



BURSARIES
FOR POSTSECONDARY
STUDIES
IN FRENCH
AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

GUIDE FOR THE PUBLIC

MARCH 2026

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1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1.1 Program Objective

The Bursaries for Postsecondary Studies in French as a Second Language (FSL) Program, funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage (PCH) and administered by the Association des collèges et universités de la francophonie canadienne (ACUFC), aims 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 English-speaking students in Canadians.

1.2 Target Audience

Students whose first official language spoken (FOLS) is English, who graduated from an English or non-official language secondary institution.

1.3 Bursary Amount

Each bursary is valued at \$3,000, non-renewable.

2. QUICK START

2.1 Quick Guide

You are quickly looking...	Where to find the information
To verify if a student is eligible →	Section 4 and Section 6
To know if a program is eligible →	Section 5
To understand the application process →	Section 7
For a glossary of terminology used →	APPENDIX A

2.2 Most Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. Is an English-speaking or Allophone student who received their secondary diploma from a French Immersion program eligible?

→ YES. See [Section 6.2](#)

Q2. Is an English-speaking or Allophone student who graduated from a French secondary institution eligible?

→ NO. See [Section 6.2](#)

Q3. Is a Francophone student who graduated from an English secondary institution eligible?

→ NO. See [Section 6.1](#)

Q4. Is a Francophone student who graduated from a French Immersion program eligible?

→ NO. See [Section 6.1](#)

Q5. Is a student who completed their secondary education outside Canada eligible?

→ CONDITIONALLY. See [Section 6.2](#)

Q6. Is an international student eligible?

→ NO. See [Section 6.3](#)

Q7. Can a student receive the FSL bursary more than once?

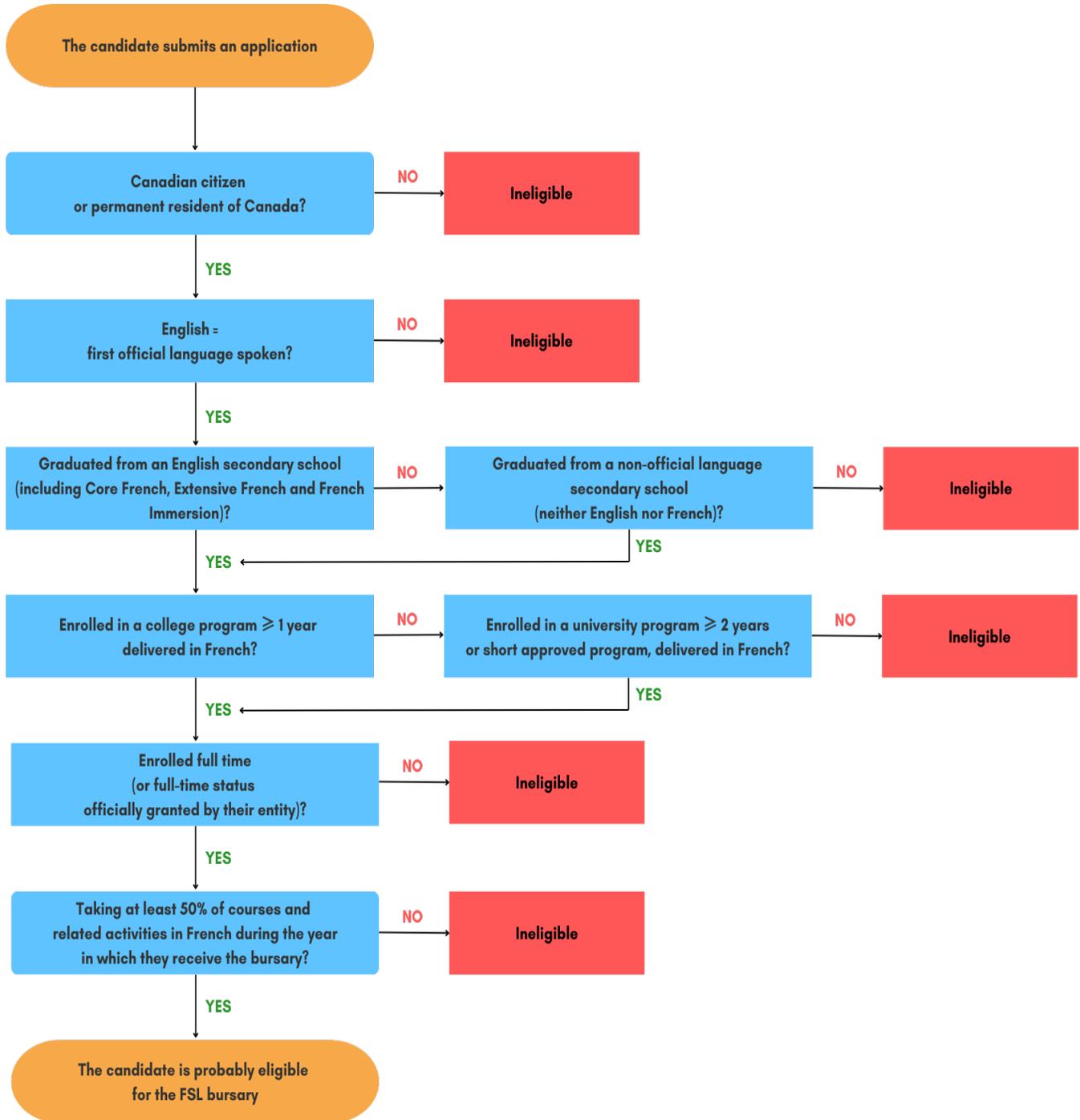
→ NO. See [Section 6.5](#)

