



Education in The Province of Manitoba

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Summary

The Manitoba education system provides multiple opportunities for Manitobans to study in the U.S. This report outlines the Manitoba education system, from elementary to post-secondary education. Requirements to study in the U.S., funding and international education options are also highlighted. As there were over 260,000 students enrolled in the Manitoba education system in 2007, there are many opportunities existing for U.S. schools to recruit Manitoba students to study in the U.S and partner with Canadian schools to further international education between the U.S. and Canada.

Background

Education is a provincial government responsibility in Canada. In Manitoba, the [Public Schools Act](#) and the [Education Administration Act](#) govern education. The rights and responsibilities of the Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth, school boards, principals, teachers, parents and students are set out in these Acts. Children are required to attend school from the time they reach compulsory school age (7 years of age by December 31 in a given calendar year) until the age of 16. Every parent or legal guardian of a child of compulsory school age is responsible for sending his/her child to school. Every student is responsible for attending school and classes regularly and on time, and completing assignments and other related work.

Elementary and Secondary Education Profile

Manitoba elementary and secondary schools teach students from 5 to 18 years of age. High school prepares students aged 14 to 18 for post-secondary education, and training or employment after graduation. Senior year schools in Manitoba may use either a full-year (non-semester) or a semester system to organize their programming. In a full-year system, courses run for the full school year, from September to June. In a semester system, the school year is divided into two semesters, from September to January and from February to June.

Public schools are funded and offer courses developed by the Manitoba government. Independent or private schools receive public and private funds and teach a curriculum approved by the government.

Students attending secondary education in Manitoba have the option of enrolling in on the following official programs:

1. Academic programs in English language
2. Academic programs in French language
3. French Immersion academic programs - a second language program for students whose first language is not French and who have little or no knowledge of French prior to entering the program.
4. Technology Training - accredited pre-apprenticeship/pre-employment programs offered by secondary schools.

Basic French courses prove to be the most popular choice for students with 67,591 students enrolled in basic French in 2006/2007. Meanwhile French immersion has continued to be a popular choice for students since 2002, increasing over the past few years, with 17,871 students enrolled in 2006/07.

Enrolments by Language Program					
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
French	5,273	5,242	5,207	5,250	5,338
French Immersion	17,194	17,249	17,429	17,604	17,871
Basic French Course	70,853	70,852	69,647	69,693	67,591
Heritage Bilingual	1,481	1,416	1,418	1,402	1,412
Heritage Study	4,828	5,457	5,820	5,748	5,294
Enrichment - ESL	4,269	5,464	5,974	6,369	8,714

Students also participate in a variety of academic and extracurricular programs. Many Manitoba elementary and secondary schools offer formal international education programs. Schools most actively involved in international education programs are:

Public Schools with Formal International Education

- [Evergreen School](#), [Garden Valley School](#), [Lord Selkirk School](#), [Mountainview School](#), [Nelson McIntyre Collegiate - Louis Riel School](#), [Prairie Spirit School Division](#), [Pembina Trails School](#)
- [River East Transcona School](#), [St. James-Assiniboia School](#), [Sunrise School](#), [Western School](#)

Independent Schools with formal International Education

- [Balmoral Hall School](#), [Gray Academy of Jewish Education](#), [Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute](#), [St. John 's-Ravenscourt School](#)

U.S. schools may be interested in partnering with the abovementioned schools to implement international education exchange experiences for Canadian students to study in the U.S. The U.S. Commercial Service can assist U.S. companies in building such partnerships.

Post-Secondary Education Profile

Manitoba has public universities, university-colleges and private religious institutions of higher education. Universities offer undergraduate, graduate, pre-professional and professional degree programs in a broad range of disciplines. Universities are located in the cities of Winnipeg and Brandon. Undergraduate programs are generally three to five years for the first degree, with some universities offering post-graduate programs as well.

Manitoba's colleges offer certificate and diploma programs that combine theoretical knowledge with practical training and work experience. Most colleges offer a one or two year program leading to obtaining a certificate or diploma in various educational fields that range from Business, Applied Arts, Engineering Technologies, Health and Family Services to Apprenticeship courses.

Universities and Universities Colleges:

- [Brandon University](#), [Canadian Mennonite University](#), [Canadian Virtual University](#), [Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface](#), [University of Manitoba](#), [The University of Winnipeg](#)

Colleges:

- [Assiniboine Community College](#), [Red River College](#), [University College of the North](#)

Vocation/Technical Training Institutions

- [Winnipeg Technical College](#)

Private Religious Institutions

- [Canadian Mennonite University](#), [Providence College and Theological Seminary](#)

University enrolment rates are continuously increasing. In 2005/06 there were 39,700 students enrolled in Universities in Manitoba, up 1 percent from the previous year. In 2003/04 the rate of college enrolment increased significantly in Manitoba. Manitoba had the second highest college enrolment rate in Canada after Ontario with 17,640 students enrolled in a Manitoba college. Consistent with enrolment rates, university degrees, diplomas and certificates granted have also increased. In 2005 there were 6,345 University degrees, diplomas and certificates granted, up from 6,309 in 2004.

