



Some photography from Ontario Tourism (2006)

Why come to Canada?

Every year, more than 130,000 students come to Canada to study. Their reasons for coming are well-grounded.

- Canadian degrees and diplomas are recognized throughout the world.
- Canadian work experience is highly desired by multinational companies who actively recruit on Canadian campuses.
- Canada spends more per capita on its education system than any other country in the world. This means not only quality education but also lower tuition rates for international students. The cost of study in Canada is considerably less than the USA, Australia and the United Kingdom.



Large land, close communities

Canada is the second largest country in the world and stretches over 7,000 km from west to east coasts. Only Russia is bigger. In fact, the United Kingdom would fit comfortably into Canada 37 times! Within Canada's 10 provinces, three territories and six time zones there are 38 national parks and more than two million lakes. That's one fifth of the world's fresh water supply.

Multiculturalism, the idea that all citizens should take pride in their ancestry and have a sense of belonging, is enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Canada supports two official languages: English and French. From large cities to rural outposts, Canada boasts tight-knit communities and urban centres dedicated to arts, science and business. Canadian culture is based on equality. Characteristics such as universal healthcare, clean cities and multiculturalism are all heralded as uniquely Canadian.

Can't beat the best

Canada has repeatedly been chosen by the UN as one of the best places to live in the world. Reasons for the top grades are: high-quality, low cost education; universal healthcare; a respect for human rights and dignity; clean, safe and cosmopolitan cities.

FAST FACTS ABOUT STUDYING IN CANADA

- Undergraduate degrees take three to four years to complete.
- Universities are divided into academic units called "Faculties."
- Canada's application and processing systems for VISA and immigration status are straight-forward and efficient.
- International students are invited to work in Canada for up to two years after graduating by applying for the post-graduate work permit.
- With only 90 degree granting universities, Canada offers a concentration of quality.
- While Canadian universities generally do not rank themselves against others, top US study guides such as *US News* and *World Report* rank York University as "very selective."

Why come to Toronto?

43°39'N, 79°23'W

Get your maps out! Toronto is the capital of the province of Ontario, where the landscape varies from rocky outcrops to farmer's fields to urban playgrounds. Toronto is as far south as the French Riviera and Washington. Sitting on the shores of Lake Ontario, Toronto is surrounded by the beauty of North America's Great Lakes. That means the climate is relatively mild and Toronto experiences the joys of all four seasons.

The census says...

Toronto has a population of 2.48 million people, making it the fifth largest city in North America after Mexico City, New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago. It is also ranked as the safest large metropolitan area in North America by *Places Rated Almanac*. Toronto is just a one-hour flight from New York City and within a four-hour flight to most destinations in the US.

Diversity is part of the deal

Toronto is one of the most multicultural cities in the world and is proud of it. Forty-nine per cent of Toronto's population was born outside of Canada. More than 100 languages and dialects are spoken here and more than one third of Toronto residents speak a language other than English at home. It's not uncommon to hop on a bus at one end of Toronto and pass by many distinct cultural areas as you travel. Toronto also has 79 ethnic publications, catering to the languages and cultures of their readers.

Business happens here

Toronto is the financial centre of Canada and the third largest in North America. Toronto companies employ 205,000 in the financial sector. Close to 180 million customers live and work within a day's drive of Toronto, including roughly 40 per cent of the US population. Feel like trading? The Toronto Stock Exchange is North America's third largest Stock Exchange by value traded.

TORONTO FAST FACTS

- The name "Toronto" is thought to stem from a Native Canadian word meaning "meeting place."
- Toronto is home to the world's tallest free-standing building: the CN Tower stands 553.33 metres tall.
- The world's longest street, Yonge Street, starts at Toronto's lakeshore and runs 1,896 km to the border of the US state of Minnesota.
- Toronto's Rogers Centre™ was the first retractable-roof stadium in the world. Both the Roman Coliseum and St. Paul's Cathedral could fit comfortably inside of it.
- Toronto has earned the nickname "Hollywood North," ranking third in North American TV and film production.
- The annual Toronto International Film Festival® is second only to Cannes in terms of high-profile films and stars.
- The Toronto Transit Commission is North America's second largest public transit system.
- Toronto hosts more than 1,000 festivals every year including the Canadian National Exhibition, the largest annual fair in Canada and the fifth largest in North America.



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