Q8. How does one apply for the bursary?

→ CONTACT YOUR POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION. See [Section 7](#)

3. TOOL: DECISION TREE

3.1 To Determine a Candidate's Eligibility (simple case)



4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

4.1 Mandatory Criteria

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

1. Be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.
2. Have English as their first Canadian official language spoken.
3. Have completed their secondary school studies in an English or non-official language (neither French nor English) institution, and graduated from said institution.
4. 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.
*Some one-year university programs, preapproved by ACUFC, are also eligible (see [Section 5.3](#) for more details).
5. Take at least 50% of their courses and participate in related activities (placements and training activities in the community) in French.

4.2 Priority Groups

Students facing financial difficulties AND/OR belonging to underrepresented groups.

4.3 Absolute Exclusions

- × Francophone students
- × Secondary diploma from a French-language institution (in Canada and/or outside Canada)
- × International students (non-permanent residents)
- × Those already a recipient of the FSL bursary
- × Part-time students



REMEMBER:

All criteria must be met simultaneously.
Failure to meet even one criterion will render the student ineligible.

5. ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS

5.1 Minimum Required Duration

- College programs: ≥ 1 year
- University programs: ≥ 2 years
 - Exception: short university programs approved by ACUFC

5.2 Essential Criterion: The 50% Rule

- Students must be enrolled in a French-language program and take at least 50% of their courses and related activities in French.
- If these students take at least 50% of their courses in French, they meet the minimum requirement to be eligible.
- However, if less than 50% of their courses are in French, they must enhance this target, either by taking more courses in French or by adding related activities in French.
- Related activities must be linked to the training program and allow students to develop their language skills and confidence in a supervised environment. Cultural/activities do not count.

5.3 Types of Eligible Programs

Programs	Eligibility	Notes
College programs ≥ 1 year	● Yes	
University programs (undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral) ≥ 2 years	● Yes	
One-year university programs	● Conditional	<u>Exceptionally</u> eligible if approved by ACUFC and related to teaching/learning French.
Distance or online programs	● Conditional	Eligible if the student lives and studies in Canada.
Summer programs	● No	
College programs < 1 year	● No	
University programs < 2 years	● No	Except where approved by ACUFC.
English-language study programs	● No	Students must be enrolled in a program in their second official language, in this case French, to be eligible.

6. SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY CASES

Quickly Find the Student's Situation:

- **Linguistic profile** → [Section 6.1](#)
(English-speaking, Francophone, Allophone)
- **Educational pathway** → [Section 6.2](#)
(immersion, studies outside Canada, GED, etc.)
- **Residence/immigration status** → [Section 6.3](#)
(citizen, permanent resident, refugee, etc.)
- **Academic profile** → [Section 6.4](#)
(part-time, online, returning to studies, etc.)
- **Other situations** → [Section 6.5](#)
(already received bursary, other bursary, etc.)

