

Merit Scholarships Competition

2025-2026



INSTRUCTION GUIDE
CANDIDATES

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Éducation internationale encourage et promeut les candidats qui appliquent de leur propre initiative.

FOR ALL ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Find all the necessary information on the Merit scholarship competition.

[Bourses d'excellence – Formez votre avenir](#)

No questions will be answered by email if they can be answered
using the documents available on the website.

Merit scholarships and Tuition exemptions

General information

The Merit scholarship program for international students (called “Merit scholarships competition”) allow international students wishing to come and study in vocational training in Quebec to obtain a merit scholarship, along with an exemption from the additional tuition fees applicable to students, and medical coverage by the Régie de l’assurance maladie du Québec.¹

Students must pursue and successfully complete full-time studies in a professional training program leading to the award of either: a vocational studies diploma (DVS) or a DVS followed by an attestation of vocational specialization (AVS) or a double DVS.

As part of these programs, the Merit scholarships competition is operationalized by Éducation internationale and its Québec métiers d’avenir service.

Objectives

The programs aim to:

- Support the internationalisation of vocational training centres.
- Offer exceptionally talented international students the opportunity to come and follow a vocational training in Québec.
- Enhance a steady offer and wide coverage of vocational training.

Funding of the programs

These programs are funded by the ministère de l’Éducation du Québec. For the 2025-2026 competition, the funding for the merit scholarship is up to \$2,380,000 (approximately 95 scholarships).

Amount and features

- The value ranges from \$14 000 to \$26 600, depending on the duration of the training program.
- Both the merit scholarship and tuition exception awards are based on excellent performance and results during the study project in Québec.

¹ Subject to budgetary approval from the Government of Quebec and ministerial approval of mobility program standards.

Inclusions and exclusions

	Merit scholarship	Tuition exemption only
INCLUDED	✓ Tuition exemption for international students ✓ Medical coverage offered by the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) ✓ Scholarship ranging from \$14,000 to \$26,600, depending on the length of the program, to cover the student's living expenses during their training	✓ Tuition exemption for international students
EXCLUDED	- Ø Immigration process costs - Ø Transport fare to and from Canada - Ø Private health insurance required before the commencement of RAMQ coverage - Ø Fees for liability insurance - Ø Training related expenses (e.g. training materials, uniforms, etc.) - Ø Other costs related to a stay in Quebec	- Ø Scholarship - Ø Medical coverage - Ø Immigration process costs - Ø Transport fare to and from Canada - Ø Private health insurance required before the commencement of RAMQ coverage - Ø Fees for liability insurance - Ø Training related expenses (e.g. training materials, uniforms, etc.) - Ø Other costs related to a stay in Quebec
	You must declare that you have a minimum of CAD \$3,000 available for your project.	You must declare that you have a minimum of CAD \$15,000 available for your project.

Admissibility

- ☐ Be at least 18 years old at the time of submitting your application for the scholarship competition. There is no upper age limit.
- ☐ **Not** be a citizen of France or Canada. Applications from member countries of the Francophonie (excluding France and its overseas departments and territories - DOM-TOM), and countries of the leading markets of Asia (China, India, Japan) and the Americas (Mexico, Brazil) will be given priority.
- ☐ **Not** have Canadian citizenship or a Canadian permanent resident status or be in the process of obtaining the permanent residence status under the Canadian immigration laws².
- ☐ Be outside of Canada at the time of application, until the announcement of the selected candidates.
- ☐ Meet the admission requirements of the desired study program³.
- ☐ Demonstrate a level of French and/or English allowing the success of a professional training program⁴.
- ☐ **Not** have been a beneficiary of a scholarship for studies of the same level or higher in Quebec. In addition, the accumulation of scholarships within the same academic year is not allowed.
- ☐ Not having paid a commission to an organization or a third party to be accompanied within the framework of the merit scholarship program.
- ☐ Not have been found guilty of submitting an application containing fraudulent documents in the past when applying for this program or any other ministère de l'Éducation du Québec's program.

² Under the definition of resident of Quebec, in accordance with the Regulation respecting the definition of resident of Quebec, a permanent resident may be eligible for an exemption from tuition fees, as well as loans and grants from the Government of Quebec for studies at full-time.

³ The recipient of an excellence scholarship in professional training and/or a tuition fee exemption quota must be admitted full-time to a professional training program leading to a DVS or AVS provided in a public establishment located in Quebec.

⁴ Achieving a level of competence in oral comprehension and oral production of 7 or more on the Quebec scale of French or English proficiency levels for adult immigrants or its equivalent (B2 or more of the Common European Framework of Reference for languages) is usually desirable for pursuing a professional training program. However, it is up to the school board or public school to determine the level of French or English necessary for the success of the professional training program.

