



Canadian International Development Scholarships 2030



Second Call for Proposals Scholarship Projects for Studies in Canada

Frequently Asked Questions Updated: April 4, 2024

1. GENERAL QUESTIONS ON THE PROGRAM

1.1. Is it possible for a student from one of the BCDI 2030 eligible countries to apply *directly* to the call for proposals for scholarship projects for studies in Canada?

A. No. Individuals cannot apply directly to BCDI 2030. Applications are made through a partnership between a Canadian higher education institution (HEI) and a HEI from one of the 26 eligible countries.

The Canadian and partner HEIs whose proposals are accepted will themselves launch a call for scholarship applications for study in Canada and will select their own scholars. The selection will be made on the basis of pre-established criteria in line with BCDI 2030 program terms and the admission criteria of the program of study.

1.2. What are the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders (Canadian HEIs and partners, and CICan/UnivCan) in the implementation of scholarship projects?

A. BCDI 2030 relies on the shared responsibility of the Canadian HEI, its partner(s) and the CICan/UnivCan consortium to ensure the successful implementation of the scholarship project, particularly in terms of coaching and employability support. With respect to the roles and responsibilities identified in section 3.2 of the guidelines, project proposals should describe in

more detail the collaborative approach that partners will take at different stages of project implementation.





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1.3. Will CIGan/UnivCan facilitate the process for the obtention of Canadian visas for scholars?

A. As the voice of Canadian universities and colleges, the CIGan/UnivCan consortium is in close contact with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to defend the interests of its members, particularly regarding the process of obtaining study visas in Canada. Canadian lead HEI will provide a letter confirming the BCDI 2030 Scholarship to enclose in their visa application. The consortium will inform the embassies and high commissions of the 26 eligible countries of pending applications to expedite the visa process.

1.4. How many scholars can a scholarship project involve?

A. The call for proposals refers to scholarship projects, which will involve several scholarship recipients. The exact number of scholars is determined by the partner HEIs, based on the nature of the project and a realistic estimate of the number of scholars they can select, host and support.

1.5. Is it possible to submit a scholarship project involving different programs, fields and/or level of study?

A. BCDI 2030 is designed to provide member institutions and their counterparts in partner countries with maximum flexibility. We therefore encourage HEIs to present innovative and creative projects which can combine diverse options, varied subject areas and different levels of study, as long as the project adopts a coherent approach and meets the program's objectives.

1.6. Are there any guidelines in terms of how we provide monetary support to incoming scholarship students (i.e., to support living expenses, etc.)?

A. The project financial management is at the discretion of the lead HEIs and done in accordance with their own internal procedures. Upon signature of the Contribution Agreements, BCDI 2030 will provide the lead HEIs with an Implementation Manual to support them with their project implementation.

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1.7. In concrete terms, how can a diploma issued in Canada be recognized or certified by the authorities of the partner country? What kind of information/evidence are you looking for exactly?

A. In general, BCDI 2030 aims to ensure that the training offered in Canada meets the needs of the partner countries and the labour market, so that the completion of the study period in Canada can truly strengthen the capacity of the scholars to enter and progress in the labour market upon their return.

To this end, the program encourages partners to demonstrate the extent to which the training offered as part of the BCDI 2030 program is formally or informally recognized by the partner country. Depending on the type of program, recognition can take different forms, including: formal recognition if the degree is subject to a recognition of professional qualifications or if it contributes to the progression of the scholar's studies. Study stays in Canada are also officially recognized if they lead to credits in a program at the partner HEI or in a cotutelle or dual degree program.

If, however, the type of study stay does not allow for official recognition, the partners are invited to submit an evaluation of the recognition of the training by one or more stakeholders from the government, the higher education system and/or employers in the sector, in order to attest to the value of the proposed training. Any steps taken to ensure the choice and relevance of the training and how the skills learned in Canada can be applied upon the return of the scholars in their home country will be considered.

1.8. Regarding the requirement, under option 3 research mobility, that research or courses undertaken at the host institution be credited and recognized by the scholars' home HEI:

a. Could student participants obtain a letter from their home institution that states that this will count towards a program for students, and could that count as being "credited"?





