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Legend of icons

	Attention	Certain conditions must be met. Pay attention to this icon to avoid unpleasant surprises!
	Good to know	Useful clarifications are provided throughout the guide. Make sure you do not miss anything!
	Reminder	Pay attention to reminders so you do not miss any important information!
	Link	Several useful pieces of information may be found outside the Guide. Take the time to inform yourself thoroughly!

Merit Scholarship and Exemptions from Supplementary Tuition Fee Programs

GENERAL INFORMATION

Merit Scholarships and Exemptions from Supplementary Tuition Fee are two programs of the [ministère de l'Éducation du Québec \(MEQ\)](#) (Quebec's Ministry of Education).

💡 The **Merit Scholarship** Program is offered at the university, technical college, and vocational training levels. Click on the following links if you are interested in [university education](#) or [technical college education](#).

If you are interested in vocational training, you are in the right place!

The MEQ encourages, through the Merit Scholarship and Exemptions from Supplementary Tuition Fee (hereinafter referred to as the **Programs**), the most outstanding international applicants to enroll in vocational training programs with favourable employment prospects. To this end, a Contest is organized, that is, an evaluation and selection process for applicants, with a view to awarding financial assistance to support the completion of their study project in Québec.

The administration of the Programs and the Contest has been entrusted by the MEQ to **Éducation internationale**, through its **Québec métiers d'avenir** service, under a professional services agreement, to centralize the international call for applications and promote the vocational training opportunities available in Québec.

The Contest is open to international applicants who are at least 18 years of age and who wish to pursue full-time studies in Québec in a vocational training program leading to a **Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS)**, a **double DVS**, or a **DVS followed by an Attestation of Vocational Specialization (AVS)** offered by a vocational training centre.

🔗 Consult the section “Actors Involved in the Contest” in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) to better understand the roles of the MEQ, Québec métiers d'avenir, and vocational training centers.

🔗 Learn more about vocational training in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

WHAT IS AWARDED

Within the framework of the Contest, financial assistance in the form of Merit Scholarship and Exemptions from Supplementary Tuition Fee may be awarded to selected international applicants.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

Merit Scholarship include financial assistance intended to cover a portion of living expenses, a full exemption from tuition fee applicable to international students, as well as coverage under the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ).

The value of a Merit Scholarship ranges from CAD 14,000 to CAD 26,600, depending on the duration of the training program.

For the 2026–2027 Contest, funding for Merit Scholarship amounts to CAD 1,680,000. Funding is not guaranteed for all applications, and a maximum number of applications per educational organization may be established.

The awarding of scholarships is conditional upon the recipient's satisfactory continuation and successful completion of studies in Québec.

TUITION FEE EXEMPTIONS

Tuition Fee Exemptions may also be granted without a scholarship or RAMQ coverage, in accordance with the terms of the program.

🔗 Learn more about the [inclusions and exclusions](#) applicable to each program.

🔗 Read the [Final Selection](#) section for details on the awarding of Merit Scholarship and Tuition Fee Exemptions.

Inclusions and exclusions

The table below presents the main distinctions between the Merit Scholarship and the Tuition fee exemption that may be awarded through the Contest.

	Merit scholarship	Tuition fee exemption only
INCLUDED	✓ Tuition fee exemption applicable to international students ✓ Medical coverage provided by the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) ✓ A scholarship ranging from CAD 14,000 to CAD 26,600, depending on the duration of the selected training program, to cover the student's living expenses during their studies.	✓ Tuition fee exemption applicable to international students
EXCLUDED	- Ø Cost of immigration procedures - Ø Round-trip transportation to Canada - Ø Private health insurance to be obtained before RAMQ coverage comes into effect - Ø Training-related expenses (e.g., educational materials, uniform, etc.) - Ø Other expenses related to a stay in Québec	- Ø Merit scholarship - Ø Medical coverage provided by the RAMQ - Ø Cost of immigration procedures - Ø Round-trip transportation to Canada - Ø Private health insurance to be obtained before RAMQ coverage comes into effect - Ø Training-related expenses (e.g., educational materials, uniform, etc.) - Ø Other expenses related to a stay in Québec
\$ (CAD)	You must declare that you have a minimum of CAD 10,617 available for your study project.	You must declare that you have a minimum of CAD 24,617 available for your study project.

