



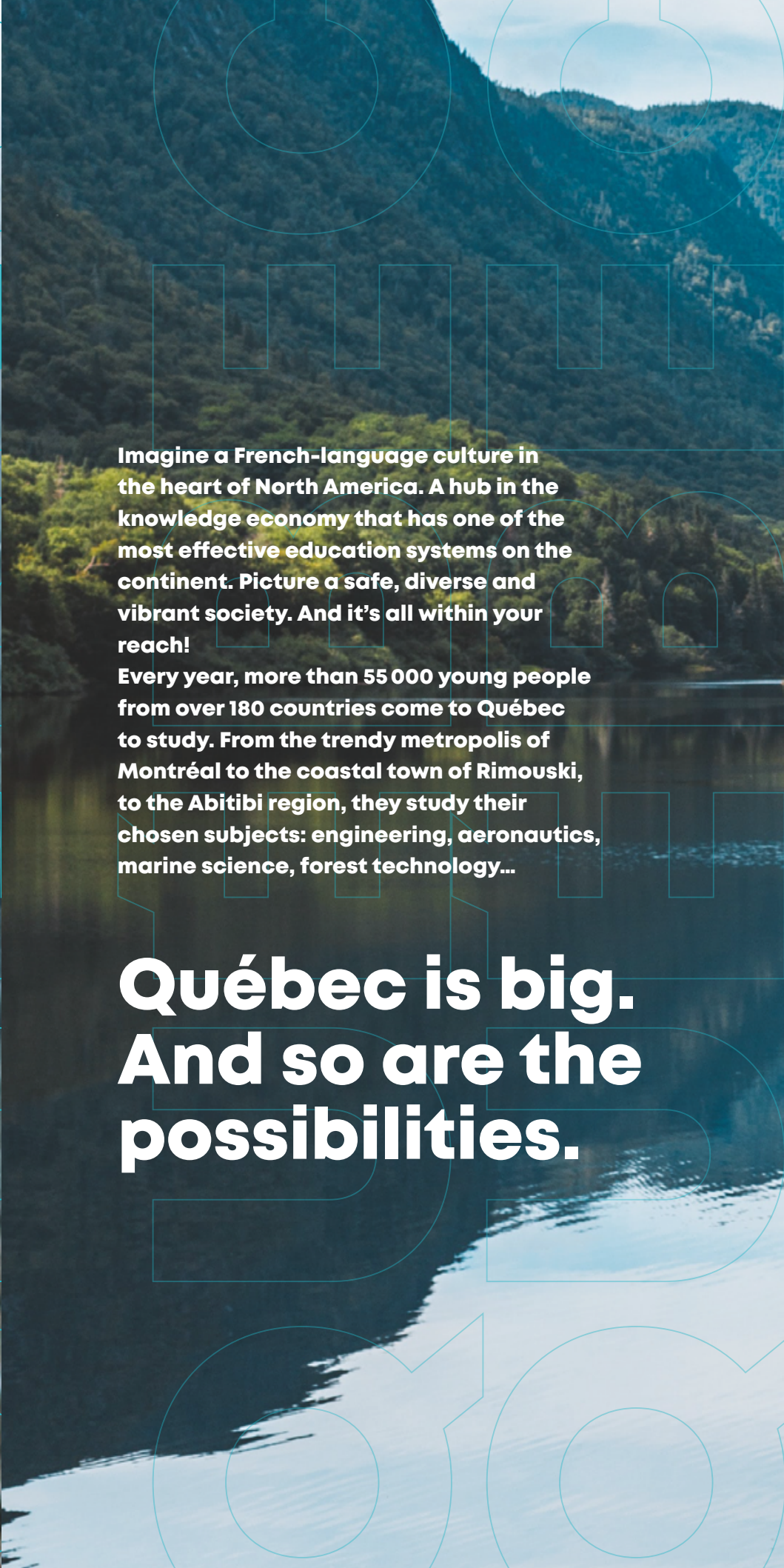
study in
experience / Québec

education.gouv.qc.ca

Québec 

**What if you
set your
sights on
Québec?**





Imagine a French-language culture in the heart of North America. A hub in the knowledge economy that has one of the most effective education systems on the continent. Picture a safe, diverse and vibrant society. And it's all within your reach!

