

# Guide to Applying to Post-Secondary: What to Know

## In this Guide:

1. Where to Do Your Research: Please Research NOW!
2. Ontario College Application Service (OCAS): Important Dates
3. OCAS: Application Info
4. Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC): Important Dates
5. OUAC: Application Info
6. OUAC: How-To Tutorials
7. Financing Post-Secondary
8. Applying outside of Ontario?
9. Did You Know?
10. Post-Secondary Checklist
11. Ontario University – Virtual Tours

## 1. Where to Do Your Research: Please Research NOW!

Students are advised to visit the following sites, which provide information about Ontario college and university programs, scholarships, residences, campus visits, and much more:

1. [myBlueprint.ca/tdsb](https://myBlueprint.ca/tdsb)
2. [www.ontariocolleges.ca](http://www.ontariocolleges.ca)
3. [www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca](http://www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca)
4. [www.ouac.on.ca](http://www.ouac.on.ca)

## 2. OCAS (Ontario College Application Service): Important Dates

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

### Early October 2020: Online Application Opens

- In early October, access to the online college application becomes available for programs beginning in the following academic year (August to July). You may create an account and [begin your application](#).

### **February 1, 2021: Equal Consideration Date**

- Apply on or before this date in order to receive equal consideration for admission to programs starting the following fall. After this date, colleges consider applicants on a first-come, first-served basis until programs are full.
- Note that applications to [Highly Competitive Programs](#) must be received by this date in order to be considered. As these programs receive a high volume of applicants, all seats may be filled by February 1.
- Many programs continue to accept applicants after February 1. Use the [Find a Program](#) tool at any time to find programs that are still open.

### **February 1, 2021: Earliest Offer Date**

- This is the earliest date that colleges may begin to send offers of admission to programs for the upcoming academic year. Offers will continue to be issued until programs are filled or wait-lists are established.

### **May 1, 2021: Deadline to Confirm Offers of Admission**

- Applicants must confirm their acceptance of an offer of admission by this date. Log in to your ontariocolleges.ca account to [confirm your offer](#).
- Colleges may extend offers of admission after this date. Each college will set the deadline to confirm offers made after May 1, and this deadline will be communicated to you with your offer.

### **June 2021: Tuition Deposit Due at the Colleges**

- The colleges require payment of a tuition deposit in June to secure your spot in your program. Each college sets its own tuition deposit amount and payment deadline. This information will be communicated to you by the college.

## **3. OCAS Application Info**

- Applications open for Sept 2021 mid-October. Go directly to <https://www.ontariocolleges.ca> to start your application.
- Fee: \$95.00 – Online credit card, Online banking, Telephone banking or Certified cheque/money order.
- Fee includes 5 CHOICES of Colleges/Programmes for \$95
  - no more than 3 choices at any one college
- Students may apply to both college and university programs
- See [College Degree programs here](#)

## 4. OUAC: Important Dates

**Important:** Apply using the **Undergrad (101)** application. [www.ouac.on.ca](http://www.ouac.on.ca)  
Please see this helpful [Student Hyperdoc](#) from OUAC

### January 15, 2021: OUAC Applications Due

- **Apply on-line by this date!** If you are applying to universities in Canada but outside the province of Ontario that use OUAC to cull marks, you should apply to OUAC first and then enter your 10-digit OUAC Reference number on the individual applications to these schools; Bishop's, U.B.C., U of Calgary, Concordia, Dalhousie, McGill, Simon Fraser, U of Victoria, U.N.B.
- **PRO TIP:** We recommend you complete your OUAC application by the winter break.
- **Acknowledgement Email:** all students will receive an acknowledgment email on receipt of their submission of application
- **PRO TIP:** Review your email to make sure all data was entered correctly!
- **Supplementary Forms:** Some programs also require profile forms and supplementary forms. Do your research! Check <https://www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca/> for more details.
- **Residence Applications:** must be completed and submitted as soon as possible. Check <https://www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca/> for more details.

### May 27, 2021

- The latest date you can expect the following responses from an Ontario university: an offer of admission; a refusal; or a deferral, pending additional information.

### June 1, 2021

- The earliest date you may be required to respond to an Ontario university offer of admission and give a financial commitment (e.g., registration deposit, residence deposit, etc.).