Eligibility Criteria

Under the governing program frameworks, to be eligible for a **Merit Scholarship** and/or a **Tuition Fee Exemption**, applicants must meet the following conditions:

- ☐ Be at least 18 years of age at the time of submitting their scholarship application. There is no upper age limit;
- ☐ Hold a nationality other than Canadian or French;

💡 *Applications from member countries of the Francophonie (excluding France, including its overseas territories), from key Asian markets (China, Korea, India, and Japan), and from the Americas (Brazil, Colombia, the United States, and Mexico) will be given priority.*

- ☐ Not hold Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status in Canada, nor be in the process of obtaining permanent resident status under Canadian immigration laws;
- ☐ Be outside Canada at the time of submitting the application and remain outside Canada until the announcement of the selected applicants;
- ☐ Meet the admission requirements of the desired program of study;
- ☐ Demonstrate a level of French and/or English proficiency that allows successful completion of a vocational training program;
- ☐ Not have previously received a scholarship to pursue studies at the same or a higher educational level in Québec. In addition, holding multiple scholarships during the same academic year is not permitted;
- ☐ Not have previously been found guilty of submitting an application containing fraudulent documents in connection with this Contest or any other program of the ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ);
- ☐ Be able to meet the minimum financial capacity requirements established by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), according to the selected program.

If their application is selected, all recipients must be able to demonstrate to immigration authorities that they have a minimum personal financial capacity of:

- **CAD 10,617** for recipients of an **Merit Scholarship**;
- **CAD 24,617** for recipients of a **Tuition Fee Exemption Only**.

🔗 Carefully read the section on **financial capacity** in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

👉 **Failure to meet at least one of the eligibility requirements may result in the rejection of the application.**

Contest procedure

The Contest is structured around five main stages.

Stage 1. Vocational training centres (VTCs) register their participation in the Contest.

Vocational training centres (VTCs) confirm their participation in the Contest by indicating, on the dedicated platform, the programs they wish to make available to future scholarship recipients. These VTCs are located in various administrative regions of the province of Quebec.

Contest applicants do not need to contact the VTCs to find out which programs are offered. These programs are listed on the registration platform.

 **The Merit Scholarship Contest is intended exclusively for vocational training**, meaning short-term training focused on learning a trade and entering the job market. The scholarship Contest does not apply to college-level programs or university programs.

 Learn more about merit scholarship at the [technical college level](#) or at the [university level](#).

 Please note that at least 50% of the scholarships and tuition exemptions must be awarded to applicants who wish to study in one of the prioritized training programs. The list of prioritized training programs can be found in  [Appendix 1](#). Not all prioritized training programs are offered through the Contest, and therefore not all programs offered through the Contest are prioritized. Recipients are also selected for non-prioritized training programs.

In addition, at least 50% of the scholarships and tuition exemptions must be awarded to applicants who wish to study in a region experiencing declining enrollment, as listed in  [Appendix 2](#) (prioritized administrative regions). Not all prioritized regions are represented within the framework of the Contest. Recipients will also be selected for non-prioritized regions.

Stage 2. Registration and Submission of Applications

Eligible individuals register for the Contest through the platform, select the location and training program they wish to pursue from the list of available options, and complete their application (including the required documents).

 See the details of Step 2 [here](#).

Stage 3. Pre-Selection of Applications

The VTCs (Vocational Training Centres) carry out the pre-selection of applications according to the established criteria, including verification of applicants' eligibility and the validity of the submitted documents.

🔗 See the details of Step 3 [here](#).

Stage 4. Final Selection and Awarding

The final selection is carried out by Québec métiers d'avenir to determine the awarding of scholarship recipients.

🔗 See the details of Step 4 [here](#).

Stage 5. Admission, Immigration, Start of Training, and Follow-Up

Selected applicants are notified and begin their immigration procedures, with support from Québec métiers d'avenir, and then start their training program. Throughout the training period, follow-up is conducted to ensure compliance with the use of the assistance granted and the successful completion of the educational pathway.

🔗 See the details of Step 5 [here](#).

The detailed schedule for each stage can be found in 🔗 [Appendix 3](#).

Submit an application

👉 **Only one application per person is accepted.** Any application submitted for more than one institution will be rejected. Even if assisted by a relative or acquaintance, the applicant must be the author of their own application.

💡 Submitting an application is **free**.

STEPS TO FOLLOW

From Wednesday, September 16th, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. (noon, Quebec time) to Wednesday, October 28th, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. (Quebec time).

1. Eligibility: Determine whether you are eligible for the Contest.

🔗 Check the [eligibility criteria](#).

🔔 Any application containing false information or misrepresentation will be automatically rejected from the Contest.

