector.

Library

Montréal has an elaborate library network known as the [Montréal Public Libraries Network](http://bibliomontreal.com/) (*Réseau des bibliothèques publiques de Montréal*). It is the largest French language public library system in North America. It also has items in English and other languages.

[**Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec**](http://www.banq.qc.ca/) (BAnQ)  
The National Library and Archives of Québec is the provincial library and archives of Québec. It offers free, universal access to all its collections.

<http://www.easyexpat.com/en/guides/canada/montreal/school/school-system.htm>

International schools can be the perfect solution for an expat student in Canada. Admission and enrollment procedures vary from school to school, but space is often limited and preference may be given to students based on nationality. Primary instruction may be any language (and multiple languages are usually taught), but it is usually in English or French. Many schools provide similar standards of schooling around the globe, providing for an easy transition between schools. Schools often provide internationally accepted accreditation such as the International Baccalaureate (IB). Tuition tends to be expensive based on local standards, but may offer high standards of learning, boast smaller class sizes, first-rate facilities, and extracurricular activities. Boarding facilities are available at some schools, but most only provide day classes.

International Baccalaureate (IB)

The IB program is offered by a number of private schools. It is taught under the supervision of the [International Baccalaureate Organisation](http://www.easyexpat.com/en/guides/canada/montreal/school/the%20International%20Baccalaureate%20Organisation). All students study languages, social science, experimental science, mathematics and arts.

The IB is divided into three programmes covering the following age ranges:

1. Primary Years Programme (PYP) ages 3-12
2. Middle Years Programme (MYP) ages 11-16
3. Diploma Programme (DP) ages 16-18

Accreditation

The [Council of International Schools](http://www.cois.org/) (CoIS) is a non-profit association of international schools and post-secondary institutions which provides educational accreditation, teacher and leadership recruitment services, links to higher education, governance assistance and help with founding new schools. [Western Boarding School Association](http://www.wbsa.net/) is an association of 38 college preparatory schools in the western USA and Canada.

International Schools in Québec

[**College Ste, Anne de Lachine**](http://www.college-sainte-anne.qc.ca/) (CSA)  
Address: 1280 Boulevard Saint Joseph  
Lachine, QC H8S 2M8, Canada  
Tel: (514) 637-4616

Prestigious French-language private high school (*école secondaire*). Holds the défiMonde program, an international program for students with humanitarian values and who are engaged in their community.

[**Alexander von Humboldt School**](http://www.avh.montreal.qc.ca/eng/)  
Address: 216, rue Victoria  
Baie d'Urfé (Québec) H9X 2H9 Canada  
Tel: (514) 457-2886  
Tuition: $6,150 - 8,800 per year

Alexander-von-Humboldt-School is a trilingual (German, English, French) independent international school. Founded in 1980, it satisfies both German as well as Québec education requirements. According to the curriculum, students attend mandatory courses in natural sciences, social sciences and arts, resulting in a balanced and integral general education. The main language of instruction is German. The Québec Secondary School Diploma may be obtained at the end of Grade 11 and the German International Baccalaureate (*Abitur*) at the end of Grade 12.

[**College International Marie de France**](http://www.cimf.ca/go/)**(CIMF)**  
Address: 4635 Queen Mary  
Montréal, Québec, H3W 1W3 Canada  
Tel: 514 737 1177

A non-denomination French language, co-ed school founded in 1939. CIMF educates over 1,800 students from *maternelle* (age 4) to *collégial*. CIMF is a member of AEFE and follows the curricula from the Ministry of Education of Québec and the Ministry of Education of France. Successful graduates receive a Diplôme National du Brevet des Collèges (France), Québec Secondary School Diploma, and French Baccalaureat. Financial assistance, tuition refunds, and scholarships are available for eligible French and non-French families.

[**Collège Stanislas Montréal**](http://www.stanislas.qc.ca/Montr%C3%A9al/)  
Address: 780 Dollard  
Outremont, Québec H2V 3G5, Canada  
Tel: (514)-273-9521

Exclusive French language private school for boys and girls aged 4 to 18 years. It was founded in 1938 by Raoul Dandurand as a Roman Catholic subsidiary of the renowned Collège Stanislas de Paris in Paris, France.

[**Bishops' College School**](http://www.bishopscollegeschool.com/)  
Address: 80 Moulton Hill Road, PO Box 5001  
Succursale Lennoxville, Sherbrooke, Québec, J1M 1Z8 Canada  
Tel: 819 566 0227  
Tuition: $15,340-$48,380/year + one-time $750-$4,000 enrollment fee

A culturally diverse, bilingual, independent boarding and day school for grades seven through pre-university (12). Founded in 1836, the school provides Advanced Placement programs, and an ESL program for international students.

[**Académie Lafontaine**](http://www.academielafontaine.qc.ca/)  
Address: 2171 Boulevard Maurice  
St. Jerome, Québec, J7Y 4M7 Canada  
Tel: 450 431 3733  
Tuition: $3,025-$3,423/year

Académie Lafontaine offers classes to students from kindergarten to pre-university. While primarily a French school, Académie Lafontaine also offers instruction to children in English as a second language, beginning in kindergarten. Académie Lafontaine offers International Baccalaureate diplomas to successful secondary students.