Eligible training programs

This competition is for vocational training beginning in August 2026.

The Merit scholarship competition is intended exclusively for vocational training, i.e., short training focused on learning skills and integrating into the labour market. The scholarship programs are NOT intended for college or university training.

The Web platform dedicated to the competition lists the proposed training programs. The vocational training centres determine which trainings they wish to offer for the Merit Scholarships programs. Most trainings are prioritised by the ministère de l'Éducation du Québec. A 50% ratio of prioritised trainings must be respected in the granting of scholarships and exemptions from supplementary tuition fees. You can find the list of prioritised trainings in Appendix 1.

To submit an application

Warning: Multiple applications will be automatically rejected. Only one application per candidate is accepted and any application submitted for more than one school will be rejected. Candidates must submit their applications by themselves, even if they are helped by a relative. No application filed by a recruitment agent, immigration consultant or immigration lawyer will be accepted.

The application process is free.

PROCEDURE

From Wednesday, June 18th, 2025 (noon, Quebec time) to Wednesday, July 30th, 2025 (23h59, Quebec time)

1. **Eligibility:** Determine if you are eligible for the competition (see eligibility criteria above). Any application submitted with a false statement will be automatically rejected from the merit scholarship competition. If you do not meet the competition eligibility criteria, there is no point in applying.
2. **Registration on the Merit Scholarship competition platform:** [Bourses d'excellence – Formez votre avenir](#)
3. **Completion of the profile:** Fill out the requested information. Read the consents and declarations carefully. The declarations correspond to the eligibility criteria for the Merit scholarship competition.
4. **Choice of training and training centre:** Make your choice of training and training centre from the list offered (only 1 choice possible) in the « Merit scholarship » section of the platform.
 - a. **Choice of training:** Most trainings are prioritized by the Ministry of Education. A ratio of 50% of prioritized training must be respected when granting scholarships and exemptions from tuition fees. The list of prioritized training courses can be found in **Appendix 1**.
 - b. **Choice of training centre:** Training centres are located throughout the province of Quebec. Make sure that the region to which your training centre belongs is suitable for you. Some regions are “prioritized” by the Ministry of Education. In this sense, a ratio of 50% of prioritized regions must be respected in the granting of scholarships and exemptions from tuition fees. The list of priority training courses can be found in **Appendix 2**. Note that recipients are selected for each of the participating regions, whether prioritized or not.
5. **Finalization the mandatory sections using your documents.**

Documents to submit

☐ Identity documents

- A copy of the identification page of your passport
- A copy of your birth certificate

☐ Application form, which includes

- Personal informations
- Your motivations, interests and futur projects
- Detailed professionnall experience
- Detail of your scholarships or prizes received (maximum 2)

☐ School documents

- A copy of all diplomas obtained for secondary, professional/technical and/or higher education levels, along with a copy of all transcripts⁵

☐ If the training is offered in **English**, you must provide one of the following documents:

- A recognized English language test result (TOEFL iBT, IELTS) taken within the last two years, demonstrating a grade of B2 or higher for each of the four skills assessed
- A higher education diploma and transcript issued by your country's Ministry of Higher Education and/or a university, for a minimum of 3 years, completed entirely in English

☐ If the training is offered in **French** or if you are applying for the *Health, Assistance and Nursing* (English version) training, you must provide one of the following documents:

- A recognized French language test result (TFL, TFI, TEF, TEFAQ, TCF) dated within the last 2 years, demonstrating a grade of B2 or higher for each of the 4 skills assessed
- A higher education diploma and transcript issued by the Ministry of Higher Education of your country and/or a university, for a minimum of 3 years, completed entirely in French
- A diploma issued by the Ministry of Education of France or French-speaking Belgium

☐ Reference

- Two (2) reference forms completed by different people⁶

☐ A copy of **scholarships and/or prizes** received (maximum 2)

⁵ Please note that you must merge the documents from each school program into a single file for uploading. For example, your Baccalaureate diploma and transcript must be merged into a single file. The training centre will verify your eligibility for the chosen training.

⁶ Family members and friends cannot act as references.

WARNING

**Any incomplete, illegible or non-compliant application will be rejected.
Any application containing false statements or fraudulent documents
will be automatically rejected and the candidate will be eliminated
from the current and future competitions.**

Evaluation criteria

Application files are analyzed by the educational establishment chosen by the international student. Depending on the wishes of the participating educational institutions, a random selection tool may be used by Éducation internationale to submit a maximum number of applications. Subsequently, the files selected for pre-selection by the educational institution are sent to the external selection committee, which again evaluates the files and ranks them on merit.