**Mark Transmission Dates: What We Know Now - we will update if there are changes**

- Quad 1 mark data transferred to OUAC by November 20

- Students required to check submissions (Important!) once they have applied
- Quad 2 mark data transferred to OUAC by February 11
  - applicants may receive conditional offers as early as April 2021 based on a combination of Gr. 11 course final marks and Gr. 12 course mid-term and final marks
- Quad 3 mark data transferred to OUAC by April 22
- Final marks data transferred to OUAC by July 6

## 5. OUAC: Application Info

- Fee: **\$150.00 for the initial three (3)** program choices
- Maximum 3 programs per university, including affiliated colleges
- \$50.00 for each additional university/program beyond the initial three
- Applications will be completed on-line, starting mid to late November after you have received your OUAC PIN letter.
- OUAC will send **a hard copy letter directly to your home with your OUAC PIN**. You need this PIN to activate your OUAC application. The address they will use is your home address on file with the TDSB. Be sure we have your correct address and connect with your home school counsellor if there are changes to be made to your address.
- Applications to the **Royal Military College of Canada** are not part of the OUAC processing service. A separate form must be obtained from a Canadian Recruiting Centre. Speak with your Guidance counsellor at your home school for more information.

## 6. OUAC How-To Video Tutorials:

The following tutorials guide you through [Ontario Universities' Info \(OUInfo\)](#) and the 101 application.

[View these videos in an alternative format \(PDF, PPT\).](#)

- **OUInfo**
  - [How to Use OUInfo: Your Starting Point for Researching Ontario's Universities](#)
- **How to Apply**

- [Tutorial 1: How to Log In to Your 101 Application for the First Time](#)
- [Tutorial 2: How to Browse and Add Programs to Your Application](#)
- [Tutorial 3: How to Prepare and Submit Your Application](#)
- [Tutorial 4: How to Submit and Pay for Your Application](#)
- **How to Review and/or Change Your Application**
  - [Tutorial 5: How to Review and/or Change Your Completed 101 Application](#)
  - [Tutorial 6: How to Add or Withdraw Programs in your Submitted Application](#)
- **How to Respond to Offers of Admission**
  - [Tutorial 7: How to View and Respond to Ontario University Offers of Admission](#)

## 7. Financing Post-Secondary

- **OSAP:** For information about the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) visit: [ontario.ca/osap](http://ontario.ca/osap)
- University financial aid offices are very helpful: [Find info here](#)
- Please connect with your Home School to discuss Scholarship Opportunities. You can find additional scholarship opportunities on the [OUAC site](#) and the [OCAS site](#)

## 8. Applications Outside of Ontario

\*\*Be sure to let your Guidance Counsellor at your home school know via an individual virtual meeting/phone call request if you are planning on applying outside of Ontario.

### **WITHIN CANADA:**

- Applications are available on-line via the specific university's website.
  - Look for the "Prospective Students" and "applying from out of province" tabs
- The following Canadian universities are linked to OUAC for submission of marks: Acadia University, Bishop's University, University of British Columbia, University of Calgary, Concordia University, Dalhousie

University, McGill University, Saint Mary's University, Simon Fraser University, University of Victoria

- When you apply to these schools, they will ask for your OUAC information
- Students should be aware of deadlines and allow sufficient lead-time for applications. Deadlines vary, but are generally between December 1 and March 31

### **WITHIN U.S.A./U.K.:**

- Students should be signing up for the online application for the college/university of their choice now (in most cases, [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) for USA and [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) for UK; for other countries go to specific university websites)
- Students should notify their Home School Guidance Counsellor of their intention to complete the US or UK application. One month lead-time is required to “properly package” a student and prepare a counsellor recommendation. Students are responsible for meeting application deadlines
- For U.S.A.: Students may need to be registering to write the SATI/SATII or ACT standardised exams. Go to [www.collegeboard.org/](http://www.collegeboard.org/) or <http://global.act.org/> for information about test and registration dates. NOTE: Many US colleges are making SATs/ACTs optional during the pandemic so check for COVID updates on their websites.
- For U.S.A.: Application deadline for American Universities – December 31. (Everything must be done before the Winter Break.) If you are applying for early admission, the deadline is much earlier (typically November 1) – see college websites for specifics.
- For U.K.: Application deadline on UCAS for Meds, Vets, Dental, and Oxford/Cambridge is October 15; Equal Consideration deadline for all other programmes is January 15. Maximum 5 applications which require predicted or midterm grades, personal statement, academic reference, etc.

