

Merit Scholarships Competition

2025-2026



**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
CANDIDATES**

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VOCATIONAL TRAINING

1. What is Éducation internationale and its Québec métiers d'avenir service?

Éducation internationale is a non-profit cooperative bringing together French-language school service centres and English-language school boards in Quebec. Since 2001, Éducation internationale has brought them together, supported them and represented them to open the Quebec school network to the international world.

Québec métiers d'avenir is a personalized support service created by Éducation internationale for people who wish to study vocational training and have a unique experience in Quebec.

The ministère de l'Éducation du Québec mandates Éducation internationale to manage several programs, including the Merit scholarship and tuition fee exemption competition.

To learn more about the cooperative: [Éducation internationale](#)

To learn more about the support service: [Québec métiers d'avenir](#)

2. What is vocational training?

Vocational training leads to the obtaining of a vocational studies diploma (VSD). These short-term training courses (1 to 2 years) focus on learning a trade and focus on teaching skills directly related to the job market.

For some VSDs, it is possible to improve by completing a attestation of vocational specialization (AVS) which lasts between 3 and 6 months.

These official diplomas are issued by the ministère de l'Éducation du Québec.

3. What are the criteria for success in vocational training?

In vocational training, each skill is assessed individually. A success threshold is determined for each skill, for example 80 points out of 100. The words "Pass" or "Fail" appear on the learning record, whether the student achieves the success threshold or not.

The student is awarded points based on the determined assessment criteria, which will be shared with you by the teacher at the appropriate time.

If the student fails a skill, he or she can retake the exam. Normally, a student who fails a skill twice must retake the entire skill, including the courses. However, this may delay the student in their training.

Some skills have higher success thresholds, particularly in the health sector, where obtaining a perfect score is often required.

The skills to be achieved for each of the training courses are clearly listed on their personalized page [on the Québec métiers d'avenir website](#).

4. Why do a vocational training in Quebec?

Vocational trainings are recognized worldwide for the quality of its programs and its innovative teaching methods. In addition, Quebec training centres are equipped with ultramodern, cutting-edge equipment.

You can also work during and after your training in Canada. You will also have access to good working conditions and a well-paid job.

5. Do all centres offer the same quality of training?

Yes, all courses must offer the same content to students, regardless of the centre in which they are provided. In addition, the training centres, with which we collaborate, all offer ultramodern infrastructures and cutting-edge equipment to optimize learning.

6. What is a “welcome service”?

Some training centres offer additional services within their establishment to ensure the proper reception of their international students. The welcome services vary according to the training centres. The services that can be offered are listed below:

- Integration into the living environment;
- Reception upon arrival;
- School integration;
- Integration for the family;
- General information and administrative follow-up;
- Support for finding housing.

To find out about the services offered by the different training centres, you can click [HERE](#).

7. What training courses are offered as part of the Merit Scholarship competition?

Vocational training centres determine which training courses they wish to offer as part of the scholarship competition. Most training courses are prioritized by the ministère de l'Éducation du Québec. A ratio of 50% of prioritized training courses must be respected in the awarding of scholarships and tuition fee exemptions. The list of prioritized training courses can be found in Appendix 1 of the Instruction Guide for Candidates.

Not all training courses on the list of prioritized training courses are available for registration in the Merit Scholarship competition.

Registering for a non-prioritized training course does not prevent the possibility of selection as a recipient of a scholarship.

8. How long does training last?

The duration varies between 9 months and 2 years, depending on the training.

9. When can you begin your training?

As part of the Merit Scholarship competition, if you become a recipient, you must enter training between August 2026 and March 31, 2027. Otherwise, you could lose your scholarship.

10. What diploma do you get at the end of the training?

The training courses offered allow you to obtain a vocational studies diploma (VSD) issued by the ministère de l'Éducation du Québec.

THE COMPETITION

1. How much does it cost to register for the scholarship competition?

The Merit Scholarship competition is **FREE**. If you are just starting to apply and a registration fee is required, you are in the wrong place.