[**Loyola High School**](http://www.loyola.ca/)  
Address: 7272 Sherbrooke St. W.  
Québec H4B 1R2 Canada  
Tel: 1 4 861 101

Loyola High School is a Jesuit, Catholic boys high school with a university preparatory program. Primary instruction is in English

[**College de l'Assomption**](http://www.classomption.qc.ca/)  
Address: 270, Boulevard de l'Ange Gardien  
L'Assomption 1R7 J5W Canada  
Tel: (450)5 895 621

This school was founded in 1832. The school is part of a corporation controlled by the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Archdiocese of Montréal.

[**Roslyn School**](http://www.emsb.qc.ca/roslyn/)  
Address: 4699 Westmount Avenue  
Westmount H3Y 1X5  
Tel: 5144 815 581

Roslyn School provides bilingual education and a French Immersion School from Kindergarten to Grade 6. The school has a mandatory dress code.

[**Miss Edgar´s and Miss Cramp´s School**](http://www.ecs.qc.ca/Default.asp?bhcp=1)**(ECS)**  
Address: 525 Mount Pleasant  
Westmount, Montréal H3Y 3H6  
Tel: (514)9 356 357

Founded in 1909, ECS is an independent, non-denominational girls's day school. It provides classes from Kindergarten to Grade 11. ECS houses three school divisions under one roof:  
French-immersion Junior School for girls in Kindergarten to Grade 5  
Middle School for girls in Grades 6, 7, and 8  
Senior School for girls in Grades 9, 10, and 11.

[**Greenfield Park International Primary School**](http://www.gpi.rsb.qc.ca/)  
Address: 776 Campbell, Greenfield Park  
Greenfield Park J4V 1Y7  
Tel: 4 506 720 042

Greenfield Park Primary International School is a public schools that provides a multi cultural environment. It offers the IBO program.

[**Children's World Academy**](http://cwa.lbpsb.qc.ca/)**(CWA)**  
Address: Menard, LaSalle Montr al, CA H8N 1J4  
Montréal 2241  
Tel: 5 145 952 043

Children's World Academy is a public co-educational English elementary school Kindergarten to Level 6. It is fully accredited to offer the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP).

Languages in Canada

English and French are Canada's two official languages. Canadian English is unique in that it has a blend of American and British influences and Canadian French is unique to European French. About 58% of people in Canada speak English as a first language and 22% speak French as a first language. Despite the dual languages, it is estimated that 69% of Canadians cannot speak French, and 64% of Québecois cannot speak English.

Languages in Montréal

Québec is the only province that is majority francophone with about 84% speaking French as a dominant language. Québec's language laws impose restrictions on outdoor signs in languages other than French, so there are few signs in English. As a major tourist destination, Montréal provides more dual signage.

Language Assessments

When applying for a work or study permit, residency, or a number of other applications, proof of language proficiency may be required. Language assessment test centers most be certified by the [Citizenship and Immigration Canada](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/index.asp) (CIC). Contact the [LINC assessment centre near you](http://www.canada-info.net/html/linc.html). CIC designated language assessment agencies include [IELTS](http://www.ieltscanada.ca/) (English), [CELPIP](http://www.celpiptest.ca/) (English), and [TEF](http://www.point3.com/tef-tefaq-preparation-course) (French). Students are responsible for all language assessment costs. Assessment fees vary between $160 and $250 CAD.

The Government of Canada provides a [free online self-assessment tool](http://www.clb-osa.ca/) for English and French. This can help determine your level of skill.

Schools

Speaking the dominant local language is an important step to integrating into a new culture. There are full-time and part-time courses to fit your schedule. Most offer sample lessons or let you sit-in for free before signing up. Shop around before choosing to find a tuition and format that suits you.

Government Schools

The Government of Canada offers free language training to all qualified adult permanent residents. [Cours de langue pour les immigrants au Canada](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/fra/gdc/clic.shtml" \t "_blank) (CLIC) in Québec, and LINC in English speaking Canada, offers full- and part-time classes. Some centers even supply child care. There can be a waiting list to enter the LINC program, but centres can refer you to other facilities.

To qualify for training, adults must:

* Have their English or French language skills assessed
* Be an adult immigrant
* Be a permanent resident or a newcomer who has been allowed to remain in Canada to whom Citizenship and Immigration Canada intends to grant permanent resident status and who has not become a Canadian citizen.

Private Language Schools

Private language schools are often more expensive, but they may offer more course options and you can enroll right away. Look for accredited schools with good reputations on sites like [LanguagesCanada.ca](http://www.languagescanada.ca/) and [LangCanada.ca](http://www.langcanada.ca/index.html). Ask friends and other immigrants for recommendations and read school's testimonials before enrolling.

