

Tuition fees for degree programs, 2018/2019

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Tuition fees increased for both undergraduate and graduate students for the 2018/2019 academic year. However, the actual cost that students pay varies depending on the grants and financial assistance they may receive.

Tuition for undergraduate programs for Canadian full-time students was, on average, \$6,838 in 2018/2019, up 3.3% from the previous academic year. The average cost for graduate programs was \$7,086, a 2.4% increase over 2017/2018. While these tuition fees are reported in current dollars, they remain relatively stable when inflation is taken into account.

The average tuition fees reflect both the variety of degree programs offered by institutions and the proportion of students enrolled in these programs. As a result, even if there are no changes in specific program tuition fees, the average tuition could change if new programs are added, or if the distribution of students across programs changes.

Across Canada, the increase in undergraduate average tuition fees for 2018/2019 ranged from 0.1% in Alberta to 6.5% in Manitoba.

Tuition fees for Canadian graduate students increased in seven provinces, ranging from 2.0% in British Columbia to 6.5% in Manitoba. Canadian graduate tuition fees were unchanged in Alberta and in Newfoundland and Labrador, while they fell by 0.8% in Prince Edward Island.

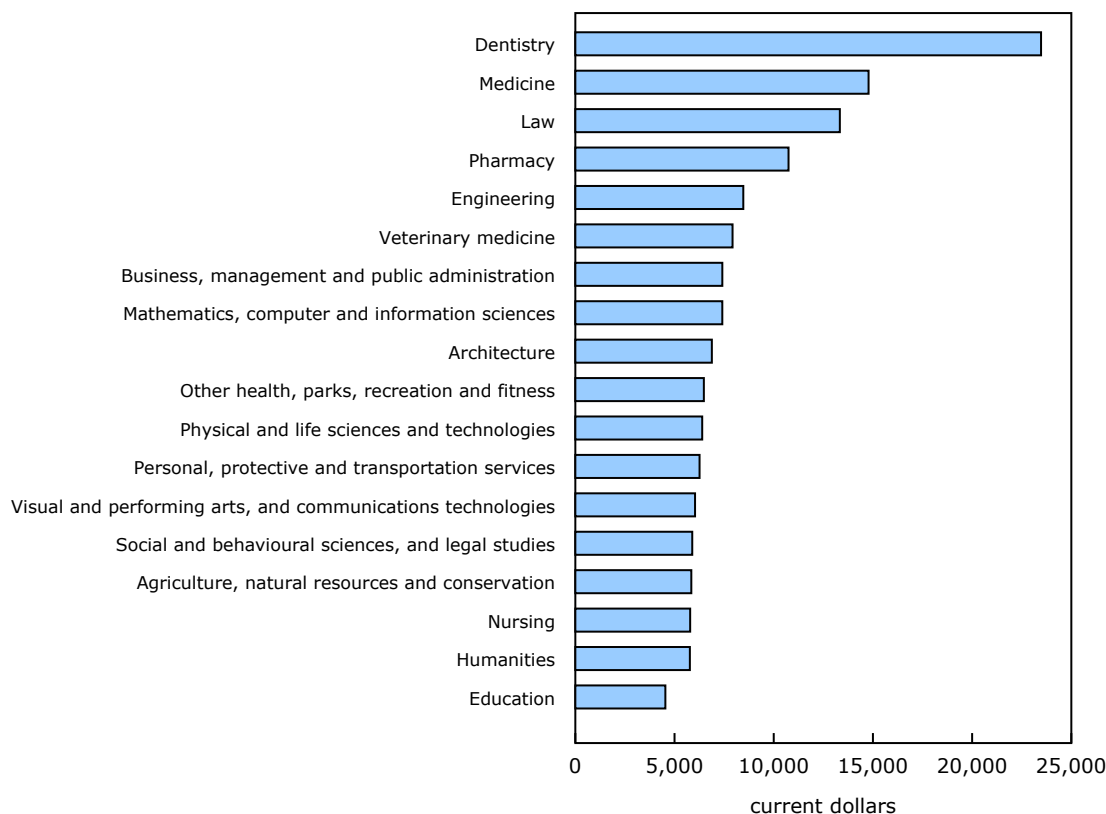
The increases in Manitoba were the result of the provincial government allowing institutions in the province to increase fees by up to 6.5% in 2018/2019.