2. You are talking about prioritized regions and/or training courses, what are they?

The priority training and regions have been determined by the ministère de l'Éducation du Québec, to ensure that recipients of a scholarship of excellence are selected for at least 50% of the regions and prioritized training. The list is available in Appendix 1 and 2 of the Instruction Guide for candidates.

Not all training courses in the list of prioritized training courses are available for registration in the Merit Scholarship competition.

Not all regions of Quebec are represented in the scholarship competition.

Registering in a non-prioritized training / region does not prevent the possibility of selection as a recipient of a scholarship.

3. I am registered in a cegep or university, do I have to cancel to register for the competition?

If you are the recipient of a Merit scholarship, you will have to cancel your admission to the cegep or university to complete your training in a Vocational training centre. While waiting for the results, you can maintain your admission.

However, make sure that you are well informed about what vocational training is. Here is a brief description: "The entire training is devoted to learning the trade (there is no general training). The skills required to practice the trade are defined by the actors in the labor market. At the end of their studies, the student therefore has the exact profile of skills required by companies, which promotes their hiring and integration into the labor market."

We therefore invite you to become familiar with vocational training to ensure that it corresponds to your needs and objectives. Vocational training is not higher education as cegep or university.

4. How are recipients determined?

The application files are analyzed by the educational institution chosen by the candidate. Depending on the wishes of the participating educational institutions, an evaluation tool may be used, allowing only a certain number of candidates to be analyzed, depending on the capacity of the educational institution. Subsequently, the files selected in pre-selection by the educational institution are sent to the external selection committee, which re-evaluates the files and ranks them on merit.

Indicators used include, but are not limited to:

- previous academic results;
- progress in studies;
- motivations and interests of the foreign student;
- letters of recommendation;
- awards and distinctions (if applicable).

Grades are awarded based on the following criteria:

- Motivations and interests: 30%
- Academic background: 30%
- Awards and distinctions: 5%
- Recommendations: 15%
- Overall quality of the application: 20%

The recipients are then determined based on the budget for the merit scholarships awarded by the ministère de l'Éducation du Québec.

REGISTRATION FOR THE COMPETITION

Eligibility

1. I will only turn 18 after July 30th 2025, can I register?

You must be 18 years of age at the time of submitting your application.

2. I will be 18 on July 30th, can I submit my application?

You can start an application before July 30th, however you must send your complete file only from July 30th.

3. Are dual nationals (French nationality + other) eligible?

Candidates with French nationality cannot participate in the Merit Scholarship competition, since they already benefit from an exemption from tuition fees, thanks to the France-Quebec agreement.

4. Can I consider the project with my family?

Yes, your family can accompany you in the project. However, note that spouses are no longer eligible for the open work permit for accompanying persons, as of March 19, 2024. However, other options are possible, such as accompanying with visitor, worker or student status. Your children will also be able to attend daycare or school, depending on their ages.

Evaluate the possibilities carefully before applying to the competition. Indeed, the amount of the scholarship will not be increased if you come as a family. In addition, for immigration procedures, you will have to prove greater financial capacity depending on your family situation.

You must also consider the family's settlement: daycare spaces are limited in Quebec and can sometimes be expensive (\$35-50 per day). Multi-bedroom accommodation can also be more difficult to find and more expensive. The vocational training centre cannot guarantee a daycare space or housing. These elements must therefore be carefully considered, and a plan B must be considered, for example undertaking the project alone, until graduation.

5. Why are French nationals and those in the process of obtaining permanent residence not eligible for the competition?

People in these categories are already exempt from tuition fees. The scholarship competition is aimed at people who do not already benefit from this exemption.

6. What are the admission requirements for the study programs advertised as part of the Merit Scholarship competition?

Most training courses require a level equivalent to secondary 4 in Quebec.

If you have a secondary 3 level, you may have access to certain training courses, such as Institutional and Home Care Assistance.

The Health, Assistance and Nursing training course requires a minimum level of secondary 5 in order to be eligible. Your studies must also have been done in French.

You can consult the academic prerequisites on the page of the training course that interests you. The prerequisites will be found on the specific training page.

Required informations

7. What does the “Display name” mean when I fill in my profile?

The display name is the name that will appear at the top of your application. This name is for your own use. The display name will not be seen by training centres during the next stages of your application.