* [Académie Linguistique Internationale](http://www.studymontreal.com/) (ALI)
* [Concordia University](http://sarno.concordia.ca/conted/)
* [GEOS Languages Plus Montréal](http://www.xn--geosmontral-jbb.com/)
* [ILSC Language Schools - Montréal](http://www.ilsc.ca/)
* [International Language School of the YMCAs of Québec](http://www.ymcalanguages.com/)
* [McGill University](http://www.mcgill.ca/conted/langprg/)
* [MIILA - Montréal International Institute of Language Arts](http://miila.ca/)
* [MLS - Montréal Langues et Savoir](http://www.mlsinc.ca/en/index.html)
* [POINT3 Language Center](http://www.point3.com/tef-tefaq-preparation-course)

Private Lessons

Private lessons are another option. More expensive than language courses, these can be very effective. Expect to pay between $10 to 20 per hour depending on the tutor's qualifications and experience.

You can search for opportunities in a local newspapers, on message boards at pubs, copy centers, supermarkets, universities, and cafes, or on online boards such as EasyExpat's . You can also find friends on the [forum](http://www.easyexpat.com/forums/montreal.html) to work on language exchange.

Language Exchange

An exchange partner is an excellent resource for practicing a new language with a native speaker. As an added bonus, language exchange partners can help you understand the culture of the area and inform you of local happenings. Questions about gift giving, festivals, nightlife, and greetings can be addressed without worry. In the best case sceneries, an exchange partner is not only your ambassador, but a friend. Find a tandem partner through EasyExpat's [Language Swap/Lessons Montréal](http://www.easyexpat.com/en/classifieds/canada/montreal/language-swap-lessons_c18.htm).

### Getting an Education in English

  
Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School,  
an English speaking school. Photo: [Bill Wrigley](https://www.livingin-canada.com/montreal-images.html)

Children attending public primary schools in Quebec must attend French school unless they are temporary residents of Quebec, members of Canada’s First Nations, or have attended a Canadian school in English.

Children of parents who themselves attended an English school in Canada are also eligible to study in English.

Children who immigrate to Quebec are often compelled to attend school in French, regardless of their parent’s native language.

For those immigrating to Quebec, one method of having your children attend school in English is to send them to an English private school for their first year of education.

When it comes time to register your child for their second year of school you can apply to public English school as the majority of the child’s Canadian education has been in English.

This is part of the reason Quebec has the highest percentage of children attending private schools. A private education is not reserved for the rich.

Many middle and lower class parents work night jobs and save extra income for the expense. Quebec’s government also offers a range of bursaries and grants to families sending their children to a recognized private school.

The **criteria for attending English public schools in Quebec are subject to constant change** (usually tightening). Be sure to check the [latest requirements](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/am-i-eligible) with the English School Boards Association before making any decisions.

There are nine English language school boards in Montreal, and though that number may seem small, their catchment area is broad enough that there is an English language school within easy reach of most neighbourhoods.

The largest English school board in Montreal is the Lester B. Pearson School Board. It is made up of 62 elementary and secondary schools, all located just outside of the city center like Beaconsfield, Dollard-des-Omeaux and Kirkland.

It is one of the best funded school boards in the country because of its innovative use of technology and progressive teaching methods.

Quebec also provides funds for one year of French classes for non-French speaking adults applying to become permanent residents of the province.

### University

  
McGill University Main Quad

Montreal has the highest concentration of post-secondary students in North America. There are nearly 4.5 students for every hundred residents.

Within an 8 kilometre radius, there are:

**››** four English universities

**››** two French universities

**››** twelve junior colleges

The best known university in Montreal is McGill University. McGill consistently ranks in Canada’s top three and the world’s top 100 universities. It is one of Canada’s oldest schools, and known worldwide. English is the language of instruction at McGill.

Concordia University is Montreal’s next largest and offers a range of Masters and Doctoral programs, with English as the primary language of instruction in most.

Université de Montréal, or UdeM, is the second largest research university in Canada, and home to the École Polytechnique de Montréal (School of Engineering) and HEC Montréal (School of Business). UdeM also offers many programs for students interested in learning or improving their French language skills.

<https://www.livingin-canada.com/montreal-education.html>

<https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/am-i-eligible>

# **Am I eligible**

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC ENGLISH SCHOOLS IN QUEBEC**

The important information is essential for parents who are seeking to enroll their children in English public schools in Quebec. Please read it carefully. For further information, please visit the site of the Ministère de l’Education, du Loisir et du Sport

* [English](http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/daasa/rens/banque/Fiches/F95a.htm)
* [Français](http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/daasa/rens/banque/Fiches/F95a.htm)

or the English public school board in your area

* [Central Québec School Board](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/school-boards/central-quebec)
* [Eastern Shores School Board](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/school-boards/eastern-shores)
* [Eastern Townships School Board](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/school-boards/eastern-townships)
* [English Montreal School Board](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/school-boards/english-montreal)
* [Lester B. Pearson School Board](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/school-boards/lester-b-pearson)
* [New Frontiers School Board](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/school-boards/new-frontiers)
* [Riverside School Board](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/school-boards/riverside)
* [Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/school-boards/sir-wilfrid-laurier)
* [Western Québec School Board](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/school-boards/western-quebec)

## [General background information](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/am-i-eligible/item/historique)

In 1977, Québec’s National Assembly adopted the Charter of the French Language (Bill 101), which states that all children, except those who meet specific criteria, must be educated in French until the end of their secondary studies, whether in a public school or in a subsidized private school. The Charter does not apply to Quebec’s colleges, universities and non-subsidized private institutions.

