

# Provincial Tuition Waiver Program (PTWP)

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### Q1. How do I know if I qualify for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program?

- Eligibility criteria for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program are posted on our [website](#). To receive confirmation of your eligibility, submit an application form following these steps.
- **If you have not selected a post-secondary institution and/or program of study:**
  - Complete sections 1 and 3 of the [Provincial Tuition Waiver Program \(PTWP\) and Learning for Future Grant application form](#).
  - Submit the signed form to StudentAid BC at [tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca](mailto: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 6 weeks.
  - If you are eligible, StudentAid BC will issue a conditional approval letter.
  - Once you select a program of study, you can work with the Financial Aid Office at your PTWP-eligible post-secondary institution to complete a new application with the confirmed program information.
  - The institution will submit the new application to StudentAid BC on your behalf.
  - StudentAid BC will then issue an updated approval letter to you and your institution with the program information included.
- **If you have already connected with a post-secondary institution and confirmed a program of study:**
  - Complete sections 1 and 3 of the [Provincial Tuition Waiver Program and Learning for Future Grant application form](#).
  - Submit the signed form to the Financial Aid Office at your post-secondary institution.
  - The institution will fill in section 2 and submit the completed application to StudentAid BC.
  - 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 6 weeks.
  - If you are eligible, StudentAid BC will issue an approval letter to both you and your institution.

### 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 under 19 and/or in the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development or an Indigenous Child and Family Services Agency are eligible for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program. They must also meet all other Provincial Tuition Waiver Program eligibility criteria.

## Provincial Tuition Waiver Program (PTWP)

### Frequently Asked Questions

---

#### **Q3. I am enrolled in distance or community-based learning that is offered through a Provincial Tuition Waiver Program-eligible post-secondary institution, but I am not located near the school. How can I complete a PTWP application with the institution staff?**

- Students can access the [Provincial Tuition Waiver Program and Learning for Future Grant application form](#) online.
  - Complete sections 1 and 3, sign the document, and then send it by email to staff at your institution's Financial Aid Office.
  - Once received, institution staff will fill in your program information in section 2 and sign the form. They will then send the completed form to StudentAid BC.
  - If a student needs help with their application, they can receive virtual support from institution staff or reach out to supports in their community/networks for help with this process.

#### **Q4. If I submit a Freedom of Information request to access my time-in-care records with the Ministry of Children and Family Development, will it make the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program validation process faster?**

- No. Submitting a Freedom of Information (FOI) request at the same time as you submit a Provincial Tuition Waiver Program application may slow down the validation process. During an active FOI request, access to records may be restricted until the request is completed. This means StudentAid BC may not be able to access the records needed to validate your time in care while the FOI request is active, which will delay processing your application.

#### **Q5. How do I help confirm my time in care for StudentAid BC as part of my application?**

- When applications are received, the information is sent to the Ministry of Children and Family Development for confirmation of time in care information for StudentAid BC.
- There is nothing an applicant needs to do to assist in the verification of time in care unless StudentAid BC directly requests additional information. If further information is requested, details about what is required will be provided then. .

#### **Q6. What costs are covered by the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program?**

- The Provincial Tuition Waiver Program covers all domestic tuition and eligible fees required by your institution to register, enroll, and complete your program/course of choice. Students that qualify for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program may also be reimbursed for fees they were required to pay before receiving their Provincial Tuition Waiver Program approval letter or being accepted into their course or program (within the same fiscal year). Please speak with your institution to confirm their process for waiving or reimbursing eligible fees and refer to Q12 for more information on reimbursement payments.

## Provincial Tuition Waiver Program (PTWP)

### Frequently Asked Questions

---

#### **Q7. I meet the eligibility criteria for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program but I am unsure if I will meet my post-secondary institutions requirements for domestic student status, what should I do?**

- For support regarding domestic student status please contact the post-secondary institution(s) you are interested in studying at.

#### **Q8. Can I still access financial support through other programs?**

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

#### **Q9. Am I still eligible for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program if I am also receiving funding through another program (e.g., Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE))?**

- Yes. Financial supports through the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program and the SAJE program can be received in full according to an individual's eligibility.

#### **Q10. 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-related costs not covered by the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, such as textbooks, computers, or supplies.
- Many post-secondary institutions have additional supports available to eligible students. For more information, please contact the Financial Aid Office at your institution.
- If you are under the age of 27, you may also be eligible for the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)'s [Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment \(SAJE\) Program](#). Contact your local MCFD office or the SAJE team (MCF.SAJE@gov.bc.ca, 1-866-623-3001) to learn more.
- If you were born on or after January 1, 2006, are at least 17 years old and no older than 36 years of age, and were in care for at least 12 months before you turned 19 years of age, you may be eligible for the [Learning Fund for Young Adults](#) offered by Ministry of Children and Family Development.
- You may also be eligible for a student loan and associated grants. Visit [StudentAid BC](#) to learn more.

#### **Q11. What happens if I must withdraw from my program or course after my tuition and fees have been paid?**

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

## Provincial Tuition Waiver Program (PTWP)

### Frequently Asked Questions

---

#### **Q12. Can I be reimbursed for tuition and fees paid prior to my Provincial Tuition Waiver Program application being approved?**

- Newly approved students may be reimbursed for domestic tuition and eligible fees paid, from the date they meet the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program eligibility, at any time during the same fiscal year (April 1 – March 31) that their application was submitted in.
- Tuition and fees paid prior to the fiscal year in which the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program application was received are not eligible for reimbursement.