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A. The activities carried out as part of the mobility or research stay must be duly recognized by the partner HEI, i.e., they must be carried out in a pedagogical context and lead to the award of credits recognized in the scholar's academic path at their home institution. A letter from the partner HEI will be sufficient to confirm recognition of the mobility or research stay.

b. As for faculty participants, we know that many institutions (particularly those in medical fields) have a requirement that their faculty members update their training periodically. Could this requirement, written up on a stamped letter by the home institution, satisfy the need for research courses being “credited” and recognized by the HEI.

A. If the training contributes to the partner HEI's staff development objectives, and the training is duly recognized by the HEI's authorities, a letter attesting to this recognition and to the program's relevance to staff skills development will suffice.

1.9. In terms of scholarship project characteristics, is the innovative approach about the scholarships management or how innovative the scholarship program will be in building capacity and leadership?

A. The notion of innovation should be understood in a broad sense; it can be integrated into various aspects of scholarship projects such as:

- Collaborative project management;
- Setting up consortia;
- Pedagogical approach;
- Initiatives to build capacity and develop employability, leadership and/or entrepreneurial skills;
- Measures taken to maintain links with the home country and encourage return;
- Integration of new technologies;
- Any other innovative activities, including gender-sensitive, multidisciplinary, and experiential activities.





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1.10. Could you elaborate on the additional support that could be provided to partner HEIs for the professional integration of their graduates?

A. We will consult partner HEIs in eligible countries whose projects are selected through the call for proposals to gauge their interest in receiving support for their graduates' professional integration. This complementary support will be provided as part of BCDI 2030 Stream 2, which aims to strengthen partner HEIs' organizational capacity through the development of institutional partnerships.

More explicitly, the BCDI 2030 team will help interested HEIs identify their specific needs through a consultation process. The team will then draft terms of reference (ToR) based on the needs identified by the partners. ToRs will be disseminated to CICan's and UnivCan's networks to launch a call for proposals for projects. Based on the project proposals received, partner HEIs in eligible countries will select which Canadian HEI(s) they want to collaborate with.

Institutional partnerships will be developed to meet partner HEI's specific needs and could include, for example:

- the creation of a mentors' network
- the development of linkages with industry and community partners
- graduates' employment preparation
- etc.

1.11. Are BCDI 2030 Stream 2 Guidelines available?

A. There are no guidelines for the second stream of BCDI 2030, which aims to develop institutional partnerships between HEIs from the 26 eligible countries and their Canadian counterparts. The BCDI 2030 team will facilitate the development of these institutional partnerships by first assessing partner countries' institutional capacity building needs in higher education in close collaboration with supervisory ministries and other stakeholders.





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Following this needs assessment exercise, the BCDI 2030 team will draft terms of reference that will illustrate in detail the needs identified. The terms of reference will then be disseminated to CIGan and UnivCan member institutions, who will be invited to submit a project proposal explaining the proposed support to address the issues raised. HEIs in eligible countries will evaluate the proposals received and select the Canadian HEI(s) with which they wish to collaborate. Successful Canadian HEIs will be invited to visit the field, wherever possible, to carry out a cost analysis and develop a work plan in close collaboration with the partner HEI. Once the Contribution Agreement has been signed, participating HEIs will be able to initiate their institutional partnership.

Institutional partnerships will be developed gradually in the 26 countries eligible for BCDI 2030 over the next three years.

1.12. Can Stream 2 be expanded to include other types of partners for capacity building partnerships (e.g., ministries, NGOs, health clinics, etc.)?

A. Institutional partnerships under Stream 2 could indeed involve ministries, NGOs, or other government agencies. The identification of partners and needs will be done through field consultations with supervisory ministries. The terms of reference for institutional partnerships will be developed by the BCDI 2030 team and disseminated to members of the CIGan and UnivCan network. Members will be invited to submit project proposals to address the needs identified in the terms of reference.

1.13. Are the winning Canadian HEIs approved for the duration of the eight-year program, or do they need to reapply each academic year?

A. The whole duration of the BCDI 2030 program is eight years. Regarding the scholarship projects, the maximum duration of the study stay in Canada is four years. All activities must be completed by November 30, 2029. It is up to Canadian HEIs and their partner HEIs to determine the duration of their scholarship project within this time frame. Winning HEIs do not need to renew their request for each academic year.