## Eligibility Categories

Under the Charter of the French Language, children in the following three categories may be enrolled in English-language schools:

* Children who are permanent residents of Quebec and who qualify for a certificate of eligibility for instruction in English.
* Children who are permanent residents of Quebec and who are entitled to receive instruction in English under a special authorization.
* Children who are living in Quebec temporarily and who qualify for temporary authorization to receive instruction in ...
  + [Continue Reading](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/am-i-eligible/item/historique)

## [Certificate of eligibility](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/am-i-eligible/item/declaration-d-admissibilite)

A certificate of eligibility is generally delivered to children:

* Who did most of their elementary or secondary studies in English in Canada; or
* Whose brother or sister did most of his/her elementary or secondary studies in English in Canada; or
* Whose father or mother did most of his/her elementary studies in English in Canada; or
* Whose father or mother attended school in Quebec after August 26, 1977 and could have been declared eligible for instruction in English at that time.

The certificate of eligibility for instruction in English is permanent. In other words, there is no time limit after which it expires

Children who are declared eligible under section 73, 76 or 86.1 may pursue studies   in French and still transfer their right to receive instruction in English to their children.

* [Continue Reading](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/am-i-eligible/item/declaration-d-admissibilite)

## [Special authorization](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/am-i-eligible/item/autorisation-particuliere)

Children who are entitled to receive instruction in English under a special authorization fall into two broad categories;

* Children with serious learning disabilities as defined in the government regulation included under section 81 of the Charter of the French Language
* Children admitted to receive instruction in English by the Ministry of Education, Recreation and Sports by reason of a serious family or humanitarian situation, following a recommendation by the examining committee, after assessment by a person designated by the Ministry stating that the child’s situation is not covered under any provision of the Charter.
* [Continue Reading](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/am-i-eligible/item/autorisation-particuliere)

## [Temporary authorization](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/am-i-eligible/item/autorisation-temporaire)

Children entitled to receive instruction in English under a temporary authorization fall into three broad categories:

**First**, the dependent children of persons living in Quebec temporarily to study or work, including:

* The dependent children of foreign nationals who hold a Quebec certificate of acceptance or an employment authorization or a student authorization issued in accordance with the Federal Immigration Act, or who are exempted from holding such a certificate or authorization under a statute applicable in Quebec.
* The dependent children of Canadian citizens or permanent residents domiciled in another Canadian province or a territory of Canada living in Quebec temporarily to study or work.
* **Second**, the dependent children of persons who are not Canadian citizens and who are posted in Quebec temporarily as representatives or officers of a country other than Canada or of an international ...
  + [Continue Reading](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/am-i-eligible/item/autorisation-temporaire)

## [The application process](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/am-i-eligible/item/le-processus-de-demande)

To have a child declared eligible to receive instruction in English, the parent or legal guardian of the child must apply to the school board or private school where he or she wishes to enroll the child.

* [Central Québec School Board](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/school-boards/central-quebec)
* [Eastern Shores School Board](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/school-boards/eastern-shores)
* [Eastern Townships School Board](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/school-boards/eastern-townships)
* [English Montreal School Board](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/school-boards/english-montreal)
* [Lester B. Pearson School Board](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/school-boards/lester-b-pearson)
* [New Frontiers School Board](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/school-boards/new-frontiers)
* [Riverside School Board](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/school-boards/riverside)
  + [Continue Reading](https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/am-i-eligible/item/le-processus-de-demande)

For school addresses and locations..

<https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/schools/search>

<https://www.qesba.qc.ca/en/school-boards/find-a-school>

<http://www.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/schools/SchoolsMunicipalityV2.asp>

# Eligibility

* [Who is eligible to attend English school?](http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/eligibility/#c1818)
* [Who may obtain a certificate of eligibility?](http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/eligibility/#c1820)
* [Who may receive instruction in English under special authorization?](http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/eligibility/#c1822)
* [Who may receive temporary authorization?](http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/eligibility/#c1767)

## Who is eligible to attend English school?

Under the Charter of the French language, children in the following three situations are eligible :

* children who are residing in Québec permanently and who qualify for a certificate of eligibility for instruction in English
* children who are residing in Québec permanently and who are entitled to receive instruction in English under a special authorization
* children who are living in Québec temporarily and who qualify for a temporary authorization to receive instruction in English

[To top](http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/eligibility/#totop)

## Who may obtain a certificate of eligibility?

A certificate of eligibility is generally issued to children :

* who have received the major part of their elementary or secondary school instruction in English in Canada;
* whose brother or sister did the major part of his or her elementary or secondary studies in English in Canada;
* whose father or mother did the major part of his or her elementary studies in English in Canada;
* whose father or mother attended school in Québec after August 26, 1977, and could have been declared eligible for instruction in English at that time

In the first two cases, the father or mother of the child must be a Canadian citizen. In the third case, the parent who studied in Canada must be a Canadian citizen.

