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PECULIARITIES OF UKRAINIAN STUDENTS' LIFE IN CANADA

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Today we will describe the peculiarities of the life of Ukrainian students in Canada. Tuition prices are a key consideration. According to Canadian law, the minimum basic amount for student accommodation is 10,000 CAD per year. The average student spends about 1,000 CAD monthly, which includes living on campus, food, personal expenses, utilities, internet, private health insurance, entertainment, and other necessary costs. This information is useful for prospective students aiming for bachelor's, master's, or postgraduate programs in Canada. A student card in Canada is an ID with a photo that provides discounts on public transport, museum and exhibition visits, and purchases of clothes and food.

Housing in Canada

When entering an educational institution in Canada, housing is a significant expense. Fortunately, there is no shortage of housing, and students can easily find a place to live in a student dormitory (campus). Dormitory rooms are generally shared, with shared kitchens, laundry facilities, and lounges. This costs approximately CAD 5,500 per academic year. After the first year, students often choose to rent accommodation outside the campus because it is cheaper and helps improve language skills and adapt to life in Canada faster.

Food in Canada / variety of food products

The cost of the student's food expenses in Canada will be based on whether the student eats food, and in which stores the food is purchased. If a student prepares food on his own, spending on food can be significantly saved. A snack in a fast food restaurant is 7-10 CAD, a light lunch in a cafe is 15-20 CAD.

Service area: supermarkets, pharmacies and taxis in Canada

Supermarkets are very popular in Canada. No Frills is one of the most affordable and can be found in every neighborhood. Metro Supermarket offers student discounts at select Toronto locations and is open 24 hours. Many students also shop at Costco, which sells everything from electronics to groceries. Note: Costco requires a membership card costing 60-120 CAD for purchases.

Work time

Supermarkets typically open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00-9:00 p.m., except on Sundays when they close at 6:00 p.m. In Toronto, many convenience stores are open daily, often 24 hours. The Metro supermarket chain is also open 24 hours.

Pharmacies

Pharmacies in Canada resemble small supermarkets, offering a wide range of products including pain relievers, cough syrup, cosmetics, and even food items. In Toronto, two major chains are Shoppers Drug Mart and Rexall, with most locations open until 8-10 p.m. and some operating 24/7. While basic medications are available anytime, prescription drugs require a doctor's authorization.

Taxi

Most students use the Uber and Lyft apps. A trip from a residential area to downtown will cost 20-30 CAD. You can also choose the pool/shared option, where the trip is carried out with several passengers at once and allows them to save 30-35% of the trip cost.

Fast food restaurants

Toronto is widely recognized as one of the most multicultural cities globally, evident in its diverse restaurant scene. Besides typical fast-food chains like McDonald's and KFC, where snacks cost between 5 and 10 CAD, students often frequent Tim Hortons for morning pick-me-ups like a double double coffee and a warm sandwich or donut. Beyond chains, Toronto boasts numerous small eateries offering Caribbean, Middle Eastern, African, European, Asian, and American cuisines, where a full lunch can be enjoyed for 8-15 CAD.

Health insurance in Canada

Health insurance is mandatory for all international students. All students buy policies from private insurance companies. Estimated cost per academic year is CAD 850-950.

Part-time work for students in Canada

In Canada, students are allowed to work up to 20 hours per week during the academic term and 40 hours per week during breaks. Students typically start working part-time in their second year of study as they adjust to university life. Part-time opportunities exist both on and off campus, including roles in cafes, shops, libraries, laboratories and gyms. Hourly wages can range from CAD 11 to CAD 25, depending on the type of work.

Clothes

In Canada, prices for items like Levi's jeans range from 100-120 CAD, Canada Goose parkas from 850-950 CAD, and Tommy Hilfiger sweaters from 70-100 CAD. The best discounts are during Black Friday (end of November) and Boxing Day (December 25), and outlet malls often offer discounts from 20% to 70%. Many stores like Adidas, Club Monaco, Forever 21, J. Crew, Levi's, and Nike offer student discounts both online and in-store. Check their websites for details.

