

What are Post-Graduate (Post-Grad) Programs?

- Ontario Colleges offer **Post-Graduate Programs** (also known as **Post-Diploma Programs**) for students who have already completed a University or College degree or diploma.
- These are relatively short programs (usually 1-2 years of full-time study) offering intensive training and practical experience in specific career areas.
- Post-Grad Programs can be diploma or certificate programs. Certificate programs are geared towards individuals who want to continue to work full-time while simultaneously furthering their education.

Why would I want to complete a Post-Graduate Program?

- Post-Grad Programs provide training in a specific career area, which can help you be more competitive in the workplace.
- Some of this training may be practical (e.g., may include co-op or practical placements), which may complement the theoretical training acquired in university.
- Although many programs include this practical experience option, there is variation in what specific programs offer. Do your research to determine whether this practical component is included and whether the other aspects of the program curriculum meet your needs.

Are there any benefits to Post-Grad Programs over Graduate School Programs?

- Post-Grad Programs are one of many types of further education (others include: graduate school, professional school, and a variation of these, called mixed programs).
- Post-Grad Programs tend to be practical rather than research-based (a characteristic of graduate school programs).
- A Post-Grad Program may be equal in value to a graduate degree, depending on your career area of interest. Do your research before deciding to pursue **any** further education, Post-Grad Programs included, to determine which qualifications employers prefer in your area of interest. It will also help you determine which program would be best suited to you, given your interests, strengths and academic background.
- If you are unsure whether further education would be a good idea for you personally, feel free to meet with a Career Counsellor at the Career Centre for help making your decision.

What are the admission requirements?

- The main requirement for admission to a Post-Grad Program is completion of a university degree or college diploma.
- Sometimes, your degree/diploma must be in a related area to the Post-Grad Program you wish to pursue, or you may need to have completed related courses during your undergraduate studies (e.g., may need science courses or a science degree/diploma, in order to pursue some healthcare/health science programs).
- Beyond the general requirement for completion of a degree/diploma, check each program's guidelines for any additional course requirements.

Additional requirements **may** include submission of your:

- transcript(s)
- resume
- cover letter
- statement of interest in the career area
- writing samples and/or portfolio

Sometimes, schools may base their admissions decisions on additional factors such as:

- performance in an admissions interview
 - performance on admissions tests (e.g., English language or math)
 - level of academic achievement
 - whether you possess special skills relevant to the program (e.g., computer skills)
 - whether you have relevant experience
- Once again, admission requirements **can differ widely by school and/or program**. Thus, it is a good idea to check the academic calendar or web-site of each school and program for this information.

Where can I find Post-Grad Programs? How do I apply?

- You can search for and apply to Post-Grad Programs in Ontario by visiting the Ontario Colleges website at www.ontariocolleges.ca

What is the deadline to apply?

- Applications are available in early October (for programs starting the following fall). Colleges also offer programs that start at other times during the year (view the *list of open programs*) at the above site. Although there is no deadline to apply to colleges in Ontario, applications received on or before **February 1st** are given equal consideration. **Some programs are very competitive – so apply early**. Applications received after February 1st are reviewed on a first come, first-served basis. Visit the Ontario Colleges web site for further details.

Other ways to continue your education

- Besides Post-grad/diploma programs, you can check the **Continuing Education departments** at the various universities and colleges in Ontario, such as U of T, York, Ryerson, Sheridan, Humber, etc.
- The **School of Continuing Studies** web site of the University of Toronto is www.learn.utoronto.ca. **Did you know?** UofT rewards graduating students with a \$750 credit towards one course, valid for 2 years following convocation. For details, view: <http://learn.utoronto.ca/how-to-register/alumni-benefit>
- Some Canadian universities offer graduate level certificates/diplomas. You can search for these in the Universities Canada online database (by selecting *program level*): <http://www.universitystudy.ca/search-programs/>

Resources and services available to help you do your research

- www.ontariocolleges.ca – Search for and apply to Post-Grad programs in Ontario.
- www.gradschools.com & www.petersons.com - Search for Post-Grad programs at various universities in Canada and abroad.
- **Course calendars** – access on-line calendars on each school's web site.
- **Career Centre Library & Career Cruising** – these print and online resources can help you research careers to determine what education is needed for your careers of choice. Please ask Career Centre staff if you would like assistance with these resources.

Please note that this information is subject to change. It is best to refer to the original sources for the most up to date information. (Updated April 2017)