6.1 By Linguistic Profile

Linguistic Profile	Eligibility	Notes
Francophone students	● No	Not eligible, regardless of educational pathway. No exceptions allowed. This bursary program was created with the specific objective of increasing the bilingualism rate among English-speaking students.
Allophone students	● Conditional	Eligible if English is the first official language spoken.
English-speaking students	● Yes	

6.2 By Educational Pathway (primary, secondary, postsecondary)

Educational Pathway	Eligibility	Notes
PRIMARY EDUCATION		
Students who completed their primary education in French	No impact	Only secondary education counts.
Students who completed their primary education in English	No impact	Only secondary education counts.
Students who completed their primary education in a non-official language	No impact	Only secondary education counts.

Educational Pathway	Eligibility	Notes
SECONDARY EDUCATION		
Students who completed their secondary education in a French as a Second Language program , namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core French • Extended French or • French Immersion 	● Yes	In Canada, it is English school districts/boards that offer French as a Second Language programs. Students who graduated from these institutions are therefore eligible.
Students who graduated from a French-language secondary institution	● No	Not eligible, regardless of linguistic profile. No exceptions allowed.
Students who graduated from a secondary institution outside Canada	● Conditional	Eligible if diploma obtained from an English or non-official language institution.
Students who have a GED high school equivalency certification in lieu of a secondary school diploma	● Conditional	Eligible if obtained from an English or non-official language institution.
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION		
Students who completed prior postsecondary studies in French (including at CEGEP)	No impact	Only secondary education counts.
Students who completed prior postsecondary studies in English (including at CEGEP)	No impact	Only secondary education counts.
Students who completed prior postsecondary studies in a non-official language	No impact	Only secondary education counts.

6.3 By Residence/Immigration Status

Residence/Immigration Status	Eligibility	Notes
Canadian citizens	● Yes	
Permanent residents of Canada	● Yes	
Refugees/protected persons	● No	
International students	● No	

6.4 By Postsecondary Academic Profile

Academic Profile	Eligibility	Notes
Full-time students	● Yes	
Part-time students	● No	
Students with reduced course load due to disability or accommodation	● Conditional	Eligible if the postsecondary institution officially grants them full-time status. It is up to the institution to determine the status of these students.
Mature students	● Yes	There is no age limit to receive the bursary.
Students returning to studies after interruption	● Yes	
Students taking their courses or programs online or at a distance	● Conditional	Eligible provided they live and study in Canada.
Students beginning a second college or university program	● Conditional	Eligible if they have not already received the bursary.
Students enrolled in an English-language study program , but taking 50% of their courses and related activities in French	● No	Students must be enrolled in a program in their second official language, in this case French, to be eligible.
Students who received the FSL bursary and who transfer to another institution	● No	The bursary is non-transferable and linked to the postsecondary institution, not the student. If their new institution offers FSL bursaries, these students must submit a new application to the latter. The decision to grant them a bursary or not is up to the new institution.

6.5 Other Cases

Cases	Eligibility	Notes
Students who have already received the FSL bursary	● No	Students can only receive the bursary once, even if they begin a new program, level or cycle of studies, or studies at a new institution.
Students already receiving a bursary or a scholarship as part of another program	● Yes	

7. BURSARY APPLICATION PROCESS

- All students interested in applying for a bursary must communicate directly with institutions offering the bursary to verify their eligibility and submit an application. ACUFC does not accept applications.
- The deadline for applying for a bursary is determined by each postsecondary institution.

APPENDIX A – GLOSSARY

Essential Terminology and Definitions

Term	Definition
English [secondary] institution	Includes institutions offering programs in English as well as French as a Second Language programs (in Canada, these are offered by English school districts/boards).
First official language spoken (FOLS)	According to Statistics Canada ¹ , the category of “First official language spoken [FOLS] English” includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none">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; and5. 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.
Non-official language institution	Neither English nor French institution (e.g., Mandarin, Spanish).
Official language	Canada's official languages are English and French.

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