



BURSARIES
FOR POSTSECONDARY
STUDIES
IN FRENCH
AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

JANUARY 2023

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. What is the Bursaries for Postsecondary Studies in French as a Second Language Program?

The Bursaries for Postsecondary Studies in French as a Second Language Program (FSL) is a yearly bursary program created in 2019, funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage and administered by the Association des collèges et universités de la francophonie canadienne (ACUFC).

The Program was established to encourage English-speaking students to pursue their postsecondary studies in their second official language, in this case French, to help them in their efforts to learn, use and improve their French-language skills, and to expand their understanding of Francophone culture.

The aim of this Program is to contribute to the increase of bilingualism among young English-speaking Canadians.

2. Can the bursary be used in any postsecondary entity of a student's choice?

The bursary is only available to students who enroll in an eligible study program within postsecondary entities (colleges, universities and university faculties) that participate in the Program. A list of these entities is available on the ACUFC website: [ACUFC.ca/FSLbursaries](https://acufc.ca/FSLbursaries).

3. What is the amount of the bursary?

Each bursary is worth \$3,000.

4. Is the bursary renewable?

The bursary is not renewable. Students can only receive the bursary once.

5. How can students apply for a bursary?

All students interested in applying for a bursary must directly contact entities participating in the Program, to verify their eligibility and submit an application. ACUFC does not accept applications.

6. What is the deadline for students to apply for a bursary?

The deadline to apply for a bursary is determined by each postsecondary entity. Please contact your postsecondary institution to confirm the deadline.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

7. What are the eligibility criteria to receive the bursary?

To be eligible for the bursary, students must meet the following mandatory criteria:

- Be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada;
- Have English as their first Canadian official language spoken;
- Study full-time in a Canadian institution during the current year;
- Have completed their secondary school studies in an English-language institution and graduated from this institution;
- Be enrolled in the first year of a postsecondary study program in their second Canadian official language, in this case French;
- Be at least 17 years old on the first day of class;
- Demonstrate that they have sufficient knowledge of French to be able to study in that language;
- Intend to pursue full-time studies in a college or undergraduate university program in Canada and to participate in at least 50% of their courses and related activities (placements and training activities in the community) in French.

The postsecondary entity must give special consideration to students with financial difficulties and those from underrepresented groups.

8. Are foreign students and refugees eligible?

No, the bursary is only available to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada.

9. Are Francophone students eligible?

The bursary is only available to students with English as their first official language spoken, and who completed their secondary studies in an English-speaking institution. This Program has been created with an aim to increase the bilingualism level among English-speaking youth.

10. Are English-speaking students who completed their secondary studies in a French-language institution eligible?

The bursary is only available to students with English as their first official language spoken, and who have graduated from an English-language institution.

11. Do eligible students have to come directly from high school?

Students can come from a high school, college or university, as long as they are studying full-time in a Canadian institution during the current year.

12. Are students who discontinued their studies but are now returning to school eligible?

Only students who are studying full-time in a Canadian institution during the current year are eligible.

13. Can students who have already received the bursary obtain it again?

Students can only access the bursary once.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

14. Are students who are starting a second college or university undergraduate program eligible?

These students are eligible for the bursary if they are enrolled in the first year.*

*Certain exceptions may apply. Please contact your postsecondary institution to verify your eligibility.

15. Can students use the bursary at any time during their study program?

Students can only benefit from the bursary during their first year of a college or undergraduate university study program.*

*Certain exceptions may apply. Please contact your postsecondary institution to verify your eligibility.

16. Does the bursary apply to all of the study programs in French?

The bursary only applies to college study programs lasting a minimum of one year, or to undergraduate university programs with a minimum duration of two years.*

* Some initial teacher training programs that last one year may be eligible. Please contact your postsecondary institution to verify your eligibility.

17. Are students enrolled in a postsecondary institution located outside of Canada eligible?

Only students studying in a Canadian postsecondary institution participating in the Program are eligible.

18. Are part-time students eligible?

Only students who are deemed to be studying full-time are eligible.

19. Are students with a reduced course load due to a disability or accommodation eligible?

It is the responsibility of the postsecondary entity to determine the status of these students, as only students who are deemed to be studying full-time are eligible.

If a student with a reduced course load due to a disability or accommodation is granted “full-time” status by the entity, then that student is eligible for the bursary.

20. Do students have to attend 100% of their courses in French to be eligible?

Students must be enrolled in a program in French and participate in at least 50% of their courses and related activities in French (placements and training activities in the community).

Please note that related activities must be linked to their training program; cultural and social activities should not count towards the 50%.

21. Are students enrolled in an English program, but taking at least 50% of their courses and related activities in French, eligible?

No, students must be enrolled in a program in their second official language, in this case French.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR QUEBEC STUDENTS

22. Are English-speaking students who have completed their high school education in French, and their CEGEP education in English, eligible?

These students are not eligible because they must have completed their high school education in English. It does not matter whether the student’s CEGEP studies were completed in French or English.