



**BURSARIES**  
FOR POSTSECONDARY  
**STUDIES**  
**IN FRENCH**  
AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**DECEMBER 2023**

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## 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).

This 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 contact entities participating in the Program directly 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 entity to confirm the deadline date.

## STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

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

As of the 2024-2025 academic year, new eligibility criteria will take effect to reach more students.

To be eligible for the bursary, students will need to meet the following mandatory criteria:

- Be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.
- Have English as their first Canadian official language spoken.
- Have completed their secondary school studies in an English or non-official language (neither French nor English) institution, and graduated from said institution.
- Be enrolled full-time in a college program (minimum duration of one year) or university program (minimum duration of two years\*) delivered in French by a postsecondary entity that participates in the Program.
- Take at least 50% of their courses and participate in related activities (placements and training activities in the community) in French.

\*Certain one-year initial teacher education programs may be eligible. Please contact your postsecondary entity to confirm your eligibility.

### 8. Are international students and refugees eligible?

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

## 9. What is meant by “English as first Canadian official language spoken”?

According to Statistics Canada<sup>1</sup>, the category of “First official language spoken [FOLS] English” includes:

1. persons who can speak English well enough to conduct a conversation and cannot conduct a conversation in French;
2. persons who can speak both English and French well enough to conduct a conversation who have English as their mother tongue or as one of their mother tongues along with a language other than French;
3. persons who cannot speak either English or French well enough to conduct a conversation and who have English as their mother tongue or as one of their mother tongues along with a language other than French;
4. persons not classified according to the preceding criteria, who can speak both English and French well enough to conduct a conversation and whose language spoken most often at home is English or English and another language other than French; and
5. persons not classified according to the preceding criteria who cannot speak either English or French well enough to conduct a conversation and whose language spoken most often at home is English or English and another language other than French.

## 10. Are students whose first language is not English eligible?

Possibly, if they fall into the "First official language spoken [FOLS] English" category, as defined in question #9.

## 11. Are students who completed their high school education outside of Canada eligible?

Possibly. To be eligible, students must have completed high school in an English or non-official language (neither French nor English) institution, in addition to being Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada (2021). First official language spoken of person [definition]. Online: <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3Var.pl?Function=DEC&Id=34004>

## 12. 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 or non-official language (neither French nor English) institution. This bursary program was created with an aim to increase the bilingualism level among English-speaking youth.

## 13. Are students who have graduated from high school in a French as a second language program eligible?

Yes, students who have completed their high school education in a French as a second language program, i.e.:

- Core French
- Extended French, or
- French Immersion

are eligible because they have graduated from an English-language institution. (In Canada, it is the English-language high schools that offer French as a second language programs).

## 14. 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 or non-official language (neither French nor English) institution.

## 15. Is there an age limit to be eligible for a bursary?

There is no age limit (minimum or maximum) to be eligible for the bursary.

## 16. Are students who took a break from their studies but are now returning to school eligible?

Yes, students who have taken a break from their studies and decided to return to school are eligible.

## 17. Are mature students returning to study eligible?

Yes, mature students are eligible for the bursary.

## 18. Are students who take their courses or programs online or at a distance eligible?

Possibly, if these students meet all the eligibility criteria. However, they must live and study in Canada to be eligible for the bursary.

19. Are students who attend a postsecondary institution located outside of Canada and/or as part of an exchange program eligible for the bursary?

Only students studying in a postsecondary institution located in Canada and participating in the Program are eligible.

20. Are part-time students eligible?

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

21. 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.

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

Students can only receive the bursary once, even if they are enrolled in a new program, level or cycle of study.

23. Are students who received a bursary under another program eligible?

Students who already benefit from a bursary under another program are still eligible for a bursary.

## PROGRAMS OF STUDY

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

Students are eligible for the bursary at any level or cycle of their study program, provided they have not previously received one.

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

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

\*Certain one-year initial teacher education programs may be eligible. Please contact your postsecondary entity to confirm your eligibility.



**26. Does the bursary apply to online or distance learning programs?**

Yes, if they are college programs in French of a minimum duration of one year or university programs in French of a minimum duration of two years.

Students following an online or distance learning program must live and study in Canada, as well as meet all the eligibility criteria, to be eligible for the bursary.

**27. 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%.

**28. Do students have to take 50% of their courses and related activities in French during the whole program duration?**

Students must take at least 50% of their courses and related activities in French during the academic year in which they receive the bursary.

**29. Are students enrolled in an English program who take 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.

**30. Are students who are enrolled in a summer program eligible?**

No, these students are not eligible.