These are the most common situations that allow a child to receive instruction in English.

A declaration of eligibility for instruction in English issued under sections 73, 76 or 86.1 of the Charter of the French language is permanent; in other words, it does not expire.

In addition, even if they do all their studies in French, children declared eligible to receive instruction in English under section 73, 76 or 86.1 are deemed to have received instruction in English and therefore may pass this right down to their children.

Lastly, when a child is declared eligible to receive instruction in English, his or her brothers and sisters may also be declared eligible.

[To top](http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/eligibility/#totop)

## Who may receive instruction in English under special authorization?

* children with serious learning disabilities as defined in the [government regulation under section 81 of the Charter [Cet hyperlien s'ouvrira dans une nouvelle fenêtre.](http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cr/C-11,%20r.%206)](http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cr/C-11,%20r.%206)
* children admitted to receive instruction in English by the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur by reason of a serious family or humanitarian situation, following a recommendation to this effect by the examining committee, and after an assessment by a person designated by the Minister stating that the child’s situation is not covered under any provision of the Charter

[To top](http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/eligibility/#totop)

## Who may receive temporary authorization?

Children who may receive [temporary authorization to receive their instruction in English [Cet hyperlien s'ouvrira dans une nouvelle fenêtre.](http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cr/C-11,%20r.%207)](http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cr/C-11,%20r.%207) fall into three categories :

First, the dependent children of persons living in Québec temporarily to study or work, including:

* the dependent children of foreign nationals who hold a Québec certificate of acceptance or an employment authorization or a student authorization issued in accordance with the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, or who are exempted from holding such a certificate or authorization under a statute applicable in Québec
* the dependent children of Canadian citizens or permanent residents domiciled in another Canadian province or territory of Canada who are temporarily living in Québec to study or work

Second, the dependent children of persons who are not Canadian citizens and who are posted in Québec temporarily as representatives or officers of a country other than Canada or of an international organization.

Last, the dependent children of members of the Canadian Armed Forces who are posted in Québec temporarily.

When a child is granted a temporary authorization to receive instruction in English, this is valid for the period of validity of the immigration document issued to the parent or child, or for the duration of their temporary stay, as stated in a sworn declaration. This stay can be for a maximum of three (3) years and expires on June 30 of the school year in which the temporary stay of the parent or child ends.

A temporary authorization to receive instruction in English may be renewed provided that the applicant still meets the same criteria as in his or her first application.

However, temporary authorization cannot be granted to the children of foreign nationals who are claiming refugee status for themselves or their children, or of foreign nationals who choose to settle in Québec on a permanent basis and obtain a Québec selection certificate. If an authorization has already been granted, it expires on June 30 of the school year in which the selection certificate is issued.

<http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/eligibility/>

# Application process

To have a child declared eligible to receive instruction in English, the parent or legal guardian of the child must apply to the school board or private school where he or she wishes to enroll the child.

The parent or legal guardian must complete the appropriate application form and attach all of the required supporting documents. In all cases, the child’s birth certificate must bear the names of both parents and must be enclosed. If a birth certificate cannot be provided, any other official document issued by a competent authority and attesting to the child’s date of birth, sex and filiation may be submitted.

The school board or private school then forwards the application and required supporting documents to a person designated by the Ministère de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche. This person will check if the child is eligible to receive instruction in English and render a decision.

The parent or legal guardian of the child will be informed of the decision in writing. Provided that the paperwork is complete, applications are usually processed within 10 working days, in accordance with the [Declaration of Services to Citizens [Cet hyperlien s'ouvrira dans une nouvelle fenêtre.](https://www.quebec.ca/en/government/ministere/education/a-key-mission-in-quebec-society/)](https://www.quebec.ca/en/government/ministere/education/a-key-mission-in-quebec-society/).

If the parent or legal guardian who made the application wishes to contest an unfavourable decision made by the designated person, he or she has 60 days to file an appeal with the Tribunal administratif du Québec. If he or she wishes to claim a serious family or humanitarian situation, he or she has 30 days to file an appeal with the [examining committee](http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/application-process/examining-committee/#c3268).

<http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cr/C-11,%20r.%202.1>

# Frequently asked questions

* [How can I enroll my child in an English-language school?](http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/frequently-asked-questions/#c5950)
* [How long does it usually take to process an application for eligibility for instruction in English?](http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/frequently-asked-questions/#c5951)
* [How can I obtain a duplicate of a lost certificate of eligibility?](http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/frequently-asked-questions/#c5952)
* [What should I do if I notice an error in my child's certificate of eligibility?](http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/frequently-asked-questions/#c5953)
* [What should I do if I am informed that my child's application to receive instruction at an English-language school is incomplete?](http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/frequently-asked-questions/#c5954)
* [What can I do if I am informed that my child's application for eligibility to receive instruction in an English-language school has been refused?](http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/frequently-asked-questions/#c5962)
* [If I decide to enroll my child at a French-language school even though he or she is eligible for instruction in English, will my child cease to be eligible to receive instruction in English?](http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/frequently-asked-questions/#c5963)