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1.14. Does this call for proposals encourage the development of short-term scholarship projects?

A. As indicated in the *guidelines*, scholarship projects must be no less than one month and no more than four years. Short-term projects are possible, as long as they lead to a certification.

These study abroad trips fall under Option 1 of the scholarship project types – *custom-made training program*. Unlike Options 2 and 3 which are tied to the academic calendar, custom-made training programs can begin and end at any time during the academic year and can include activities in Canada, in the partner country and/or in a hybrid model.

1.15. What type of certification for short courses?

A. Short-term training must lead to credits or continuing education units recognized as part of a degree, certification, or study certificate.

1.16. Referring to section 6 on Reporting and Evaluation: when will the HEIs and recipients be involved in the program evaluation process?

A. Canadian HEIs will be responsible for preparing and submitting narrative and financial reports in accordance with the Contribution Agreement's terms and conditions. Evaluation will be conducted at the beginning and end of the project (through surveys, interviews, focus groups, testimonials) and will involve project beneficiaries and HEIs.

1.17. What do you mean by clean energy?

A. By clean energy, we refer to energy that comes from natural sources or processes that are constantly replenished. Examples of clean/renewable energies are:

- Solar energy
- Wind energy
- Hydroelectric power

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- Biomass energy
- Geothermal energy

BCDI 2030 avoids supporting studies or training that could perpetuate environmentally damaging practices or exacerbate climate change. Consequently, non-renewable energies, including fossil fuels such as oil, gas, and coal, are not supported by the program.

1.18. When I try to register for the BCDI 2030 application it takes me to the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships program (QES) application. Could you please advise?

A. This means that you are still logged in on your QES account. In that case, you need to log out and log in on the BCDI 2030 portal.

1.19. Yes, a single proposal can include several options. However, the same scholar can only benefit from one of options 1, 2 or 3. Option 4 is complementary to the courses offered under options 1, 2 or 3.

A. Yes, a single proposal can include several options. However, the same scholar can only benefit from one of options 1, 2 or 3. Option 4 is complementary to the courses offered under options 1, 2 or 3.

1.20. Can you better define the term beneficiary? Can it be a student, teacher, manager, or staff member of the partner institution?

A. Exactly, all these people are eligible and can be beneficiaries of the project, i.e., be candidates for a BCDI 2030 scholarship to study in Canada.

1.21. How does BCDI 2030 ensure that the majority of fellows are women?

A. The responsibility for ensuring that the majority of scholarship recipients are women rests with the partner HEIs. As part of the scholarship project, they must establish selection criteria in collaboration with Canadian HEIs, and form an impartial selection committee that will

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implement a predefined recruitment strategy. This strategy will aim to ensure that all applications, including those from women, are assessed fairly, and that, wherever possible, at least 51% of the candidates are women.

2. QUESTIONS RELATED TO ELIGIBILITY

2.1. What are the criteria for qualifying institutions of higher education?

A. Partner higher education institutions (at the technical/vocational, college or university level) in eligible countries must be recognized by their supervisory ministry. The BCDI 2030 program gives preference to public educational institutions, but private institutions are also eligible.

2.2. Our institution is in a special situation: we are both a member of UnivCan and CICan (through our Faculty of Agriculture). Is it possible to submit two scholarship project proposals: one as a member of UnivCan and the other as a member of CICan, and in both cases as the lead HEI?

A. In this case, it is indeed possible to submit two scholarship project proposals as a lead HEI: one as a member of CanCIC and the other as a member of UnivCan.

2.3. If we submit a project in this call, will we be eligible for the second call?

A. Yes, an HEI that submits a project proposal in the first call will also be eligible to submit a project in the second call. However, the scholarship project must present a change compared to the previous proposal, be it a change of field, study program, partner and/or country. BCDI 2030 will favor a certain distribution of funding among all CICan and UnivCan members.

In some cases, the BCDI 2030 team may provide recommendations to the members of the scholarship projects selection committee in accordance with the requirements of the funder, to ensure an equitable geographic distribution of winning projects.