The results of the survey of Tuition and Living Accommodation Costs do not necessarily reflect the cost students will pay, as there is an assortment of non-repayable financial support available, and this can vary across institutions and provinces. For example, scholarships, bursaries, government grants, and tax credits can decrease the actual amount that students pay. According to the 2010 National Graduates Survey, almost two-thirds of students who graduated with a university degree had received such non-repayable financial support.



Highest average undergraduate tuition fees are in dentistry, medicine, law and pharmacy

Chart 1
Average undergraduate tuition fees for Canadian full-time students, by field of study, 2018/2019



Source(s): Table 37-10-0003-01.

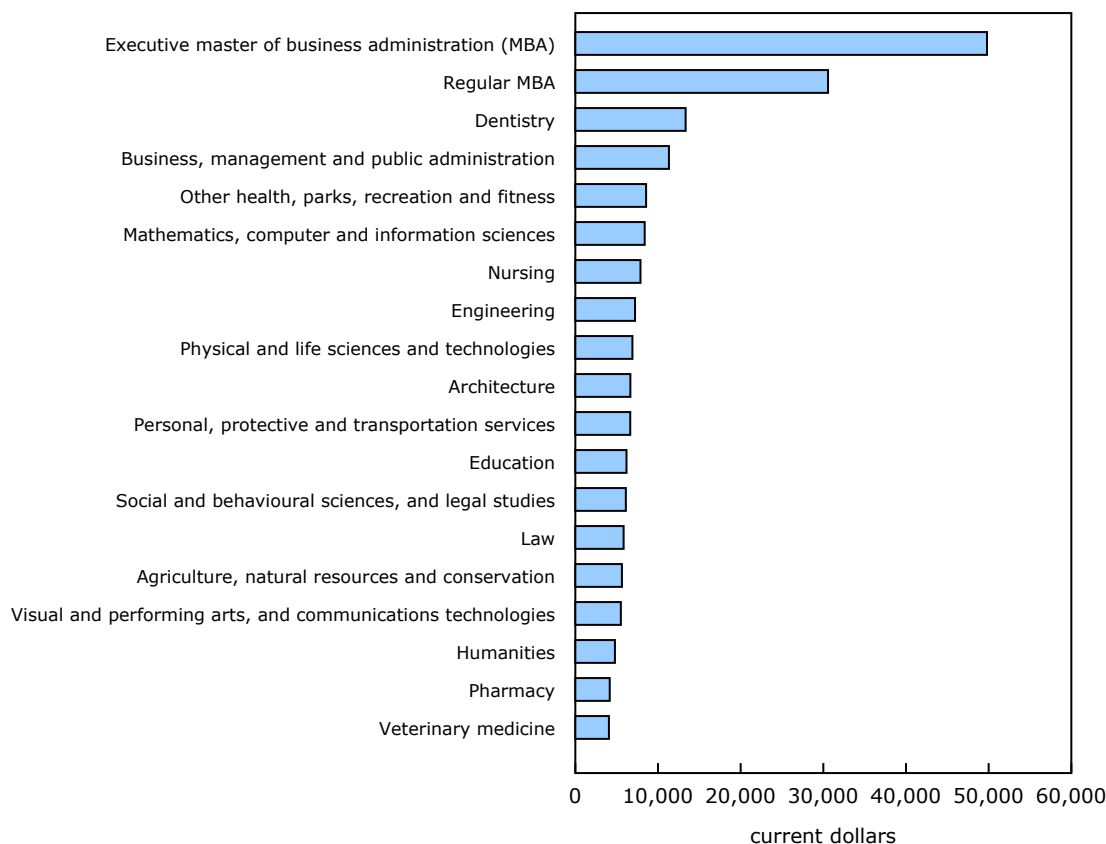
The most costly average tuition fees for Canadian undergraduate students in 2018/2019 were in dentistry (\$23,474), followed by medicine (\$14,780), law (\$13,332) and pharmacy (\$10,746). These four programs accounted for 3.6% of all Canadian undergraduate students.

Almost 60% of Canadian undergraduate students were enrolled in one of four fields of study: social and behavioural sciences, and legal studies (not including law); business, management and public administration; physical and life sciences and technologies; and the humanities. Tuition fees across these fields of study varied by province, with fees in the humanities lower than or similar to the tuition fees for the other three fields of study for Canada overall, and for most provinces.