## How can I enroll my child in an English-language school?

To enroll your child in an English-language school, contact your neighbourhood school, the English-language school board that has jurisdiction in your area or a private school of your choice. To attend a regular English-language school or a French immersion program, a child must be [eligible for instruction in English [Cet hyperlien s'ouvrira dans une nouvelle fenêtre.](http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cr/C-11,%20r.%205)](http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cr/C-11,%20r.%205). The appropriate [school or school board [Cet hyperlien s'ouvrira dans une nouvelle fenêtre.](https://prod.education.gouv.qc.ca/gdunojrecherche/rechercheOrganisme.do?methode=recherche)](https://prod.education.gouv.qc.ca/gdunojrecherche/rechercheOrganisme.do?methode=recherche) personnel will provide you with the required forms, help you fill them out and forward them to the Ministère. Local newspapers provide information on each school board's enrollment period, which usually occurs in January and February. In the case of private schools, contact those that interest you. They sometimes hold entrance examinations, and these generally take place in the fall.

You will find the [list of private schools and their contact information [Cet hyperlien s'ouvrira dans une nouvelle fenêtre.](https://prod.education.gouv.qc.ca/gdunojrecherche/listesPredefinies.do?methode=consulterListePredefinie)](https://prod.education.gouv.qc.ca/gdunojrecherche/listesPredefinies.do?methode=consulterListePredefinie) on the Ministère Web site.

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## How long does it usually take to process an application for eligibility for instruction in English?

Applications are processed within 10 days after the file is received by the Ministère office designated to process them. If you submitted an application with all the required documents to a school or a school board some time ago and are wondering about the status of your file, you must contact your school or school board, which will be able to tell you whether the delay is normal given the date the file was sent to the MEESR. If required, the school or school board will contact the appropriate MEES personnel.

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## How can I obtain a duplicate of a lost certificate of eligibility?

If you lose your child's certificate of eligibility and want a duplicate, send a birth certificate that indicates the names of your child's parents to the Ministère office that processes eligibility applications. Don't forget to provide your full return address (including your apartment number and postal code) and your daytime telephone number. You may send your request together with your child's birth certificate by fax to 514-864-2665 or by mail to the following address :

Admissibilité à l'enseignement en anglais  
600, rue Fullum, 11e étage  
Montréal (Québec)  H2K 4L1

You should receive the duplicate in the mail about 10 days after you make your request. Do not go in person to the above address to obtain this document.

If, however, you are a parent and are applying for eligibility under section 73, 76 or 86.1 of the Charter in order to establish your child's eligibility for enrollment at an English-language school on the basis of this certificate, you do not need to follow the above procedure. If you know your permanent code or you have a transcript or report card proving your attendance at an English-language school in 1977 or later, you may go to the school or school board and ask to apply for a certificate of eligibility using a short form.

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## What should I do if I notice an error in my child's certificate of eligibility?

If the certificate of eligibility of your child contains an error concerning his or her name or date of birth, or the child has changed his or her name or has been adopted, please contact your school board or the private school that your child attends.

It is the responsibility of the school board or the private school to have your child's permanent code changed and to send the necessary documents to the Ministère so that a corrected certificate of eligibility can be issued.

Please note that the Ministère will not change the address or telephone number appearing on a certificate of eligibility after it has been issued. The upper part of the document, containing your address, is detachable and has no impact on the legal effect of the certificate.

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## What should I do if I am informed that my child's application to receive instruction at an English-language school is incomplete?

If you have received a letter indicating that your application is incomplete, please contact the school board or private school whose name and telephone number are indicated in the letter to obtain a clarification or to provide the required information.

If you live in an outlying area and are unable to contact your school board, you may ask the school administration to contact the school board for you.

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## What can I do if I am informed that my child's application for eligibility to receive instruction in an English-language school has been refused?

It is important to carefully examine the document you have received. If you have received a notice of refusal, you must check off the appropriate comment and then return the document to us. If you are asked to submit additional supporting documents, send them to us together with a copy of the notice of refusal within 10 days after receipt of the notice.

If, following receipt of an initial notice of refusal, you receive a letter of refusal signed by the person designated by the Minister, you have 60 days to file an appeal to the Administrative Tribunal of Québec if you wish to contest the decision, or you have 30 days to submit an application to the [examining committee](http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/application-process/examining-committee/) if you wish to claim a serious family or humanitarian situation in support of your application.

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## If I decide to enroll my child at a French-language school even though he or she is eligible for instruction in English, will my child cease to be eligible to receive instruction in English?

If your child has been issued a certificate of eligibility for instruction in English, and if this eligibility has been declared under section 73, 76 or 86.1 of the Charter, his or her right to receive instruction in English will be maintained and will be transferable to his or her brothers, sisters and children, regardless of the language of your child's instruction. This right is protected under section 76.1 of the Charter.

