

Higher Education: What Expenses Can I Expect?



So, you're almost done with high school!

While some of you will go directly into the job market, others will choose to continue studying by attending vocational training , CEGEP, or university. The expenses that you can expect for higher education depend on which of these paths you choose. Here is some information to help you prepare.

Tuition fees and expenses for vocational training

If the vocational training you choose is provided by a school board, your courses and textbooks are free until you turn 18 (or 21 if you have a disability). When you finish vocational training, you get a Diploma of Vocational Studies or an Attestation of Vocational Specialization .

After you turn 18 (or 21), the courses are free if:

- you have 15 or more hours left to complete your program and you're registered in at least 15 hours of courses per week, and
- you complete the program in the time allowed.

However, you will still have to pay for your textbooks. You may also have to buy your own copybooks, paper, and pencils .



Tuition and expenses for CEGEP

After high school, you may decide to go to CEGEP to earn a diploma of collegial studies (also known as a “DEC”). There are two types of DEC: a pre university diploma (2 years) and a technical diploma (3 years).

If you're studying full time, public CEGEPs are free : the Quebec department of education does not charge tuition for attending public CEGEPs.

However, you still have to pay these fees:

- application fees
- registration fees to cover the cost of course transcripts, placement tests, and course cancellations
- educational support fees, These fees cover the cost of student ID cards, orientation, and academic advising, among other things.
- Other fees, including fees for social, cultural, and sporting activities, health services, and group insurance
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Important! Some CEGEPs are private, so they charge additional fees .



Tuition and expenses for university

University education can lead to a certificate (1 year), a bachelor's degree (3 or 4 years), or a graduate degree (master's or PhD). Some professions require university education (for example, teaching and engineering).

Education is not free at the university level. If you want to attend university, you have to pay tuition fees and other costs. These include:

- registration fees
- information technology charges
- student association fees
- athletic fees



Loans and scholarships

Several loan and scholarship programs are available to help you pay these costs. For more information, visit the Government of Quebec website: <https://www.quebec.ca/en/education/student-financial-assistance/>.