#### **Q13. What if I am a part-time student?**

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

#### **Q14. I have already completed one credential through the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program. Can I receive a Provincial Tuition Waiver for another credential? What about non-credit courses?**

- There is no limit to how many courses, programs or credentials, below the graduate level, that you can complete through the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program; this includes non-credit courses. However, graduate-level studies (Masters, PhD and post-graduate studies) are not eligible.

#### **Q15. Is successful completion of a course or program a requirement for a Provincial Tuition Waiver to be granted?**

- No. If you meet all Provincial Tuition Waiver Program eligibility criteria and have been approved for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, your tuition and eligible fees will be waived for the duration of your studies, regardless of whether you successfully complete a course or program.

#### **Q16. If I transfer post-secondary institutions, will my eligibility for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program continue at my new institution?**

- Yes. If you transfer to another eligible post-secondary institution ([see full list here](#)), your eligibility for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program will transfer with you, and you will not need to reapply.

#### **Q17. How can I transfer my tuition waiver to a different post-secondary institution?**

- To have your provincial tuition waiver transferred to a different eligible post-secondary institution contact StudentAid BC by email at [tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca](mailto:tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca) advising of your intent to transfer to a new institution.
- In addition, contact a financial aid office at your new post-secondary institution and let them know you have a provincial tuition waiver. The receiving institution will work with you to provide the necessary information (such as program, start date, and receiving institutions information) to StudentAid BC to complete the transfer.

## Provincial Tuition Waiver Program (PTWP)

### Frequently Asked Questions

---

#### **Q18. I am attending an eligible post-secondary institution that offers a study abroad or field school option. Can I take part in one of these options and still receive a Provincial Tuition Waiver?**

- If the mandatory tuition and fees for the study abroad or field school option are paid directly to an eligible post-secondary institution in B.C. for credits earned at that institution, this option is eligible under the provincial tuition waiver program.
- Eligible fees must be in alignment with those charged to students at the post-secondary institution who are not studying abroad or in a field school option. Fees and expenses related to these options such as travel and living expenses will not be covered through the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program. For more information on eligible fees under the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program, visit the [Provincial tuition Waiver Program web page](#) or reach out to your post-secondary institution.

#### **Q19. Why was I denied access to the PTWP when I was in care?**

- There can be several reasons an application is denied, despite an individual's experience meeting the time in care requirements. Some examples include:
  - The name provided on the application as well as all other known names not matching MCFD records,
  - Missing or incomplete records
  - Your lived experience in care was under the child protection services in another province or country.
  - Exceptional circumstances that are not represented in the legal statuses listed.
- If your application is denied and you have provided all known names to StudentAid BC, please see Q20 to learn more about requesting an exception review.

#### **Q20. Do you ever make exceptions to the eligibility criteria?**

- StudentAid BC has discretion on a case-by-case basis to approve exceptions to standard Provincial Tuition Waiver Program eligibility criteria related to time in care, legal status, or in a comparable agreement under Indigenous Law through a review of exceptional circumstances.
- To be considered for a review of exceptional circumstances, an individual must either submit their Provincial Tuition Waiver application through an eligible educational institute, or submit an application for an eligibility check to [tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca](mailto:tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca). Once the application outcome is received, a request for a review of exceptional circumstances may be submitted to [tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca](mailto:tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca).
- For more information on review categories, please visit the [StudentAid BC](#) website.

#### **Q21. I would like to study at a school that is not on the list of eligible schools, such as a private post-secondary institution in BC or a Class 1 Mandatory Entry-level Training (MELT) course. Can I request an exception and receive a tuition waiver?**

## Provincial Tuition Waiver Program (PTWP)

### Frequently Asked Questions

---

- No. Exceptions to the list of eligible post-secondary institutions are not eligible under the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program exceptional circumstances review policy.
- Many institutions have additional financial supports available for 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 the Ministry of Children and Family Development's Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE) Program. Contact your local MCFD office or the SAJE team (MCF.SAJE@gov.bc.ca, 1-866-623-3001) to learn more.

#### **Q22. My program of choice is not available at any BC public post-secondary institution. Can I request an exception in this case?**

- No. Exceptions to the list of eligible post-secondary institutions are not eligible under the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program exceptional circumstances review policy. . See Question 10 for more information on possible funding options.

#### **Q23. Is the funding received through the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program considered taxable income?**

- Provincial Tuition Waiver Program funding may be considered taxable income depending on your individual circumstances.
- Provincial Tuition Waiver Program funding is treated as a bursary for taxation purposes and is 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., Provincial Tuition Waiver) 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.
- To better understand the tax implications of receiving Provincial Tuition Waiver Program funding, 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.

#### **Q24. I am applying for a student loan from StudentAid BC. Do I need to declare the Provincial Tuition Waiver amount on my student loan application?**

## Provincial Tuition Waiver Program (PTWP)

### Frequently Asked Questions

---

- Full time students should declare their tuition as a targeted resource on question 52a of the SFA application
- Part time applicants should enter \$0.00 for tuition costs covered by the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program

#### **Q25. Where can I find more information about the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program and get support applying?**

- More information is available on the [StudentAid BC website](#).
- A great first step to get support with your Provincial Tuition Waiver Program (PTWP) application is to contact the Financial Aid Office or equivalent department at a PTWP-eligible post-secondary institution.
- If you require additional support to apply for PTWP, please email [tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca](mailto:tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca).