

Provincial Tuition Waiver Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. What is changing with the enhancements to the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program effective August 1st, 2023?

- Tuition and eligible fee waivers are now available to all former youth in care who meet the time in care requirement, regardless of age. This means the age criteria for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program has been removed.
- Eligibility for those who turn(ed) 19 under any legal care status regardless of time in care.
- Introduction of a new annual \$3,500 Learning for Future Grant to cover additional education costs not covered by the Provincial Tuition Waiver like textbooks, computers, and supplies. For more information about the Learning for Future Grant, please read the [Learning for Future Grant and Youth Educational Assistance Fund Transition Plan - FAQs](#).

Q2. Am I eligible for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program if I am 17 or 18 and still in the care of Ministry of Children and Family Development or an Indigenous Child and Family Services Agency?

- Yes, effective August 1st, 2023, individuals who are post-secondary ready, are under 19 and who meet the eligibility criteria for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program are eligible for the program regardless of whether they are still in the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development or an Indigenous Child and Family Services Agency.

Q3. How do I know if I qualify?

- To determine if you qualify you can follow one of two processes:
 - If you would like to confirm you are eligible for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program before selecting a program of study you can complete sections 1 and 3 of the [Provincial Tuition Waiver Program and Learning for Future Grant application form](#) and submit the signed form to StudentAid BC at tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca. StudentAid BC will verify your time-in-care with the Ministry of Children and Family Development and/or the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, which can take up to 4-6 weeks. If you are eligible, you will receive a conditional approval letter. Once you have selected a program, you can work with your school to complete a new application with the confirmed program information, which the school will submit to StudentAid BC on your behalf. StudentAid BC will then issue an updated approval letter to you and your school with the program information included.
 - If you have already connected with a school and confirmed your program of study you can complete sections 1 and 3 of the [Provincial Tuition Waiver Program and Learning for Future Grant application form](#) and submit your signed application form to your school so section 2 can be completed. Your school will then submit your completed application form to StudentAid BC who will verify your time-in-care with the Ministry of Children and Family Development and/or the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. The verification process can take up to 4-6 weeks. If approved, StudentAid BC will issue an approval letter to both you and your school.

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Q4. I am doing distance or community-based learning that is offered through a Provincial Tuition Waiver Program eligible school and I am not located near the school. How can I complete a Provincial Tuition Waiver Program application form with the institution staff?

- Students can access the [Provincial Tuition Waiver Program application form](#) online, complete sections 1 and 3 and sign the document before sending it via email to the institution staff.
- Once received, institution staff will complete the program information in section 2, sign, and send to StudentAid BC.
- If a student needs help with their application, they can receive virtual support from school staff or reach out to supports in their community and networks as needed to complete this process.

Q5. What costs are covered by the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program?

- All tuition and eligible fees required by your institution to register, enroll, and complete your program/course of choice will be covered. Students that qualify for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program may also be reimbursed for their application fees.

Q6. Can I still access financial support through other existing programs?

- The Provincial Tuition Waiver Program provides tuition and eligible fee waivers for students with lived experience in government care and is not intended to replace other existing financial support programs that are available to you. You may be eligible for additional financial supports to help offset educational costs. Contact your school's Financial Aid Office to determine eligibility for other programs and bursaries.

Q7. What if I am already receiving funding through another program (e.g., Agreements with Young Adults), am I still eligible for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program?

- Yes.

Q8. Where can I find more information about the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program?

- Information is available on the [StudentAid BC website](#)

Q9. Tuition is just one cost related to post-secondary education, what other supports are available?

- The [Learning for Future Grant](#) is available to cover additional education costs not covered by the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program like textbooks, computers, or supplies.
- Many institutions have various additional supports available to eligible students. Please contact your Financial Aid Office or equivalent for more information.
- If you are under the age of 27 you may also be eligible for Ministry of Children and Family Development's Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE) Program, [contact your local MCFD office to learn more](#). You may also be eligible for a student loan. Visit [StudentAid BC](#) to learn more.

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Q10. What happens if I must withdraw from my program or course after my tuition and fees have been paid for?

- If you must withdraw after your course/program drop date, you are not required to repay tuition. Speak to your school's Campus Navigator or Financial Aid Office for assistance through this process.