8. Do I have to fill out the application form (PDF) on a computer, or can I fill it out by hand?

You can fill out the documents on a computer or by hand. If you fill them out by hand, make sure that you write clearly and that the document remains readable.

9. Regarding the application form, I would like to add details in the different sections, but I don't have enough space. What should I do?

Limit yourself to the space allowed. Stick to the essentials. Any sheet added to the form to complete the elements will not be considered in the analysis of the file.

10. I have no professional experience. What should I write in the section provided for this purpose?

You must check the “N/A” button, which means “Not applicable”. We will therefore understand that the section could not be completed and not that you forgot to complete it.

11. I have never received a scholarship or award before. What should I write in the scholarship or award section?

You must check the “N/A” button, which means “Not applicable”. We will therefore understand that the section could not be completed and not that you forgot to complete it.

12. Should documents be translated? If so, what languages are accepted?

Documents must be in French or English. If you have documents in a language other than these, you must have your documents translated by an approved translator.

13. My passport has expired or is being renewed, can I still apply?

Yes, you can apply. We will suggest that if you are a scholarship recipient, you renew your passport, as an up-to-date passport will be required for immigration purposes.

14. I don't have a passport. What document can I provide instead?

You can provide your national ID card or proof that the passport is awaiting processing.

15. Who can complete the reference forms?

Reference forms should be completed by people who know you well in your academic or professional environment. These people know your qualities and can recommend you for the scholarship competition. The two forms must be completed by different people. They cannot be family members or close friends.

16. What types of school documents are accepted?

You must provide your diplomas and associated transcripts from your studies since high school. Vocational training requires a minimum level of secondary 3, 4 or 5 in Quebec, which normally corresponds to the third, second or first year passed in other school systems. If you have school documents for studies higher than

secondary level (e.g. technical, college or university), you can also submit your diplomas and associated transcripts.

If, when submitting your application, you are in the process of completing a school level, submit your available transcripts. You will not be able to add other documents once the application is complete. We will therefore consider school documents from previous levels as a priority, in addition to the level in progress but not completed.

17. What if I no longer have my diplomas or transcripts?

You will need to contact the schools or educational establishments you attended. Otherwise, the educational establishment will not be able to assess your eligibility for the chosen study program, and your application could be rejected in the competition.

18. Should I plan to have my original documents on hand when I arrive in Canada?

Yes. Original school documents are important to have on hand. If you are a scholarship recipient, the vocational training centre will ask you to provide them with your original documents upon arrival. This is very important, otherwise it could delay your entry into training.

19. Why do I have to declare that I have the required financial capacity?

The declaration of financial capacity allows us to assess your ability to support yourself once in Quebec. If you receive a merit scholarship and a tuition fee exemption, we consider that you must only prove the amount required to travel to Quebec and settle there (approximately \$3,000), since the scholarship will cover your living expenses on a monthly basis.

If your application has not been selected for an excellence scholarship, but you qualify for a tuition fee exemption only, a minimum financial capacity of \$15,000 is required, since you must prove that you have sufficient funds for your living expenses.

During the immigration process, this financial capacity will also have to be proven. Depending on your family structure (for example, if your spouse and/or children accompany you), you will have to prove a greater amount of financial capacity. Failure to prove a sufficient amount to immigration could result in a refusal of your study permit.

The honest declaration of this financial capacity is therefore essential, because the impact can be significant on your future applications, if you declare a financial capacity that you do not actually have.

20. What documents do I need to provide to prove my financial capacity?

No supporting documents are required with the application file for the Merit Scholarship competition.

Documents will only be requested when applying for a study permit, if your file is accepted in the previous steps.

Language test

21. Is a French language test mandatory?

Yes, if the training is offered in French or if you are applying for the Health, Assistance and Nursing (English version) training. To prove your level of French, you must provide one of the following documents:

- A recognized French language test result (TFL, TFI, TEF, TEFAQ, TCF) dated within the last 2 years, demonstrating a grade of B2 or higher for each of the 4 skills assessed;
- A higher education diploma and transcript issued by the Ministry of Higher Education of your country and/or a university, for a minimum of 3 years, completed entirely in French;
- A diploma issued by the Ministry of Education of France or French-speaking Belgium.

22. If I study in English, do I also need to prove my English level?

Yes, using 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.

23. I live in a country where one of the official languages is English, I have spoken English since birth, do I have to take the test?

Yes, if you apply for a training in English, you must provide an English language test unless you are able to provide evidence of one of the following:

- You have done your studies in English in Canada;
- You have a university degree in which the language of instruction is English and the duration of which is at least 3 years.

24. I don't have time to take a language test before the registration period ends. What should I do?

Proof of French proficiency is required for all trainings offered in French and for Health, Assistance and Nursing (English version). If you do not have any of the required documents to prove your French proficiency, you can still register for the TFL. See below.

Your application cannot be submitted if proof of French proficiency or payment to the TFL is not submitted.

Test de français en ligne (TFL) – For trainings in French or Health, assistance and Nursing (English version)

Section in French

25. Qu'est-ce que le TFL?

Le TFL est un test 100 % en ligne qui évalue les quatre compétences langagières, à savoir la compréhension écrite, la compréhension orale, la production écrite et la production orale. Il est d'une durée approximative de 2h30.

L'évaluation de la compréhension orale est effectuée au moyen de 80 questions préenregistrées. Il s'agit d'un test à choix de réponses. Vous disposez d'une seule écoute par question et de 30 secondes pour y répondre. La durée totale de cet exercice est de 45 minutes.

L'évaluation de la production orale est effectuée par l'examineur-trice en direct via visioconférence. Elle comporte deux évaluations pour une durée totale d'environ 15 minutes. Le premier exercice est un monologue suivi dans lequel vous devez raconter une histoire ou un fait en lien avec une thématique de votre choix ou proposée par l'examineur-trice. Le deuxième exercice consiste à maintenir une conversation fluide avec l'examineur-trice.

L'évaluation de la compréhension écrite consiste à répondre à 40 questions sur divers documents pour une durée de 45 minutes.

L'évaluation de la production écrite, consiste à rédiger un texte de 150 mots en 30 minutes. L'évaluation sera faite sur la syntaxe et l'orthographe.

26. Quel est le matériel obligatoire pour passer le TFL?

Le matériel obligatoire est :

- Ordinateur selon la configuration minimale ci-bas

- Webcam / caméra
- Écouteurs
- Connexion internet haute vitesse
- Pièce d'identité avec photo

27. Quelle est la configuration minimale pour passer le TFL?

La configuration minimale varie selon votre ordinateur (Windows ou Mac).

- **WINDOWS**

Windows 10-Mac (avec Intel uniquement) : Snow Leopard, Lion, Mountain Lion (OS X 10.6 ou ultérieure) - Internet Explorer 7, Firefox 4, Safari 5, Chrome 8 ou versions ultérieures - Adobe Flash Player version 10.3 ou ultérieure - Sur Windows : Processeur 2,33 GHz compatible x86 ou supérieur OU processeur Intel® Atom™ 1,6 GHz ou supérieur pour miniportables

- **MAC**

Processeur Intel Core™ Duo 1,33 GHz ou supérieur 1 Go de RAM ou supérieur - Résolution d'affichage 1024 x 768 • Connexion Internet haut débit (au minimum 768 Kbits/s)

Assurez-vous de détenir le matériel nécessaire, faute de quoi la passation du TFL sera annulée et ne sera pas remboursé.

28. Comment s'inscrire au TFL?

Si vous souhaitez faire le TFL, merci de suivre la procédure suivante :

1. Payer les frais de 299 \$ pour effectuer le TFL (disponible à l'étape « Niveau de français » de votre candidature). Une autre personne que vous peut effectuer le paiement.
2. La personne responsable du TFL vous contactera par courriel pour planifier un rendez-vous. Le rendez-vous doit être avant le 31 août 2025.

29. Je n'ai pas le temps de passer le TFL avant la clôture des inscriptions au concours. Que faire?

Vous devez avoir payé le TFL avant le 30 juillet 2025, 23h59 (heure de Québec). Le TFL doit être passé d'ici le 31 août 2025, faute de quoi votre résultat ne sera pas considéré dans le cadre du concours.