2. Submit an application: Go to the scholarship Contest platform.

🔗 <https://bourses.boursesqma.com/en>

3. Complete your profile: Fill in the required information. Carefully read the 🔗 [Privacy Policy](#) (in French only).

4. Open your application file: During the Contest application period, click on the section “Merit Scholarship Contest.”

5. Select your training program and training centre from the list provided.

a. Training program selection:

Make sure you properly research the chosen training program. Carefully read the information provided on the platform, including the program description, career opportunities, and specific features of the training. 👉 No change of training program will be permitted if you are selected as a recipient.

b. Vocational training centre selection:

Training centres are located across different regions of Quebec. Make sure the location of your chosen centre suits you. 🖐️ No change of training centre will be permitted if you are selected as a recipient.

5. Complete your application.

Please complete all mandatory sections and upload the required documents to the platform.

🔗 Consult the [information and documents to be submitted](#).

🖐️ In accordance with applicable legal provisions regarding the protection of personal information, no documents submitted by email will be accepted.

INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS TO SUBMIT

❑ Identity Documents

- A copy of the identification page of your passport or your national identity card;
- A copy of your original birth certificate.

🔗 See the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for additional information about this section.

❑ Application Form

- Complete each of the required sections:
 - Declarations of eligibility for the Contest criteria;
 - Commitments related to the Contest process;
 - Motivations and interests regarding your study project;
 - Detailed professional background.

🔗 See the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for additional information about this section.

💡 This section is completed entirely online. No other format will be accepted.

❑ Academic documents

- A copy of all diplomas (or certificates of completion) obtained at the secondary, vocational/technical, and/or post-secondary levels, accompanied by the corresponding academic transcripts.
- Optional comment if you have a noteworthy academic background.

🔗 See the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for additional information about this section.

☐ **Language Level (for a training program conducted in English)**, provide one of the following documents:

- A recognized English language test result (TOEFL iBT, IELTS) taken within the last two years, demonstrating a grade of B2 or higher for each of the four skills assessed;
- A higher education diploma and transcript issued by your country's Ministry of Higher Education and/or a university, for a minimum of 3 years, completed entirely in English.

 See the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for additional information about this section and for information about the Language Level required for a training program conducted in French.

☐ **References**

- Two (2) reference forms, each completed by a different person.

The form to be completed can be downloaded here: [ENG - Reference form](#)

 We highly recommend using the new referral form, which can be downloaded above.

 See the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for additional information about this section.

☐ **Awards and/or distinctions**

- Details of any awards and/or distinctions received (maximum of 2), if applicable;
- Supporting documentation for these awards and/or distinctions (maximum of 2), if applicable.

 **This section is optional.**

 See the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for additional information about this section.

Evaluation of applications

During both the pre-selection stage conducted by the vocational training centres and the final selection stage conducted by Québec métiers d'avenir, applications are scored according to the same criteria, namely:

- Motivations and Interests: 30%
- Academic Background: 30%
- Awards and Distinctions: 5%
- References: 15%
- Overall Quality of the Application: 20%

Personal information is processed based on your consent and in accordance with the provisions of the Act respecting Access to Documents Held by Public Bodies and the Protection of Personal Information (CQLR, chapter A-2.1), as specified in the [Privacy Policy](#) (in French only).

💡 The pre-selection process is entirely the responsibility of the vocational training centres. No intervention by the ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ) or Québec métiers d'avenir takes place at this stage.

👉 The results of both the pre-selection and final selection processes are final. No decision related to these stages may be appealed or contested.

🔗 For more details, read the “Submitting My Application” section of the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Final selection

During the final selection process, artificial intelligence may be used to enable a qualitative assessment of applications. Québec métiers d'avenir may also establish an evaluation committee, composed of designated individuals, responsible for analyzing the pre-selected applications and evaluating them in accordance with the program requirements and established criteria.

Once the evaluation process has been completed, Québec métiers d'avenir will conduct a comprehensive review and proceed with the final selection.

💡 Recipients are then determined based on the merit scholarship funding allocated by the Ministère de l'Éducation (CAD 1,680,000 for the 2026-2027 Contest). Once the scholarship budget has been fully allocated, a certain number of tuition fee exemptions only may be granted to deserving applicants who have declared a financial capacity of CAD 24,617 or more.

🔔 Funding is not guaranteed for all applications, and a maximum number of applications per vocational training centre may be established.