<http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/adan-system/>

The majority of the population in Montreal speaks French as a first language. Thus, French is the language of instruction at public schools in Montreal. But support is provided to those children whose first language is not French.

Children start school at the age of five and finish when they are 17. High school in Montreal only goes up to grade 11, instead of up to grade 12 as is the case in the general [education system of Canada](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/education-and-schools-canada). For this reason, students who wish to continue on to university must first complete another two years at a post-secondary college.

**Public schools in Montreal**

Children in Montreal start going to school at five years old in a *maternelle*. Grade 1 to 6 is *ecole primaire* and *ecole secondaire* is from grade 7 to 11. Students then move on to post-secondary college for grades 12 and 13 if they want to continue on to university.

Unless expat children are very young or have a good grasp of the French language, public school is not the best option for them.

**Language in schools in Montreal**

All children in Quebec are encouraged to attend French-language public schools. However, there are also English-language public schools for children who have already received some of their education in English. This service is, however, only available to children whose parents are Canadian citizens.

In French language schools, English is taught as a second language and English immersion programmes are also available. There are also fully bilingual schools in Quebec, where both English and French are taught as a first language. Many of the private schools in Montreal are also bilingual.

**Private schools in Montreal**

A large proportion of children in Montreal attend private schools. This is because the government subsidises certain private schools that meet its requirements. Most private schools are high schools and many are affiliated with a certain religion.

Children who want to attend a private high school will have to pass an entrance exam and will have to have performed well throughout primary school.

Non-subsidised private schools in Montreal are expensive. Annual tuition differs between schools but can cost more than 25,000 CAD per year at elite institutions.

**International schools in Montreal**

[International schools in Montreal](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/montreal/international-schools-montreal) are the most popular choice for non-Francophone expats. There are numerous international schools in the city and many different languages and curricula are catered for.

Tuition at international schools can be expensive, with fees frequently being in the region of 25,000 CAD.

Application requirements vary from one international school to the next. Generally, expats applying to an international school usually need to provide the following:

* Application form
* Application fee
* Copy of their child’s birth certificate
* A recent school report card
* School records from previous school
* A photograph of the child
* A copy of the applicant’s *Déclaration d’admissibilité à l’enseignement en Anglais* (declaration of eligibility for instruction in English) issued by the Ministry of Education

**More information**

►Get an idea of the different [Areas and Suburbs](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/montreal/areas-and-suburbs-montreal) around Montreal

►[Getting Around in Montreal](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/montreal/getting-around-montreal) explores the best ways of navigating the city

**Are you an expat living in Montreal?**

Expat Arrivals is looking for locals to contribute to this guide, and answer forum questions from others planning their move to Montreal. Please [contact us](http://www.expatarrivals.com/contact-us) if you'd like to contribute.

Given that education in Quebec is primarily in French, many expats choose to send their child to an English-medium private school or international school in Montreal.

While a significant number of the [public schools](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/education-and-schools-canada) in the city offer bilingual education, French is usually taught at first language level, which can be detrimental to older children who don't speak the language.

There is, however, a high level of competition for places at Montreal's international schools, especially in the lower grades, and expat kids may find themselves on a waiting list before they are able to enrol.

### Private English language schools in Montreal

#### Kells Academy

[www.kells.ca](http://www.kells.ca/)

Curriculum: Quebec curriculum

Gender: Co-educational

Ages: 5 to 17

#### Kuper Academy

[www.kuperacademy.ca](http://www.kuperacademy.ca/)

Curriculum: Quebec curriculum

Gender: Co-educational

Ages: 5 to 17

#### Lower Canada College

[www.lcc.ca](http://www.lcc.ca/)

Curriculum: Quebec curriculum

Gender: Co-educational

Ages: 5 to 18

### International schools in Montreal

#### Beurling Academy

[beurling.lbpsb.qc.ca](http://beurling.lbpsb.qc.ca/)

Curriculum: International Baccalaureate

Gender: Co-educational

Ages: 12 to 17

#### Centennial Academy

[www.centennial.qc.ca](http://www.centennial.qc.ca/)

Curriculum: International Baccalaureate

Gender: Co-educational

Ages: 12 to 17

#### John Paul I High School

[www.emsb.qc.ca](http://www.emsb.qc.ca/johnpauli/)

Curriculum: International Baccalaureate

Gender: Co-educational

Ages: 12 to 15

#### St George's School

[www.stgeorges.qc.ca](http://www.stgeorges.qc.ca/)

Curriculum: Quebec curriculum

Gender: Co-educational

Ages: 5 to 17

<http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/montreal/international-schools-montreal>

Expats will find Montreal to be a microcosm of Canada. A former fur trading post originally founded by the French, it has grown to become the second largest city in the country and the largest in the province of Quebec.

Montreal marries a unique cultural spirit with the mainstays of Canada’s social development programmes such as universal [health](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/montreal/healthcare-montreal) insurance and free [education](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/montreal/education-and-schools-montreal).

The official language is French, with 65 percent of residents speaking French in their homes, and a large proportion are immigrants who have relocated permanently from France.