In social and behavioural sciences, and legal studies (not including law), the average undergraduate tuition fee for full-time Canadian students was \$5,893. The fees ranged from \$2,550 in Newfoundland and Labrador to \$7,162 in Nova Scotia. Undergraduate tuition fees in business, management and public administration were lowest in Quebec (\$2,792) and highest in Ontario (\$10,570). In physical and life sciences and technologies, undergraduate tuition fees were above the Canadian average of \$6,395 in four provinces: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan.

Masters of business administration programs remain the most expensive

Chart 2
Average graduate tuition fees for Canadian full-time students, by field of study, 2018/2019



Source(s): Table 37-10-0004-01.

At the graduate level, the most expensive programs remained the executive and regular masters of business administration (MBA) programs. Average tuition for an executive MBA was \$49,798 in 2018/2019, while the fee for a regular MBA averaged \$30,570. These averages at the Canada level reflect the broad range of fees among the provinces that offer MBA programs. Average tuition fees for regular MBA programs ranged from \$2,382 in Newfoundland and Labrador, to \$44,759 in Ontario. Prince Edward Island started offering a new regular MBA program, which cost an average of \$20,000 in 2018/2019.

Dentistry (\$13,343) had the third-highest average tuition fees for graduate programs at the Canada level, followed by business, management and public administration (\$11,323).

Additional compulsory fees for Canadian students continue to increase

Additional compulsory fees vary by institution and can change over time. These fees apply to all Canadian students, regardless of field of study. Typically, they include fees for athletics, student health services, and student associations.

Nationally, additional compulsory fees for Canadian undergraduate students were, on average, \$921 in 2018/2019, up 4.2% from the previous year. For graduate students, average additional compulsory fees increased 3.6% to \$875 in 2018/2019.

Tuition fees for international students

Across Canada, the average tuition fees for international undergraduate students rose 6.3% in 2018/2019 to \$27,159. Two-thirds of international students were studying at the undergraduate level. Of this group, 30% were enrolled in business, management and public administration, with an average tuition fee of \$26,395, which was slightly below the national average for all fields of study in 2018/2019.

On the other hand, 14% of international undergraduate students were enrolled full time in engineering, which had above-average tuition fees of \$30,742.

Average tuition fees for international students in graduate programs rose 1.0% to \$16,497. Graduate tuition fees increased in every province except Ontario (-2.4%). The decrease was driven by a restructuring of tuition fees at the University of Toronto, with most international PhD students paying tuition fees equivalent to those of domestic students. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the average tuition fees for international graduate students increased by around 30%, the result of an equivalent increase in tuition for new international students effective September 2018.

Note to readers

Data presented in this release are from the annual survey of Tuition and Living Accommodation Costs (TLAC). The survey covers all public degree-granting institutions (universities and colleges) in Canada; that is, those that offer programs leading to degrees as defined by the Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials: bachelor's degrees, applied (bachelor's) degrees, applied master's degrees, master's degrees and doctoral degrees. These degrees are more commonly offered by universities, but may also be offered by colleges. Canadian students, including Canadian citizens and permanent residents, are reported separately from international students.

The survey was administered from April to June 2018 and data cover the 2018/2019 academic year. Data for 2018/2019 are preliminary. Any required changes will be applied to the 2019/2020 data release, when the 2018/2019 data become final.

Although tuition fee increases are generally regulated by provincial policies, some programs may be exempt from these policies, resulting in possible rises that exceed provincial limits. Tuition fee averages may vary from year to year because of changes in the structure of and fees for programs.

National and provincial tuition fee averages are weighted with 2015/2016 student enrolments using the Postsecondary Student Information System. If the number of enrolments for a given program is unknown, that program is excluded from the averages. The same student enrolment figures are used for weighting both academic years (2017/2018 and 2018/2019), thereby allowing a comparison of changes in tuition fees.

Masters of business administration programs have been excluded from the national and provincial weighted averages to eliminate the effect of the high cost of these programs on the overall tuition fee averages. Dental, medical and veterinary residency programs offered in teaching hospitals and similar locations that may lead to advanced professional certification have also been excluded.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, undergraduate and graduate tuition fees were frozen in 2018/2019 for all Canadian students except for new out-of-province students who incurred a 30% increase. These students represent approximately 10% of the domestic student population. This increase is not reflected in the TLAC results.

As the distribution of enrolments across the various programs varies from period to period, caution must be exercised when making long-term historical comparisons.