Announcement of recipients

To facilitate the management of applications, the announcement of recipients is conducted in **two separate selection rounds**. Each round corresponds to a group of selected applicants who will receive a response on a specific date.

Applicants whose applications are selected will be notified by email:

- For the first round, on Monday, January 25th, 2027;
- For the second round, on Monday, March 1st, 2027.

From the announcement date, recipients have a **30-day period** to respond by:

- **Confirming by email their acceptance of the financial assistance** (scholarship and/or exemption);
- **Signing the required commitments;**
- **Finalizing their support file with Québec métiers d'avenir.**

Detailed instructions and the documents to be completed will be included in the announcement email.

The **final deadlines** for responding to the announcement are:

- For applications selected in the first round: Wednesday, February 24th, 2027.
- For applications selected in the second round: Wednesday, March 31st, 2027.

Applicants who are not selected at the conclusion of the Contest selection process will be notified by email on Monday, March 1st, 2027.

👉 Any selected applicant who fails to respond to the announcement within the prescribed deadlines and complete each of the required steps will have their **financial assistance cancelled**. Selected applicants may also withdraw from the process during the final selection stage.

Once they have responded to the announcement, recipients will be supported in their procedures by **Éducation internationale**, through the Québec métiers d'avenir service, as well as by the person responsible for welcoming students at the vocational training centre. This support is intended to help prepare for their arrival and settlement in Quebec.

🔗 To learn what to expect if you become a recipient, consult the section “After the selection” in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

See detailed information about the Merit Scholarship Contest:

 [Merit Scholarship – Shape Your Future](#)

👉 Any incomplete, illegible, non-compliant, or fraudulent application may be rejected at any stage of the process.

Dates and procedures are subject to change.

🔔 All documents must be submitted through the platform; no documents will be accepted by email.

Good luck !

APPENDIX 1

Prioritized training programs

* Certain prioritized training programs may not be offered as part of the 2026-2027 Contest.

Code (FR)	Name of the training program (in French)	Code (ENG)	Name of the training program (in English)	Duration	Offered (FR)	Offered (ENG)
Secteur de la santé / Health Sector						
5358	Assistance à la personne en établissement et à domicile	5858	Institutional and Home Care assistance	870h	No	No
5394	Assistance technique en pharmacie	5894	Pharmacy Technical Assistance	1 590h	Yes	No
5380	Retraitement des dispositifs médicaux	5880	Reprocessing of Medical Devices	1 080h	Yes	No
5325	Santé, assistance et soins infirmiers	5825	Health, Assistance and Nursing	1 800h	Yes	Yes
Secteur de la construction / Construction Sector						
5303	Briquetage-Maçonnerie	5803	Masonry : Bricklaying	900h	Yes	Yes
5378	Calorifugeage	-	-	900h	No	No
5319	Charpenterie – menuiserie	5819	Carpentry	1 350h	Yes	No
5295	Électricité	5795	Electricity	1 800h	Yes	No
5360	Ferblanterie	5860	Tinsmithing	1 605h	Yes	No
5296	Installation et entretien de systèmes de sécurité	-	-	1 485h	Yes	No
5334	Installation de revêtement souples	-	-	900h	No	No
5282	Installation et fabrication de produits verriers	-	-	1 350h	No	No
5337	Mécanique d'ascenseur	5837	Elevator Mechanics	1 800h	No	No
5331	Mécanique d'engins de chantier	5831	Construction Equipment Mechanics	1 800h	Yes	No
5312	Mécanique de protection contre les incendies	-	-	900h	No	No
5375	Montage de lignes électriques et de télécommunication	-	-	1 140h	No	No
5364	Montage structural et architectural	5864	Structural and Architectural Assembly	1 230h	No	No