Montreal is arguably more Francophone than Anglophone and this is often one of the largest challenges faced by English-speaking expatriates. Those with no knowledge of the language could certainly live in Montreal and live well. But the activities they participate in, the extent of the job market, and even the people they can interact with, will be greatly limited.

In order to immigrate to Montreal and work legally, however, the permit application and approval process take the candidate’s French language ability into consideration. Unlike the rest of Canada, it is only possible for someone to get a residence or work permit for Quebec if they have passed provincial requirements. On the other hand, those who do speak French will find themselves in an economically stable, manageable city that has been credited as the 'cultural capital of Canada'.

Age-old architecture in Vieux-Montreal, a long-standing tradition of jazz and rock music, as well as countless distinguished theatre, music and art performance centres, are all part of the metropolis’s most powerful allure. Not to mention, accommodation in Montreal is generally more affordable and easier to find than in Canadian cities of comparable size, such as Toronto and Vancouver.

Video games and aerospace continue to be huge industries in the city, and film, finance, world affairs and commerce are also well-represented. International firms are aplenty in the city but, again, employment opportunities will be limited for candidates unable to speak French.

Otherwise, expats moving to Montreal will find that one of the most difficult elements to adapt to is its frigid winters. Summer can be hot, humid and generally pleasant, but from December to March temperatures can hover well below freezing, and snow, sleet, rain and ice make regular appearances.

The good news is that the city’s underground metro, which has been cited as an attraction in itself, is warm and incredibly comprehensive. It links up even some of Montreal’s far-flung suburbs with its central backbone. Expats won't necessarily need a car, and the chances are that if they do choose to purchase a vehicle, they will have to deal with the infuriating traffic congestion that characterises life in an island city.

On the whole, expats moving to Montreal may find that the distinctly Quebecois brand takes time to get used to. Once they attempt to do so, they can look forward to a rich life in one of Canada’s most interesting regions.

The most important thing that expats wanting to work in Montreal should know is that the official language of business and daily life is Quebec French. While the city does have a significant number of Anglophone residents, they only account for a small portion of its population.

The unique culture and politics of the wider Quebec province has effects on an individual level for workers in the city, aside from language. While city residents have access to more state benefits than elsewhere in Canada, the average salary in Montreal is lower than the national average for major cities. Taxes also tend to be higher. Expats interested in starting a business in Montreal will also have more government intervention and bureaucracy to contend with than elsewhere.

### Job market in Montreal

Montreal’s economy is still one of the largest among Canadian cities. Some of its main industries include electronics, aerospace, medical research, information and communications technology (ICT), and textile manufacturing. The city also has a strong service industry which includes civil and mechanical engineering, finance and education, with six universities serving the city.

Broadly speaking, Montreal has an interesting mixture of Canadian working culture and European influences. People in the city tend to be fairly fashion conscious both in work and in public life. More vibrant offices have casual dress codes but, even then, collared shirts are common. In more formal business environments people opt for a conservative yet stylish dress code.

There is a widespread emphasis on individualism and equality, but some firms more closely resemble the elaborate hierarchies found in larger, more traditional European corporations.

Typical business hours in the city are from 9am to 5pm and sometimes 7pm, from Monday to Friday. By law, local stores are allowed to be open from 9am to 9pm during the week, and 9am to 5pm on weekends. Getting to one's office should not be a problem as the [public transport system](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/montreal/getting-around-montreal) is excellent in Montreal.

### Finding a job in Montreal

The majority of expats who relocate to Montreal do so having already secured a position. In many cases, they are transferred by the company to an office in Quebec. For those who haven't secured a job, the best place to start the search would be online. Company websites and job portals are a useful source of information. The classified sections of online newspapers also have listings of job opportunities.

City residents have a legal right to be served in French, making it far more difficult for an expatriate who does not speak French to find a job in Montreal. There are part-time opportunities for foreign students studying at one of the city’s universities, such as McGill, but it would still be easier to find employment if they speak the language.  
  
English-speaking expats who don’t have any networks in the city are advised to start French lessons as soon as possible and to secure a job before they arrive. Many of the positions available in Montreal require their candidates to be able to speak, read and write in French. There are, however, programmes aimed at migrants who are unable to speak French such as Yes (Youth Employment Services) Montreal, a non-profit organisation that assists with finding employment and starting businesses.

Expats wanting to work in Montreal have to have permanent residence in Canada or go through the procedure to get a [work permit for Canada](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/work-permits-canada), as well as meet the selection requirements of the Quebec Government. This is because, according to law, Quebec is able to select which applicants are able to apply to the Canadian government for permanent residence in the province. Permanent workers have to fill out an official immigration application and, if their application is successful, they will receive the Certificat de Selection Du Quebec (CSQ). The Certificate of Selection is the official document for immigration issued by the government of Quebec.

### Further reading

►Family-oriented expats should have a look at [Education and Schools in Montreal](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/montreal/education-and-schools-montreal)

►[Doing Business in Canada](http://www.expatarrivals.com/americas/canada/doing-business-canada) gives more information on Canadian working culture

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Montreal_School_Board>