Aucun paiement ne sera accepté au-delà de la clôture des inscriptions.

Tout dossier ne comportant aucune preuve de niveau de langue après le 31 août 2025 sera retiré, puisqu'incomplet.

30. Je me suis inscrit à votre test, mais je ne trouve pas le moyen de réserver un créneau pour le passer. Que faire ?

Une fois le paiement effectué, notre partenaire s'occupant de la passation du TFL communiquera avec vous dans les 2 semaines suivantes, afin de prendre rendez-vous pour passer le test. Vous devez lui indiquer vos disponibilités selon les créneaux proposés. Gardez en tête que cette personne doit évaluer votre niveau de français. Nous vous invitons donc à utiliser les formules de politesse d'usage et répondre de façon claire et précise.

Le TFL doit être passé d'ici le 31 août 2025, faute de quoi votre résultat ne sera pas considéré dans le cadre du concours. Vous devez déposer votre résultat au TFL dans votre dossier de candidature d'ici le 31 août 2025.

Tout dossier ne comportant aucune preuve de niveau de langue après le 31 août 2025 sera retiré, puisqu'incomplet.

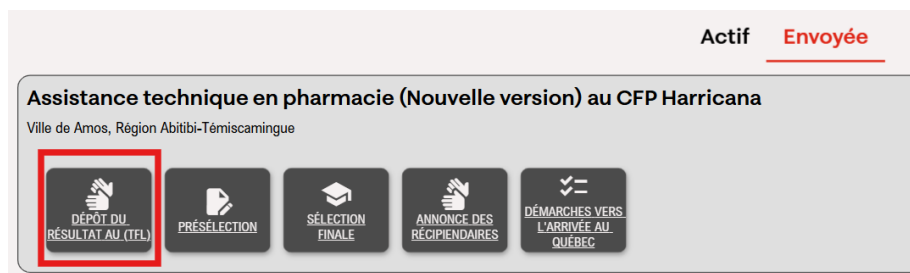
31. Comment déposer mon résultat de TFL dans mon dossier?

Pour pouvoir déposer votre résultat de TFL dans votre dossier, vous devez d'abord avoir envoyé votre candidature. La section « Niveau de langue » sera considérée comme complète grâce au paiement du TFL. Avec les autres sections aussi complétées, vous pourrez alors envoyer votre demande pour le concours.

Une fois la demande envoyée (avant le 30 juillet, 23h59 heure de Québec), vous aurez accès à votre demande envoyée :



Vous aurez alors accès aux prochaines étapes, vous montrant notamment que nous attendons le résultat du TFL. À cet endroit, vous pourrez en déposer la preuve. La preuve doit être soumise avant le 31 août 2025. Tout dossier ne comportant aucune preuve de niveau de langue après le 31 août 2025 sera retiré, puisqu'incomplet.



Registration process

32. How do I open a file to register for the Merit Scholarship competition?

1. Determine if you are eligible for the competition ([Merit Scholarships | Québec métiers d'avenir](#)). Any application submitted with a **false declaration** will be automatically rejected from the Merit Scholarship competition. If you do not meet the competition's eligibility criteria, there is no point in applying.
2. Register on the scholarship competition platform: [Québec métiers d'avenir - Bourses](#)
3. Complete your profile. Read the consents and declarations carefully. The declarations correspond to the eligibility criteria for the Merit Scholarship competition.
4. Choose your training program and training centre from the list provided (only 1 choice possible) in the "Merit Scholarship competition" section.
5. Complete the mandatory sections with your documents.

33. When does the competition open and close?

The competition will open on June 18, 2025, at noon (Quebec time). It will close on Wednesday, July 30 2025, at 11:59 p.m. (Quebec time). Any document or information submitted after this time will not be considered. Only TFL results can be added to the file for candidates who paid the TFL fees before the competition closed and took the test before August 31 2025.

34. I created two files by mistake. Will my application be automatically rejected?

Only complete duplicate applications will be rejected (all complete applications from the same candidate). If you have opened two applications, one of which remains incomplete, your complete application will be kept.