2.4. Is a graduate microprogram part of the eligible regular programs (Option 2)?

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A. All programs offered by a college, institute or university are eligible for BCDI 2030. If the program is already offered by the HEI, it falls into the regular program category (option 2). If, however, the program offered is tailored to better meet scholars' specific needs and learning objectives and is offered specifically to a cohort of BCDI 2030 scholars, then it falls under Option 1.

2.5. Will it be possible to submit a project involving dual-degree or co-degree programs?

A. Yes, it is possible! These types of programs are perfectly aligned with the program's objectives, which are to ensure that the program is adapted and recognized by the partner country.

2.6. Regarding the key thematic areas, can Public Administration and Business Administration/HR fall under Governance & Administration?

A. The fields of study eligible for BCDI 2030 must aim to contribute to the social and economic development of partner countries and fit in with at least one of the BCDI 2030 themes. In this respect, training in the field of business administration/human resources is fully eligible under the theme of Governance and Administration.

2.7. Is a scholarship project in the field of agriculture and/or nutrition eligible?

A. Absolutely. Depending on the perspective adopted, a project presenting a program of study or training in the field of agriculture could, for example, fit into the key thematic area of the green economy, which emphasizes resource efficiency and sufficiency in respect of the environment and ecological balance. The same project or a project on nutrition could fall under the key thematic area of health sciences if the proposed program of study or training emphasizes the adoption of practices aimed at improving human health.

3. QUESTIONS RELATED TO PARTNERSHIPS





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3.1. What level of involvement does the partner HEI have in the project proposal process?

A. The degree of involvement of partner HEIs in the scholarship project development process is at the discretion of the parties involved. Nevertheless, the projects presented must be the result of a co-construction process, which implies the adoption of a collaborative approach between Canadian and partner HEIs to ensure that the proposed scholarship project adequately meets the development and workforce needs of the targeted country or countries. It is important that the roles and responsibilities of project partners are clearly explained in the proposal.

3.2. Is it possible to submit a project proposal involving multiple partners?

A. To allow for the co-construction of innovative projects, BCDI 2030 offers Canadian HEIs and partners maximum flexibility. Projects can be carried out between two partners or involve several partners, both on the Canadian side and in eligible countries. In other words, a single project can be carried out in a consortium, either composed of several Canadian partners (for example, a college and a university) or several partners from a single country or from several countries eligible to the BCDI 2030.

For scholarship project proposals involving a consortium of Canadian HEIs, only one Canadian HEI must be designated as the lead applicant. The lead HEI will be responsible for signing the Contribution Agreement and coordinating the project with the other partners.

The creation of consortia between Canadian institutions is particularly valued, resulting in an advantage when proposals are evaluated according to the selection grid. An additional bonus is awarded to consortia that combine Canadian universities and colleges.

In parallel, a partnership is defined as a collaboration between one or more Canadian HEIs and one or more HEIs in eligible countries. It can be a bilateral partnership, where a Canadian HEI collaborates with one or more partner institutions in eligible countries, or a multilateral partnership, involving relations between several institutions in eligible countries in addition to the collaboration with the Canadian HEI.





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- 3.3. The program guidelines indicates that the Partner higher education institution must be recognized by the government of the eligible partner countries. Can you be more specific? For example, would a research center whose supervisory ministry is Research and Innovation be eligible? Or is the criterion to be able to grant degrees for higher education programs? And if the center is affiliated with a university that will be issuing the degree, can it be considered a partner in the project, or should only the affiliated university be?**

A. To be eligible, the partner must be a recognized higher education institution capable of granting higher education degrees. A research center may be involved in the implementation of the project, but it cannot be considered as a partner HEI.

4. QUESTIONS RELATED TO BUDGET AND ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- 4.1. Can Canadian institutions leverage other funding envelopes from the government as part of the matched funding requirement?**

A. With reference to the guidelines (section 1.4 of Appendix 4), BCDI 2030 scholarship project funding cannot be matched with any other federal funding. If, however, partner HEIs have existing federal funding, they remain eligible for BCDI 2030, as long as no federal funding has been provided to support the conduct of study tours in Canada. However, BCDI 2030 funding may be combined with another institutional, provincial, or international funding source, as long as it is complementary to BCDI 2030 funding.