Every year, more than 55 000 young people from over 180 countries come to Québec to study. From the trendy metropolis of Montréal to the coastal town of Rimouski, to the Abitibi region, they study their chosen subjects: engineering, aeronautics, marine science, forest technology...

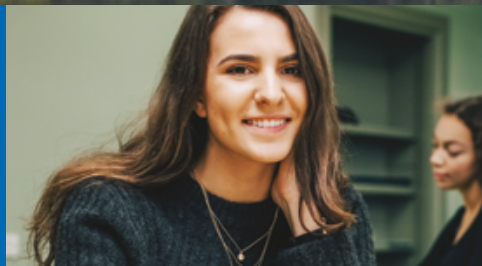
**Québec is big.
And so are the
possibilities.**

Here are 7 good reasons to study in Québec.

01

The Québec education system is exceptional

- Québec study programs are world-renowned. Many are even offered in conjunction with other educational institutions around the globe.
- Québec universities are members of major international networks and are continually involved in new collaborations abroad.
- However big or small they may be, and wherever they are located, all Québec colleges and universities, have ultramodern infrastructure: laboratories, computer rooms, sports facilities, concert halls, etc.
- Québec is home to recognized technology parks and prestigious research centres in leading sectors.
- A wide range of vocational training and technical training programs is offered throughout the year in the four corners of the province.
- Québec has one of the highest graduation rates for first-time university students.



02

You can study in French or English

The secondary, college and university education systems all have French-language and English-language educational institutions.

03

Living and studying in Québec are very affordable

Tuition fees for foreign students and the cost of living in Québec are among the lowest in North America.

04

Your daily life will be remarkable

- Québec is home to thousands of shimmering lakes and rivers. We've got it all: a fjord, a huge boreal forest, a majestic river and many national parks. In these vast natural expanses, the landscape changes with the seasons and the outdoor activities follow.
- The quality of urban life is unprecedented. The modernism typical of North American cities can be found side by side with the charm of European cities.

05

Québec is a welcoming and safe society

- Québec society is fair, respectful, egalitarian and inclusive.
- The rural areas are welcoming and are among the safest in North America.

06

You will discover a vibrant culture

- Québec is distinctive for its cultural richness and for being unique in North America.
- Québec society is diverse and open to the world.
- There are always intercultural and international events taking place: festivals, carnivals, art and sports events, etc.



Discover the Québec education system

07

It could be the beginning of a great adventure

When you earn a degree or diploma from a Québec educational institution you can, under certain conditions, simply and quickly immigrate permanently to the province under the Québec Experience Program (QEP).

For more information, go to: immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/peq-etudiants.

The Québec education system has 4 levels: preschool, Elementary and secondary school, (including adult general education and vocational training), college (divided into pre-university education and technical training) and university education.

Public schools are secular and offer instruction in French or English, depending on the school. There is also a private school system that offers the official programs of study.



Vocational training (secondary level)

Interested in breaking into the job market quickly? Vocational training will prepare you to work in a specialized trade or in an occupation matched to companies' needs. All you need to do is complete your third or fourth year of secondary school (ninth or tenth year of schooling). Programs are offered by school service centres and private educational institutions.

Possible certifications:

- Attestation of Vocational Studies (AVS)
- Diploma of Vocational professionnelles (DEP)
- Attestation of Vocational Specialization (AVS)

College studies

Québec has its own unique college education system. College education, (which follows secondary school) is higher education provided by institutions called CEGEPs and by private colleges. Students can choose one of two educational paths:

- pre-university education (2 years) prepares students for university
- technical training (3 years) leads to the job market or to university studies.