University Enrolment Canada and Manitoba 1999-2006				
	1999 -2000	2004 -2005	2005 - 2006	Change from 2004/05 to 2005/06
Overall				
Canada	847,500	1,017,600	1,047,700	3.0%
Manitoba	30,700	39,300	39,700	1.0%
Full-time students				
Canada	592,700	759,800	781,300	2.8%
Manitoba	20,900	29,000	29,100	0.3%
Part-time students				
Canada	254,800	257,800	266,400	3.3%
Manitoba	9,800	10,300	10,700	3.9%

English as a Second Language/French as a Second Language

In 2006 the Manitoba Government embarked on a French Second Language Program seeking to give schools delivering instruction in French a new momentum. Manitoba institutions offer a number of language programs. English as an "Additional Language" and French as an "Additional Language" courses are available to help students improve language skills.

Distance Education

Many of Manitoba's high-quality courses, colleges and universities are available through distance education. If students are able to adapt their situation to the teaching style and structure of distance education, degree, diploma and certificate programs may be completed.

Private Vocational Institutions

Manitoba's private vocational institutions offer employment training in a wide range of occupation fields including office and business applications, broadcasting, computers, technology, cosmetology, health care, massage therapy, security, transport driving and many others. Institutions are privately

owned and operate as a business. Institutions providing occupational training are registered in accordance with the [Private Vocational Institutions Act](#) unless exempted through legislation.

University and College Tuition

Average university undergraduate tuition fees in Manitoba rank third lowest in Canada only after Quebec and Newfoundland. Yet they have increased two percent from the previous year to CDN\$3,384 in 2007/2008. Manitoba graduate fees are well below the national average of CDN\$5,547. They have remained stable over the past three years at CDN\$4,626. Manitoba college tuition fees rose in 2004/05 by approximately 1 percent to CDN\$3,160. (*)

Funding Options for Students Enrolled in the U.S.

Manitoba offers many opportunities for students to fund their education experiences in the U.S. Students who earn their high school diploma and apply for university or college may qualify for Provincial assistance ranging from CDN\$800 to CDN\$5,000. The general equation used to determine funding is:

$$\text{Resources} - \text{Eligible Costs} = \text{Assessed Need}$$

Eligibility

Manitoba students are eligible for loans, grants and scholarships to study in the U.S. on the condition that the U.S. institution has been approved by [Manitoba Student Aid](#).

To find the list of U.S. institutions that have been approved under the Manitoba Student Aid program, or to determine institutional eligibility, visit [School and Program Search](#). If an institution has yet to be designated, a paper application can be completed to apply for an approved designation through Manitoba Student Aid. There are currently approximately 3,000 schools in the Manitoba Student Aid database of which 246 are U.S. campuses eligible for Canada and Manitoba Student Aid funding.

To become designated, U.S. educational institutions must:

- Offer full-time, post-secondary programs
- Offer programs that are at least 12 weeks in length, within a period of 15 weeks
- Offer programs that are minimally 15 instructional hours per week at a degree-granting university or college; or be a minimum of 20 instructional hours per week (minimum 240 hours total) at a private institution, private training provider or religious college
- Have published entrance requirement of grade 12 or equivalent or Mature Student Status (at least 19 years of age and one year out of high school)
- Have administrative processes in place to support student success
- Be registered under Manitoba's Private Vocational Institutions Act if required.

Private U.S. educational institutions must also:

- Have offered an eligible program of studies for at least 12 months
- Have the support of the curriculum by a recognized accrediting or certifying body
- Provide education and training that leads to positive employment outcomes
- Meet all criteria as required by regulated occupations

() Note: As the U.S. and Canadian dollars are currently at parity, and it is forecasted to remain that way over the next two years, we have used an equal U.S. and Canadian dollar for all figures in this report.*

Loans

Canada Student Loans (Federal Assistance):

Canada Student Loans are federally subsidized loans that are interest free for full-time students. Interest begins to accumulate after full-time attendance ends. Students are not required to make payments until six months after full-time status ends. The maximum Canada Student Loan available is CDN\$210 per week of study. For example a 34-week university program qualifies for a maximum loan of CDN\$7,140.

Manitoba Student Loans (Provincial Assistance):

Manitoba Student Loans are provincially subsidized loans that are interest-free during full-time study and six months after studies end. Interest begins to accumulate six months after full-time study ends. Payments must begin six months after full-time status ceases. The maximum Manitoba Student Loan is CDN\$140 per week of study. For example a 34-week university program qualifies for a maximum loan of CDN\$4,760.

Grants

Canada Study Grants for Full-Time Students with Dependents:

Canada Study Grants for Full-time students allow students to receive a grant of up to CDN\$3,120 per year if the assessed need is more than CDN\$275 per week of study. Non-repayable assistance of up to CDN\$40 per week is available for students with one or two dependants and up to CDN\$60 per week for students with three or more dependants. Assistance is available to full-time students with dependants who have applied for Canada/Manitoba Student Loan with an assessed financial need exceeding CDN\$275 per week of study. Female doctoral (PhD) students in selected non-traditional fields of study can obtain non-repayable assistance of up to CDN\$3,000 annually for up to three years.