- 4.2. Are partnerships under other CIGan-administered programs eligible?**

A. Yes, partners who have received funding under another program administered by CIGan or UnivCan are eligible, as long as it is not for inbound mobility scholarship programs and that the activities implemented under BCDI 2030 are not double-funded. Projects must be financially managed separately, both in terms of reimbursed expenses and in-kind contribution.





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4.3. Does CIGan/UnivCan expect Canadian HEI to handle the purchase of airline tickets for scholars?

A. The airfare procurement process is done in accordance with the institutional practice of the lead HEI. Each scholar's file will include three airfare bids to confirm the most direct and economical route.

4.4. In the case of students coming to Canada for an entire degree, is the round-trip airfare covered once? How about the case of students who may return to their home country for research during the degree?

A. BCDI 2030 covers one round-trip airfare (the most direct and economical route). This expense is included in budget item *B. Transportation costs*. The program also allows for a maximum of \$6,000 CAD per scholar for *other expenses related to the training program*. This amount may cover, among others, expenses related to internships, research or practical work carried out in the home country, including the purchase of an additional airline ticket if this expense is deemed essential to achieving the objectives of the study project. It is up to the Canadian HEIs and partners to decide on the financial arrangements for their scholarship project. Nevertheless, we suggest that educational activities in the scholars' home country take place as much as possible upon their return to optimize resources.

4.5. Is there any expectation that scholars pay some tuition fees?

A. HEIs are invited to present a project proposal that is in line with the program objectives and vision to increase access to higher education and reduce inequalities for students of 26 eligible partner countries. Each project proposal will be evaluated with respect to the selection criteria of the program.

4.6. Does housing/accommodation fall under direct financial aid?

A. Housing and lodging are costs included in direct financial aid. The costs associated with these are included in the monthly living allowances calculated by Global Affairs Canada.





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4.7. Our city is not listed in the Global Affairs Canada’s chart of monthly allowances for Canadian cities. According to the information provided, unlisted cities are eligible for a monthly allowance of \$1,000 which is not enough to cover living expenses. Could you please clarify?

A. Eligible monthly allowances are defined by Global Affairs Canada and unfortunately, we have no control over the amounts established.

4.8. The “Guide to Managing Award Holders in Canada” mentions that award holders staying in Canada for ten months or more are entitled to a monthly living allowance. Does this mean that scholars who will stay for less than 10 months will not get a monthly allowance?

A. The minimal duration of study stays to be eligible to BCDI 2030 scholarship is one month and it has been agreed that all scholars are entitled to monthly living allowances. In some situations where scholars are accommodated in a commercial establishment for a short duration, article 4.8 “Daily living allowances” may prevail. In such cases, scholars are not entitled to an installation allowance.

4.9. Is it the monthly allowance to pay for rent? And the daily allowance to pay for food and local transportation?

A. Monthly allowances are intended to cover the basic costs of living, i.e., accommodation and meals. Local transportation costs can be reimbursed under “Other expenses related to the program”, as long as all expenses under this budget line are below 6 000\$ per scholar for the duration of the study stay.

4.10. The \$600 installation allowance is for scholars staying for several months. What do we mean by several months?

A. If scholars are not accommodated in a commercial establishment, they can benefit from the installation allowance.





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4.11. In addition to the training courses and study stays offered in Canada, could the scholarships be used to finance remote (virtual) training for students or teaching staff at the partner institution?

A. Yes, scholarship projects can include virtual or hybrid activities for scholarship recipients, but projects involving only virtual activities are not eligible.

4.12. Our partner asks us to provide a certain amount of on-site assistance and support for its teachers. Are the costs associated with this type of intervention eligible?

A. The purpose of this call for proposals is to support study stays in Canada. BCDI 2030 encourages training, internships, and applied research activities in the partner country upon the scholars' return, but these activities must be integrated into the scholars' study project.

4.13. The budget template summary tab is protected, and I can't use it. Would it be possible to access the password to unlock the cells?

A. As indicated in the budget template instructions, lead HEIs must [only] enter their name and project title in the summary tab - all financial data will be automatically generated. This means that calculations from the annual budget tabs will be transferred directly into the summary tab. The summary tab is therefore protected from manipulation.

