

Why Study in Alberta?

1. An international reputation

Alberta's education system is internationally renowned. The Alberta High School Diploma is recognized across North America and throughout the world. Many of our high school graduates continue their education at Alberta's fine post-secondary institutions; others go on to attend some of the most prestigious universities and colleges in the world.

- Every year, nearly 100 delegates from various countries around the world, such as China, Germany, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Vietnam visit Alberta to learn more about its education system.
- Schools around the world, from China to Qatar to Bermuda, have expressed interest in offering Alberta's program of studies to their students.



2. Academic excellence

Alberta students consistently score top marks on international tests such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

PISA	Group	Alberta Relative to International Average	Alberta Relative to Overall Canadian Results	Countries/Provinces With Results Significantly Higher Than Alberta's
2006	Science	+	+	1 (Finland)
	Reading	+	=	2 (Korea and Finland)
	Mathematics	+	=	4 (Chinese Taipei, Finland, Hong Kong-China, and Korea)
2009	Reading	+	=	1 (Shanghai-China)
	Mathematics	+	=	7 (Shanghai-China, Singapore, Hong Kong-China, Korea, Chinese Taipei, Quebec and Finland)
	Science	+	+	1 (Shanghai-China)
2012	Mathematics	+	=	10 (Shanghai-China, Singapore, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, Korea, Macao-China, Japan, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Quebec)
	Reading	+	=	4 (Shanghai-China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan)
	Science	+	+	3 (Shanghai-China, Hong Kong, Singapore)
2015	Science	+	+	1 (Singapore)
	Reading	+	+	0
	Mathematics	+	=	7 (Singapore, Hong Kong, Macao, Chinese Taipei, Japan, *BSJG-China and Quebec)

Note: + Alberta results significantly higher than overall national/international average results
 = Alberta results not significantly different than overall national/international average results

- Alberta results significantly lower than overall national/international average results
 * BSJG-China represents Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu, and Guangdong

3. Quality teachers

All Alberta teachers have a four year university degree, which includes a teacher preparation program and many have additional post-secondary education either at a Master's level or in a specific subject area. Alberta Education reviews the credentials of all potential teachers before granting them certification to teach in a classroom.

Teachers regularly participate in professional development workshops conferences or seminars.



Public Education in Alberta, Canada

In Canada, each provincial and territorial education Ministry establishes, funds, and operates its own education system. Alberta has 63 publicly funded school districts, and while the majority of students attend public school, others attend Roman Catholic and Francophone (French speaking) publically funded schools.

School sequencing

The Alberta Kindergarten to Grade 12 school system includes programs for pre-school, elementary, junior high school and senior high school students. After senior high, students may choose to continue their studies at the post-secondary level at universities, colleges, or technical institutes. The following chart outlines Alberta's grade system and general corresponding age levels:

Grade	Age (years)	Category
Kindergarten (K)	4 – 6	Pre-school
1 – 6	6 – 12	Elementary
7 – 9	12 – 15	Junior High
10 – 12	15 – 18	Senior High

Standardized curriculum and testing

Curriculum in Alberta is provincially standardized. Therefore, students study the same material and receive the same quality of education regardless of which school they attend. International students study the same internationally recognized curriculum as Alberta students and can expect instruction in mathematics, science, language arts and social studies.

Alberta has a system of province-wide standardized testing of all students in core subjects. Provincial Achievement Tests are administered in Grades six and nine, and Student Learning Assessments are being piloted in some Grade 3 classes. Provincial Diploma Exams are administered in Grade 12.

Internationalization

Alberta Education is committed to supporting the internationalization of Alberta schools. These internationalization efforts include:

- Providing students with the attitudes, skills and knowledge to be engaged, active, informed and responsible global citizens by focusing on concepts such as global citizenship, diversity and pluralism in the social studies curriculum;
- Working with expert language advisors and teachers to enhance second language learning in the province;
- Partnering Alberta schools with school overseas;
- Providing students with experiential learning opportunities overseas; and
- Welcoming international students into the province.

Alberta Education continues to welcome over 2,000 new international students from more than 70 countries to study in Alberta each year.

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