5336	Peinture en bâtiment	5836	Commercial and Residential Painting	900h	No	No
5333	Plomberie et chauffage	5833	Plumbing and Heating	1 680h	Yes	No
5343	Préparation et finition de béton	5843	Preparing and Finishing Concrete	900h	No	No
5386	Réfrigération	5815	Refrigeration	1 800h	No	No
5382	Soudage-assemblage	5695	Welding and Fitting	1 800h	Yes	No
Filière industrielle et batterie / Industrial Sector and Battery						
5274	Conduite de machines de traitement du minerai	5774	Machine Operations, Mineral and Metal Processing	900h	Yes	No
5281	Électromécanique systèmes automatisés	5781	Automated Systems Electromechanics	1 800h	Yes	No
5368	Extraction de minerai	5868	Ore Extraction	930h	Yes	No
5381	Transformation des métaux en fusion	-	-	1 170h	Yes	No
5260	Mécanique industrielle de construction et d'entretien	5760	Industrial Construction and Maintenance Mechanics	1 800h	Yes	No
5359	Mécanique de machines fixes	5859	Stationary Engine Mechanics	1 800h	Yes	Yes
5244	Tôlerie de précision	5744	Precision Sheet Metal Work	1 275h	No	No
5371	Usinage	5871	Machining	1 800h	Yes	No
Secteur de l'aérospatiale / Aerospace Sector						
5363	Fabrication de pièces industrielles et aérospatiales en composite	-	-	1 005h	No	No
5197	Montage de structures en aérospatiale	5697	Aircraft Structural Assembly	975h	No	No
5307	Montage mécanique en aérospatiale	5801	Aircraft Mechanical Assembly	1 185h	No	No
Autres secteurs / Other Sectors						
5328	Conduite de procédés de traitement de l'eau	-	-	1 800h	No	No
5298	Mécanique automobile	5798	Automobile Mechanics	1 800h	Yes	Yes
5330	Mécanique de véhicule lourds routier	5830	Heavy Vehicles Mechanics	1 800h	Yes	Yes

APENDIX 2

Prioritized administrative regions

**Some prioritized regions may not be represented as part of the 2026-2027 Contest.*

Code	Name of the region	Represented
01	Bas-Saint-Laurent	Yes
02	Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean	Yes
04	Mauricie	No
05	Estrie	Yes
08	Abitibi-Témiscamingue	Yes
09	Côte-Nord	Yes
10	Nord-du-Québec	Yes
11	Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine	Yes
12	Chaudière-Appalaches	Yes
17	Centre-du-Québec	Yes

APPENDIX 3

Merit Scholarship Contest Schedule

Declaration of interest to participate in the Contest by School Service Centres (SSCs) / School Boards (SBs)	From April 22, 2026, to May 20, 2026	Deadline for school service centres (SSCs) and school boards (SBs) to indicate their intention to participate and to add training programs.
Registration period / Submission of applications	From Wednesday, September 16th, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. (noon, Quebec time) to Wednesday, October 28th, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. (Quebec time)	Complete applications must be submitted online through the scholarship registration platform.
Evaluation of applications	From Monday, November 23rd, 2026, to Friday, January 15th, 2027	Each application is reviewed and evaluated, first by the educational institutions and then through a final assessment.
Official announcement – Round 1	Monday, January 25th, 2027	Selected and non-selected applicants are notified. Those selected have 30 days to complete the process.
Official announcement – Round 2	Monday, March 1st, 2027	Selected and non-selected applicants are notified. Those selected have 30 days to complete the process.
Immigration procedures for recipients	Starting March 2027	Recipients complete their immigration procedures and prepare for their arrival.
Arrival of recipients and start of classes	Between January 2028 and December 2028	Recipients arrive in Quebec and begin their vocational training.

APPENDIX 4

Checklist

To make sure you do not miss any step when submitting your application, consult the checklist below:

- ☐ I have read the documentation related to the Contest (website, guide, and FAQ);
- ☐ I have verified that I meet all eligibility criteria to participate in the Contest;
- ☐ I have verified that I am able to provide the proof of financial capacity required by immigration authorities (minimum amount of CAD 10,617 to apply for the Merit Scholarship Contest);
- ☐ I have prepared the required documents needed to submit a complete application;
- ☐ I have registered on the Contest platform;
- ☐ I have completed my profile;
- ☐ I have read the [Privacy Policy](#) (in French only);
- ☐ I have researched the training program for which I wish to apply;
- ☐ I have researched the city and region where the training centre at which I wish to enroll is located;
- ☐ I have compared different options before officially choosing my Vocational Studies Diploma (VSD/DEP) and Vocational Training Centre (VTC/CFP);
- ☐ I have completed each section of my application:
 - ☐ Identity;
 - Application Form;
 - Academic Documents;
 - Language Proficiency;
 - References;
 - Awards and Distinctions.
- ☐ I have read and understood the declarations and commitments related to the Contest;
- ☐ I have read and understood the items that must be confirmed before submitting my application;
- ☐ I have submitted my application before Wednesday, October 28th, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. (Quebec time);
- ☐ I have submitted my language test result no later than Friday, November 20th, 2026, if applicable.



Éducation internationale | Québec métiers d'avenir
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