Figures on enrolments are from the 2015/2016 Postsecondary Student Information System.

The fields of study are adapted from the 2011 Classification of Instructional Programs, Statistics Canada's standard for the classification of instructional programs.

Data in this release do not take into account financial assistance or tax rebates provided to students.

Table 1
Percentage increase in average tuition fees for Canadian full-time students, by province and level of study, 2018/2019

	Undergraduate	Graduate
	year-over-year % change	
Canada	3.3	2.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	2.3	0.0
Prince Edward Island	2.0	-0.8
Nova Scotia	5.6	3.2
New Brunswick	2.9	2.3
Quebec	2.8	2.8
Ontario	3.7	2.5
Manitoba	6.5	6.5
Saskatchewan	3.7	5.6
Alberta	0.1	0.0
British Columbia	2.0	2.0

Source(s): Table 37-10-0045-01.

Table 2
Average undergraduate tuition fees for Canadian full-time students, by field of study

	2017/2018	2018/2019	2017/2018 to 2018/2019
	current dollars		% change
Total, field of study	6,618	6,838	3.3
Education	4,423	4,538	2.6
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	5,857	6,034	3.0
Humanities	5,619	5,773	2.7
Social and behavioural sciences, and legal studies	5,739	5,893	2.7
Law	12,807	13,332	4.1
Business, management and public administration	7,143	7,409	3.7
Physical and life sciences and technologies	6,206	6,395	3.0
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	7,157	7,408	3.5
Engineering	8,106	8,466	4.4
Architecture	6,610	6,881	4.1
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	5,665	5,846	3.2
Dentistry	22,569	23,474	4.0
Medicine	14,274	14,780	3.5
Nursing	5,636	5,788	2.7
Pharmacy	10,367	10,746	3.7
Veterinary medicine	7,647	7,924	3.6
Other health, parks, recreation and fitness	6,287	6,478	3.0
Personal, protective and transportation services	6,044	6,261	3.6

Source(s): Table 37-10-0003-01.

Table 3
Average undergraduate tuition fees for Canadian full-time students, by province and selected fields of study, 2018/2019

	Humanities	Social and behavioural sciences, and legal studies	Business, management and public administration	Physical and life sciences and technologies
	current dollars			
Canada	5,773	5,893	7,409	6,395
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,550	2,550	2,805	2,550
Prince Edward Island	6,150	6,150	6,150	6,150
Nova Scotia	7,113	7,162	7,782	7,831
New Brunswick	7,098	6,976	7,181	7,304
Quebec	3,884	3,054	2,792	3,202
Ontario	6,790	6,825	10,570	7,607
Manitoba	3,814	3,849	4,417	4,111
Saskatchewan	6,370	6,360	7,379	6,599
Alberta	5,041	5,287	5,846	5,319
British Columbia	5,071	5,264	5,506	5,211

Source(s): Table 37-10-0003-01.

Table 4
Average graduate tuition fees for Canadian full-time students, by field of study

	2017/2018	2018/2019	2017/2018 to 2018/2019
	current dollars		% change
Total, field of study	6,920	7,086	2.4
Education	6,050	6,189	2.3
Visual and performing arts, and communications technologies	5,388	5,506	2.2
Humanities	4,724	4,791	1.4
Social and behavioural sciences, and legal studies	5,977	6,111	2.2
Law	5,681	5,840	2.8
Business, management and public administration	10,979	11,323	3.1
Executive master of business administration (MBA)	49,087	49,798	1.4
Regular MBA	29,588	30,570	3.3
Physical and life sciences and technologies	6,753	6,905	2.3
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	8,010	8,390	4.7
Engineering	7,219	7,222	0.0
Architecture	6,471	6,657	2.9
Agriculture, natural resources and conservation	5,499	5,635	2.5
Dentistry	12,872	13,343	3.7
Nursing	7,764	7,881	1.5
Pharmacy	4,114	4,161	1.1
Veterinary medicine	3,941	4,064	3.1
Other health, parks, recreation and fitness	8,285	8,561	3.3
Personal, protective, and transportation services	6,513	6,643	2.0

Source(s): Table 37-10-0004-01.

Available tables: [37-10-0003-01](#) to [37-10-0006-01](#) , [37-10-0045-01](#), [37-10-0046-01](#), [37-10-0120-01](#) and [37-10-0121-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [3123](#).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca).