

Parent's Guide to Funding Higher Education

A recent study showed that 85% of Canadian students will graduate from higher education with an average of \$27,000 of debt. It doesn't have to be that way, though, because there are many sources of funding available for higher education - from birth, through to post-graduation - that can make access to post-secondary education possible and reduce potential debt.

Sources of Funds and Resources for Each Stage



Birth to age 15
Up to Grade 10

RESPs (from birth)

Open a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) at any participating financial institution. RESP savings grow tax-free and deposits may be eligible for matching grants of 20%-40% (**free money!**) through the Canada Education Savings Program.

Visit: www.canlearn.ca

Canada Learning Bond

The Canada Learning Bond (CLB) provides up to \$2,000 in RESP contributions with no family contribution required and is available to children born in 2004 or later in families with a net income of \$45,000 or less. Parents can find out more and apply for an RESP at

www.smartsaver.org



Age 15 - 18
Grade 10 - 12

SchoolFinder.com and ScholarshipsCanada.com

By Grade 10, students should start looking at their higher education options and the potential costs. At www.Schoolfinder.com parents and students can find programs, universities and colleges in Canada, the UK and the US.

Programs have tuition and prerequisites. Also visit Proliteracy.ca

At www.ScholarshipsCanada.com students (parents too!) can fill in a profile to get matched to over 80,000 awards worth \$177+ million—it's a one-stop shop for all college, university and corporate scholarships offered in Canada.

Government Loans

The Government of Canada and each province and territory offer student loan and grant programs. Everything you need to know about eligibility and applying can be found at

www.canlearn.ca



Age 18 +
Attending College
and/or University

Campus Financial Aid Offices and Career Centers

Every college and university has a financial aid department and a website with information about scholarships and bursaries available at their school, plus a career center that can help with finding employment during school and after graduation.

HigherEdPoints.com

Through this new program, students, parents and donors can convert Aeroplan® Miles and TD Points into funds to pay for higher education fees and to pay back student loans! Visit www.HigherEdPoints.com



Post-graduation

Repayment Assistance (RAP) for Student Loans

Federal and provincial loan programs each offer "RAP" to graduates who may need help repaying their government loans. Don't be afraid to ask for help; you won't be the first student to do so! HigherEdPoints.com can be used to pay back student loans in some regions too!

Job Websites for Students and New Grads

The fastest way to pay back any student debt is to find a good job. Some interesting new websites have popped up, aiming to help students and recent grads get work experience or land an entry level job. Check out www.Riipen.com, www.magnet.today, and www.jobpostings.ca