

# Financial Aid for PR Students – Quick Guide (B.C. focus)

Permanent residents are considered domestic students for tuition and can access **federal + provincial** aid if enrolled in an eligible program at a designated institution.

## What you can get (Canada wide)

- **Canada Student Grants** (non repayable, need based). Program year 2025–26 maximums remain increased above prepandemic levels.  
*Examples:* Full time up to **\$525/month** of study; with dependants up to **\$280/month**; students with disabilities up to **\$2,800/year**; part time studies up to **\$2,520/year**.
- **Canada Student Loans** (interest free while in study; federal interest **permanently eliminated** effective Apr 1, 2023). Repayment normally begins 6 months after studies end.
- Apply through your **province/territory**—one application assesses both federal and provincial funding.

## If you live in British Columbia (StudentAid BC)

- **Eligibility:** PR status, B.C. resident, enrolled in an eligible program at a designated school, and financial need.
- **Weekly maximums (2025–26):** up to **\$520/week** (no dependants) or **\$740/week** (with dependants) in combined loans + grants (actual amount depends on assessed need).
- **B.C. Access Grant:** up to **\$4,000/year** for programs under 2 years, or up to **\$1,000/year** for programs of 2+ years (income tested; stackable with federal grants).
- **Alexander College note:** StudentAid BC funding is available for students **enrolled in Associate Degree programs** (eligible, designated).

## How to apply (B.C.)

- 1) Confirm your school/program is **designated** (StudentAid BC "Check your school designation").
- 2) Gather documents (SIN, taxes/consent, program details).
- 3) Apply online via **StudentAid BC** (this also assesses federal grants/loans).
- 4) If you're a first time borrower, complete your Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA).

## Useful links

Canada Student Grants & Loans (Canada.ca)	StudentAid BC – Apply
Check your school designation (StudentAid BC)	Alexander College – Student Financial Aid

## Other provinces/territories (apply through your portal)

- Ontario – OSAP
- Alberta Student Aid
- Find your province/territory portal

## Don't miss these extras (tax & savings)

- **Tuition Tax Credit** (claim eligible tuition; can transfer/carry forward).
- **Canada Training Credit** (refundable tax credit for eligible training fees; accumulates annually if you qualify).
- **Lifelong Learning Plan (LLP)** (withdraw RRSP funds for your or your spouse/partner's education, then repay to RRSP).

Sources: StudentAid BC updates (2025–26), Canada Student Grants & Loans (Canada.ca), NSLSC notice on interest free loans, Alexander College financial aid page.