Canada Access Grants:

Canada Access Grants are available to students from low-income families. These grants provide up to CDN\$3,000 for first-time, first-year students from low-income families. These are also available to dependent students. Students are automatically considered for the Canada Access Grant when they apply for Manitoba Student Aid.

Millennium Manitoba Opportunities Grants:

Millennium Manitoba Opportunities Grants are available to dependent students from low-income families. The Government of Manitoba and the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation provide this grant to dependent full-time students in the first year of a multi-post-secondary program. These grants provide up to 50% of the student's tuition, up to CDN\$3,000. Students are automatically considered for Millennium Manitoba Opportunities Grants when they apply for Manitoba Student Aid.

Bursaries

Millennium Adult Learner Bursary:

The Government of Manitoba and the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation provide bursaries to adult students from low-income backgrounds. Assistance is available to selected low-income college and university students who graduated with a mature Student Diploma from an Adult Learning Centre. These centers identify students who demonstrate academic readiness and motivation and who meet the income threshold. The Millennium Adult Bursary provides CDN\$5,000 for the first year, CDN\$4,000 for the second year, CDN\$3,000 for the third year of study, and CDN\$2,000 for the fourth year for selected Adult Learning Center graduates who pursue a post-secondary education at a college or university in Manitoba.

In addition to the abovementioned funding support, part-time students, Aboriginals, and Students with Disabilities can obtain information on financial relief from [Manitoba Student Aid loans, grants, bursaries and awards](#). Students are also encouraged to visit their local financial institutions and the

[Canadian Bureau for International Education](#) to obtain alternate funding opportunities available to Canadian students who want to study in the U.S.

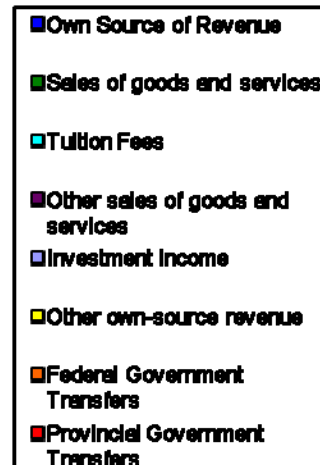
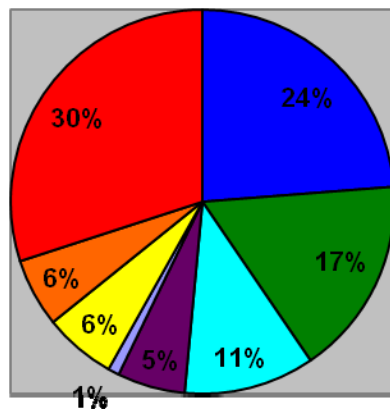
Reciprocity Program with the State of Minnesota

Manitoba has a long-standing agreement with the State of Minnesota that provides for equal treatment of students at post-secondary institutions. Manitobans studying at Minnesota's public universities and colleges are charged the same tuition fees as Minnesota residents and vice versa. For More information see: [Reciprocity Program](#).

Manitoba Budget

The Manitoba Government is committed to developing the education system. The Manitoba Government invested an additional CDN\$53.5 million into public schools, the largest increase over the last 25 years. In 2007 the Government provided more than CDN\$1 billion in public school funding. Furthermore, in 2008 there will be an additional CDN\$500,000 invested to support continued improvement in academic achievement among aboriginals, through initiatives such as student mentorship and training, as well as education for elders.

University and College Revenue in Manitoba, 2007



University and College Expenditures in Manitoba and Canada (2007)		
	Manitoba	Canada
Education	958,751	33,363,020
Postsecondary education	958,751	33,044,907
Administration	176,739	6,257,850
Education	516,461	16,351,516
Support to students	13,187	1,197,408
Other postsecondary education expenses	252,365	9,238,132
Debt Charges	3,140	716,182
Total Expenditures	961,892	34,107,650
Surplus or Deficit	3,076	-260,053

Shortage of Skilled Labor

Research studies have shown that 31 per cent of Canadian employers found it difficult to fill skilled positions in 2006. Moreover, 42 per cent of the skills shortages were in occupations that require college or apprenticeship training compared with 7 per cent that require university education. This poses an opportunity for U.S. colleges and apprentice training programs to train Manitoba students in underrepresented areas in the labor market.

Education for Aboriginal communities has been a challenge in Manitoba. Aboriginal students who are interested in obtaining education face a lack of funding availability and overcrowding. The Manitoba Government is increasing funding for Aboriginal students which will create excellent opportunities for U.S. institutions interested.

Publications

[International Students - International Education](#)

[Manitoba: Post Secondary Education](#)

Resources

[Manitoba Ministry of Education](#)

[Statistics Canada](#)

[U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#)

[Manitoba Student Aid](#)

For More Information

If you would like further information, please contact Luz.Betancur@mail.doc.gov National Sector Coordinator, Education/Training Services, or call 613 688-5216. You can also visit our website at <http://www.buyusa.gov/canada> to discover commercial opportunities in Canada.

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