Possible certifications

- Diploma of College Studies (DCS)
- Attestation of College Studies (ACS)

University studies

Starting university?
Going into postgraduate studies?
Looking for a short, specialized program? Whatever your situation, Québec universities have a wide range of programs to choose from.

Possible degrees

- Undergraduate level: Bachelor's degree (3 or 4 years)
- Graduate level: Master's degree (1 or 2 years)
- Graduate level: Ph.D. (3 years or more)

*Many other short study programs of varying duration (e.g. certificates, specialized higher education diplomas) are also offered.

**Only 4 steps
stand between
you and studying
in Québec.**

01

Choose a program of study and an educational institution

Contact educational institutions in Québec and look at the lists of their programs of study. The websites of the Ministère de l'Éducation and the Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur can also be quite helpful.



02

Submit your application

Each program has its own set of admission requirements and deadlines. To find out what they are, check with the institution(s) offering the program of your choice.

- **Vocational training**
Send your application to the institution in question or contact *Québec, métiers d'avenir*, administered by International Education Canada.
- **College education**
Send your application to a regional admissions service or directly to any college (CEGEP) that is not part of the regional admissions system. Thinking of attending a private college? Contact the one you have in mind.
- **University education**
Contact the institution of your choice.

Let's go



03

Obtain a Québec Acceptance Certificate (CAQ) for studies

As soon as you receive your letter of acceptance, apply for a Québec Acceptance Certificate for studies through the Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Francisation et de l'Intégration (MIFI).

This certificate is compulsory for all international students (without exception) who plan to study in Québec for over 6 months, regardless of their level of education.

It takes about 4 weeks to obtain a CAQ, barring any postal delays. The certificate is valid for the duration of your studies, up to a maximum of 49 months.

To apply and to view the list of exemptions, go to: immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/demande-caq-etudes.

04

Obtain a Canadian Study Permit

Like the CAQ for studies, the Canadian Study Permit is compulsory for all students (without exception) who wish to enrol in a program of studies lasting 6 months or more. Apply for it through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

You may be asked to provide a Temporary Resident Visa in order to enter Canada. This document is issued by the IRCC visa offices at the same time as your study permit.

You may also be required to provide your fingerprints and a photograph of yourself (biometric data) after submitting your application.

To obtain your study permit, visa and biometric data (if required), follow the instructions at: canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit.html.

Plan your finances

Yes, the costs of living and studying in Québec are among the lowest in North America. But, to study here, you still must show that you have sufficient financial resources to cover the following expenses:

- tuition fees
- other enrolment-related costs: associated fees, fees for instructional materials, deductions for student associations, health and hospitalization insurance
- transportation costs from and to your country of origin
- settling-in expenses for the first year of studies
- living expenses for the duration of your trip

You also need to pay the costs of examinations associated with requests for a Québec Acceptance Certificate and a study permit.

Are you eligible for an exemption from differential tuition fees?

Some international students may benefit from an exemption from the differential tuition fees they are usually expected to pay. This means that these students pay the same tuition fees as Québec students. This measure is restricted to a limited number of students.

What if you obtained a merit scholarship?

If you have an outstanding academic record, the Ministère de l'Éducation and the Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur could offer you a merit scholarship. To be eligible, you must be enrolled full-time in a program leading to a degree issued by a Québec educational institution.

Additional information on these two types of financial assistance is available at: education.gouv.qc.ca/etudier-au-quebec.



Explore your employment options

Would you like to work during or after your studies in Québec? It is possible.

Under certain conditions, you can work on or off campus while studying without being required to apply for a work permit. You can also apply for a work permit to do internships related to your education. If your partner accompanies you to Québec, they can also obtain a work permit.

Once you have obtained your degree, you can apply for a permit to work full-time.

N.B.: To benefit from these different options, you must hold a valid study permit and be enrolled fulltime in a vocational training, college or university program.





Get inspired!

Thousands of young people from around the world have already made the leap. Draw inspiration from the experiences of 10 students from various countries who have studied in Québec.

Listen to their stories at:
international.gouv.qc.ca/en/accueil.