Q11. Can I claim a tuition waiver retroactively?

- Students may claim reimbursement for tuition and eligible fees paid at any time during the same fiscal year (April 1 – March 31)
- **Enhancements to the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program eligibility criteria are effective August 1st, 2023. Students who become eligible due to these changes may claim reimbursement within the fiscal year for tuition and eligible fees for study start dates on or after August 1st, 2023, only.**

Q12. What if I am a part-time student?

- Part-time students are also eligible for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program.

Q13. I have already completed one credential through the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, can I return and receive a tuition waiver for another credential? What about non-credit courses?

- The Provincial Tuition Waiver Program can be applied to multiple undergraduate courses, programs and credentials, including non-credit courses, but is not available for MA/graduate level degrees.

Q14. Is successful completion a determinant of whether a tuition waiver is granted?

- No. If you meet eligibility criteria and have been issued a tuition waiver, your tuition and eligible fees will be waived for the duration of your undergraduate studies, regardless of age.

Q15. If I transfer schools, will my eligibility for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program continue at my new school?

- Yes. If you transfer to another eligible school ([see full list here](#)), your eligibility for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program will transfer with you and you will not need to reapply. Contact the System Navigator at tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca to have your tuition waiver transferred to your new school.

Q16. I would like to study at a school that is not on the list of eligible schools, can I request an exception and receive a tuition waiver?

- No, there are no exceptions to the list of eligible post-secondary institutions.
- Many institutions have additional supports available to eligible students. Please contact your financial aid office or equivalent for more information.
- If you are under the age of 27 you may also be eligible for Ministry of Children and Family Development's Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE) Program, contact your local MCFD office to learn more.

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Q17. My post-secondary school, which is eligible for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, has a study abroad option. Can I take part in this opportunity and still receive a provincial tuition waiver?

- Yes as long as the tuition and fees are paid to a Provincial Tuition Waiver Program eligible school in British Columbia and applied to credits earned at the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program eligible school in British Columbia.
- This applies to tuition and eligible fees only, travel and living expenses will not be covered through the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program.

Q18. For applicants with exceptional circumstances:

- The Provincial Tuition Waiver Program may on a case-by-case basis approve exceptions to program eligibility through a review of exceptional circumstances. To request a review, contact the System Navigator at tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca.

Categories eligible for review are:

- Time in Care/Legal Status
- Location of Study

Further information on categories eligible for review can be found on the [StudentAid BC website](#).

Q19. Is the funding received through the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program (PTWP) considered taxable income?

- PTWP may be considered taxable income depending on your individual circumstances.
- PTWP are treated as bursaries for taxation purposes and are reported on a T4A issued by your post-secondary institution. Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) offers a scholarship exemption, which allows eligible taxpayers to exclude all or part of the amounts they receive from scholarships, fellowships, or bursaries from their income. There is a “basic” scholarship exemption which exempts the first \$500 of total scholarships, fellowships, and bursaries. However, an exemption of more than \$500 may be permitted for students who meet certain criteria outlined by CRA.
- If you are a full-time qualifying student (as defined by CRA) you may exclude the full amount of a scholarship, fellowship or bursary (e.g., PTWP and LFG) from your income, if the amount is received in connection with your enrolment in an educational program.
- If you are a part-time qualifying student (as defined by CRA), you may only exclude an amount equal to the tuition paid plus the costs of program-related materials. Program-related materials include items that are necessary for completing your course or program such as books, lab coats, brushes, paints, etc. It doesn't include items such as personal computers, generic software, or musical instruments. To determine what portion of your PTWP should be included as taxable income, please refer to the chart provided on the CRA [Scholarship Exemption – Part-time enrolment](#) webpage.

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- To better understand the tax implications of receiving PTWP and to ensure you are correctly calculating your scholarship exemption based on your personal circumstances, please refer to the CRA [Line 13010 – Taxable scholarships, fellowships, bursaries, and artists’ project grants](#) webpage or seek personalized advice from a tax professional.

20. I am applying for a student loan from StudentAid BC. Do I need to declare my Provincial Tuition Waiver on my student loan application?

- Full-time students should declare their tuition amount on question 52a of the SFA application.
- Part-time applicants should enter \$0.00 for tuition costs that are being covered by the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program.