### **9. Did you Know:**

- [ONTransfer.ca](http://ONTransfer.ca): Gives information on how to transfer between Ontario Colleges and Universities (“Program Transfer Guide” tool) as well as on collaborative degree/diploma programmes.

## 10. Checklist: Did you.....

- Replace your temporary OUAC PIN with your own confidential password?
- Record and store your access codes and passwords in a safe, memorable place?
- Make sure that you have a correct, working and appropriate email address? **Frequently check** your email for correspondence from OCAS, OUAC or Universities.
- Do you have a valid Visa/MasterCard? Alternatively, you may choose to pay by certified cheque or money order. You can also opt for Online banking or Telephone banking.

## 11. Ontario Universities – Virtual Tours

### Ontario Universities - Virtual Tours

University	Link to Virtual Tour
Algoma University	<a href="https://www.algomau.ca/students/future-students/">https://www.algomau.ca/students/future-students/</a>
Brock University	<a href="https://discover.brocku.ca/fallpreview/">https://discover.brocku.ca/fallpreview/</a>
Carleton University	<a href="https://virtualltour.carleton.ca/carleton/home/featured-tours">https://virtualltour.carleton.ca/carleton/home/featured-tours</a>
Lakehead University	<a href="https://www.lakeheadu.ca/admissions/events/fall-open-house">https://www.lakeheadu.ca/admissions/events/fall-open-house</a>
Laurentian University	<a href="https://laurentian.ca/explore">https://laurentian.ca/explore</a>
McMaster University	<a href="https://future.mcmaster.ca/visit/">https://future.mcmaster.ca/visit/</a>
Nipissing University	<a href="https://www.nipissingu.ca/future-students/visit-us">https://www.nipissingu.ca/future-students/visit-us</a>
OCAD University	<a href="https://www.ocadu.ca/admissions/visit">https://www.ocadu.ca/admissions/visit</a>
Ontario Tech University	<a href="https://ontariotechu.ca/future-students/undergraduate/campus-tours-and-events/book-a-campus-tour.php">https://ontariotechu.ca/future-students/undergraduate/campus-tours-and-events/book-a-campus-tour.php</a>
Queen's University	<a href="https://www.queensu.ca/about/visit">https://www.queensu.ca/about/visit</a>
Royal Military College of Canada	<a href="https://www.campustour.ca/royal-military-college-of-canada.html">https://www.campustour.ca/royal-military-college-of-canada.html</a>
Ryerson University	<a href="https://www.ryerson.ca/admissions/undergraduate/at-home/">https://www.ryerson.ca/admissions/undergraduate/at-home/</a>
Trent University	<a href="https://www.trentu.ca/futurestudents/undergraduate/explore-trent-virtually">https://www.trentu.ca/futurestudents/undergraduate/explore-trent-virtually</a>
Guelph University	<a href="https://admission.uoguelph.ca/tours">https://admission.uoguelph.ca/tours</a>
University of Ottawa	<a href="https://www.uottawa.ca/undergraduate-admissions/campus-tours">https://www.uottawa.ca/undergraduate-admissions/campus-tours</a>
University of Toronto	<a href="https://future.utoronto.ca/visit/campus-tours/">https://future.utoronto.ca/visit/campus-tours/</a>
University of Waterloo	<a href="https://uwaterloo.ca/coronavirus/catalogs/modified-services/campus-tours">https://uwaterloo.ca/coronavirus/catalogs/modified-services/campus-tours</a>
University of Windsor	<a href="https://future.uwindsor.ca/future-students">https://future.uwindsor.ca/future-students</a>
Western University	<a href="https://welcome.uwo.ca/">https://welcome.uwo.ca/</a>
Wilfred Laurier University	<a href="https://www.wlu.ca/future-students/undergraduate/tours-and-events/index.html">https://www.wlu.ca/future-students/undergraduate/tours-and-events/index.html</a>
York University	<a href="https://futurestudents.yorku.ca/">https://futurestudents.yorku.ca/</a>