Scores are awarded based on the following criteria:

- Motivation letter (relevance of the project, motivation and quality of language): 30%
- Academic background: 30%
- Awards and distinctions: 5%
- Recommendations: 15%
- Overall quality of application: 20%

Recipients are then determined based on the merit scholarship budget awarded by the ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (\$2,380,000 for the 2025-2026 competition). Once the scholarship budget has expired, a number of tuition-only exemptions may be granted to deserving candidates who have declared a financial capacity of \$15,000 or more.

Next steps

Consult the 2025-2026 contest calendar on the [Québec métiers d'avenir website](#).

A first announcement of the preselected candidates will be made in October 2025. Successful and unsuccessful preselection applications will be notified by email by Education Internationale.

The official announcement of the recipients will be made latest in January 2026. Successful and unsuccessful applications will be notified by email by Education Internationale.

The recipients will then be accompanied by Éducation internationale, via the Québec métiers d'avenir service, and by the person responsible for welcoming them at the vocational training centre, to plan their arrival in Quebec starting from August 2026.

FOR ALL ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

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We wish you good luck!

APPENDIX 1

Prioritized vocational trainings

Code FR	Nom programme (en français)	Code EN	Name of the program (in English)	Durée/ Duration
Secteur de la santé / Health Sector				
5358	Assistance à la personne en établissement et à domicile	5858	Institutional and Home Care assistance	870h
5394	Assistance technique en pharmacie	-	-	1 590h
5380	Retraitement des dispositifs médicaux	5880	Reprocessing of Medical Devices	1 080h
5325	Santé, assistance et soins infirmiers	5825	Health, Assistance and Nursing	1 800h
Secteur de la construction / Construction Sector				
5303	Briquetage-Maçonnerie	5803	Masonry : Bricklaying	900h
5378	Calorifugeage	-	-	900h
5319	Charpenterie – menuiserie	5819	Carpentry	1 350h
5295	Électricité	5795	Electricity	1 800h
5360	Ferblanterie	5860	Tinsmithing	1 605h
5296	Installation et entretien de systèmes de sécurité	-	-	1 485h
5334	Installation de revêtement souples	-	-	900h
5282	Installation et fabrication de produits verriers	-	-	1 350h
5337	Mécanique d'ascenseur	5837	Elevator Mechanics	1 800h
5331	Mécanique d'engins de chantier	5831	Construction Equipment Mechanics	1 800h
5312	Mécanique de protection contre les incendies	-	-	900h
5375	Montage de lignes électriques et de télécommunication	-	-	1 140h
5364	Montage structural et architectural	5864	Structural and Architectural Assembly	1 230h
5336	Peinture en bâtiment	5836	Commercial and Residential Painting	900h

Code FR	Nom programme (en français)	Code EN	Name of the program (in English)	Durée/ Duration
5333	Plomberie et chauffage	5833	Plumbing and Heating	1 680h
5343	Préparation et finition de béton	5843	Preparing and Finishing Concrete	900h
5386	Réfrigération	5815	Refrigeration	1 800h
5382	Soudage-assemblage	5695	Welding and Fitting	1 800h
Filière industrielle et batterie / Industrial Sector and Battery				
5274	Conduite de machines de traitement du minéral	5774	Machine Operations, Mineral and Metal Processing	900h
5281	Électromécanique systèmes automatisés	5781	Automated Systems Electromechanics	1 800h
5368	Extraction de minéral	5868	Ore Extraction	930h
5381	Transformation des métaux en fusion	-	-	1 170h
5260	Mécanique industrielle de construction et d'entretien	5760	Industrial Construction and Maintenance Mechanics	1 800h
5359	Mécanique de machines fixes	5859	Stationary Engine Mechanics	1 800h
5244	Tôlerie de précision	5744	Precision Sheet Metal Work	1 275h
5371	Usinage	5871	Machining	1 800h
Secteur de l'aérospatiale / Aerospace Sector				
5363	Fabrication de pièces industrielles et aérospatiales en composite	-	-	1 005h
5197	Montage de structures en aérospatiale	5697	Aircraft Structural Assembly	975h
5307	Montage mécanique en aérospatiale	5801	Aircraft Mechanical Assembly	1 185h
Autres secteurs / Other Sectors				
5328	Conduite de procédés de traitement de l'eau	-	-	1 800h
5298	Mécanique automobile	5798	Automobile Mechanics	1 800h
5330	Mécanique de véhicule lourds routier	5830	Heavy Vehicles Mechanics	1 800h

APPENDIX 2

Prioritized administrative regions

Code	Nom de la région	Code	Nom de la région
01	Bas-Saint-Laurent	09	Côte-Nord
02	Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean	10	Nord-du-Québec
04	Mauricie	11	Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine
05	Estrie	12	Chaudière-Appalaches
08	Abitibi-Témiscamingue	17	Centre-du-Québec