Public transport

One ride on public transport in Toronto is 3.25CAD. The trip allows you to make an unlimited number of transfers on the subway, buses and trams within 2 hours. A monthly pass costs CAD 146. The cost of a monthly pass with a student discount is 116.75 CAD.

Utilities

Most rental options include the cost of heating and water. Electricity, internet and parking are often paid extra. However, there are apartments and rooms where the rent already includes everything. Mobile communications and the Internet in Canada Modern life relies heavily on mobile communication and the Internet. Prospective students heading to Canada should be familiar with these services. Ensure your smartphone is compatible with Canada's GSM 1900 standard, different from Europe and CIS countries' GSM 900/1800. Canada's vast territory leads to unique mobile market dynamics, including internal roaming with call costs varying by distance or province. Major operators include Bell, Rogers, Telus, and Freedom Mobile. Due to limited competition, Canadian mobile prices rank among the world's highest, averaging 40-50 CAD monthly with outgoing messages costing 0.15 cents. New students may consider budget-friendly plans like Chatr Mobile and Public Mobile, starting from 20-25 CAD.

Sport

Access to the gym and swimming pool is often included in the cost of college or university student fees, as most public educational institutions have excellent sports simulators. [1]

Features of the Canadian higher education system

Canada's education system ranks 5th globally and emphasizes practical work experience, enhancing students' employability. Top universities such as Toronto, Waterloo, Alberta, and McMaster boast high graduate employment rates, supported by robust career centers. The education landscape includes colleges focusing on workforce preparation through certificates and diplomas, while universities offer bachelor's, master's, and PhD programs, varying by province. For those considering staying in Canada after graduation, analyzing the local labor market is crucial, especially in fields like

engineering, medicine, healthcare, and biotechnology. [2]

Advantages of living in Canada

Health Care: Canada provides comprehensive health care at approximately $5,000 annually per person, with hospital and emergency visits covered without upfront payments. However, long-term and elective care may involve significant wait times, especially in urban areas, while rural regions may face limited access to medical services. Low Crime Rate: With the 53rd lowest crime rate globally in 2018, Canada is considered a safe place to live, attributed to its lower population and minimal violent crime rates. Employment Opportunities: Canada actively recruits foreign workers to support economic growth and fill skilled labor gaps, offering ample job opportunities for newcomers. Affordable Education: Primary and secondary education in Canada is free, similar to the U.S., but higher education costs more than in Europe. However, it remains accessible. Growing Economy: Canada's free market economy facilitates straightforward business establishment and boasts a high employment rate, providing significant opportunities for immigrants. Hospitality and Respect: Canadians are known for their politeness and hospitality, with a diverse population and progressive politics promoting peace and tolerance. Landscapes and Outdoor Recreation: Canada's breathtaking landscapes offer abundant outdoor activities, from fishing in Nova Scotia to skiing in central Canada, providing nationwide options for hiking, skiing, and hockey. Low Rent: Rent is approximately 26% cheaper on Canada’s northern border compared to other cities, with Toronto and Vancouver being more expensive, while Montreal offers more affordable housing.

Cons of living in Canada

Health Care: While basic treatment is free, long-term and elective care often involve lengthy wait times, particularly in urban areas, and rural regions may have limited medical services. State Control: Some government regulations, such as restrictions on trans fats in foods, may be seen as limiting lifestyle choices by some Canadians. Expensive Lifestyle: Canada has a high cost of living, with pricey food, clothing, and notably steep housing rents in cities like Vancouver and Toronto. However, many mitigate expenses through public health care. Climate: Canada's northern regions experience frigid winters, with December temperatures averaging 0°C and dropping to -17°C in certain areas. Unfavorable Exchange Rate: The current low exchange rate for the Canadian dollar compared to other developed countries can make online shopping abroad more costly.[3]

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