

Provincial Tuition Waiver Program (PTWP)

Frequently Asked Questions

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

- **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.
 - 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 (PTWP). They must also meet all other PTWP eligibility criteria.

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

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

- The Provincial Tuition Waiver Program (PTWP) 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 PTWP can also be reimbursed for application fees they were required to pay before receiving their PTWP approval letter. See [Q10](#) for more information on retroactive payments.

Q6. 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.

Q7. 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)?

- Yes.

Q8. 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

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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.
- You may also be eligible for a student loan and associated grants. Visit [StudentAid BC](#) to learn more.

Q9. 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.

Q10. Can I claim a Provincial Tuition Waiver retroactively?

- Newly approved students may be reimbursed for tuition and eligible fees paid 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 will not be reimbursed.

Q11. What if I am a part-time student?

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

Q12. 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.

Q13. 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 (PTWP) eligibility criteria and have been approved for the PTWP, your tuition and eligible fees will be waived for the duration of your studies, regardless of whether you successfully complete a course or program.

Q14. If I transfer post-secondary institutions, will my eligibility for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program continue at my new institution?

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- 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.
- Contact tuitionwaiver@gov.bc.ca to have your provincial tuition waiver transferred to your new institution.

Q15. 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. Can I request an exception and receive a tuition waiver?

- No. Exceptions will not be made to the list of eligible post-secondary institutions.
- 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.

Q16. I am attending an eligible post-secondary institution that offers a study abroad option. Can I take part in the study abroad option and still receive a Provincial Tuition Waiver?

- Yes, the tuition and fees for the study abroad option are eligible for a Provincial Tuition Waiver, as long as they are paid to an eligible post-secondary institution in B.C. for credits earned at that institution.
- Eligible fees must be in alignment with those charged to students at the post-secondary institution who are not studying abroad. Fees and expenses related to studying abroad such as travel and living expenses will not be covered through the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program.

Q17. Do you ever make exceptions to the eligibility criteria?

- 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 (geographic location of study only; this does not apply to exceptions to study at private institutions).
- Further information on categories eligible for review can be found on the [StudentAid BC website](#).

Q18. 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

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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.

Q19. 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?

- 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

Q20. 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.