

Students With Disabilities



STUDENTAID.GNB.CA

Grants

There are two grants available for students with disabilities who qualify for assistance:

Canada Student Grant for Students with Disabilities (CSG-D):

- Provides \$4,000 per academic year to help cover the costs of accommodation, tuition and books.

Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment – Students with Disabilities (CSG-DSE)

- Provides up to a maximum of \$20,000 per academic year to purchase education related services and assistive equipment which are not provided by your educational institution. Examples of eligible services and equipment include tutors, note-takers, interpreters, readers and technical aids.

Historically, Canada Student Financial Assistance Program disability supports have only been available for individuals with permanent disabilities. As of August 1, 2022, the Government of Canada has extended disability supports under the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program to recipients whose disabilities are persistent or prolonged.

A **permanent disability**, for the purpose of student financial assistance, is any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment – or a functional limitation – that restricts the ability of a person to perform the daily activities necessary to pursue studies at a post-secondary school level or to participate in the labour force and that is expected to remain with the person for the person's expected life.

A **persistent or prolonged disability**, for the purpose of student financial assistance, is any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment – or a functional limitation – that restricts the ability of a person to perform the daily activities necessary to pursue studies at a post-secondary school level or to participate in the labour force and has lasted, or is expected to last, for a period of at least 12 months, but is not expected to remain with the person for the person's expected life.

Not all medical conditions are considered disabilities for the purpose of Canada Student Financial Assistance Program funding.

STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES

Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
Beaverbrook Building, PO 6000, Fredericton, NB,
E3B 5H1, Canada

Telephone (506) 453-2577
Toll Free 1-800-667-5626
Fax (506) 444-4333

Students With Disabilities

Required steps to be considered for the Canada Student Grant for Students with Disabilities (CSG-D)

When completing your Application for Student Financial Assistance, you must:

- ✓ Self-identify as having a disability on the application;
- ✓ Attest that your disability impacts your studies; and

Provide the following documentation to Student Financial Services:

DISABILITY VERIFICATION FORM

This form must be completed by a qualified medical practitioner.

Forms that are incomplete or do not provide enough information will result in denial or delays in funding.

Fees that you may be charged to have this form completed are your responsibility and will not be reimbursed by Student Financial Services.

Generally, you are only required to submit this completed form once for verification of your eligibility as a student with a disability. You will be required to attest that your condition persists and continues to impact your studies to maintain eligibility for these supports in subsequent periods of study.

If you are applying on the basis of a learning disability diagnosis, you must complete and submit Section A of the Disability Verification Form along with a copy of your Psychoeducational Assessment completed by a registered psychologist within five years of the date of your application (or completed when you were 18 years of age or older).

REQUEST FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION FORM

- This form must be completed by your educational institution to verify your course load and the amount of tuition, student fees and book costs you will be required to pay.
- You can ask your educational institution to forward the completed form directly to Student Financial Services.

These required forms are available at studentaid.gnb.ca. Your student financial assistance application will not be processed until all documentation has been received. All documentation must be received by Student Financial Services no later than six weeks before the end date of your study period.

If you are experiencing difficulties in obtaining the required documentation, please contact Student Financial Services at 1-800-667-5626.

This information is current as of time of publishing (October 2022)

Required steps to be considered for the Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment – Students with Disabilities (CSG-DSE)

Once you have submitted your Application for Student Financial Assistance and you have been approved for funding as a student with a disability, you may be eligible for the CSG-DSE. A separate application form, available at studentaid.gnb.ca, is required for this grant. Important Notes for the CSG-DSE:

- ✓ The application must be completed in collaboration with a Disability Coordinator at your school or a recognized disability organization.
- ✓ Specific disability-related rationale must be provided by the Disability Coordinator for each service and equipment requested in the application.
- ✓ Supporting documents must be provided as outlined in the application.
- ✓ The application with all supporting documents must be received by Student Financial Services no later than six weeks before the end date of your study period.
- ✓ CSG-DSE funding is only provided for certain types of services and equipment.
- ✓ There are maximum amounts for each type of service and equipment.
- ✓ CSG-DSE funding you receive must only be used to purchase the approved items listed in the Reconciliation Worksheet you receive with your approval letter.
- ✓ You will need to provide receipts at the end of your study period showing that you purchased the items for which you received CSG-DSE funding.
- ✓ Any unused CSG-DSE funds must be repaid at the end of your study period.

If you did not qualify for federal funding when your Application for Student Financial Assistance was assessed, contact Student Financial Services for additional information regarding the eligibility for this grant.

Additional Supports for Students in Full-time Study

In addition to the grants, students with disabilities are:

- Considered a full-time student when taking at least 40% of a full-time course load*;
- Exempt from making the Fixed Student Contribution*;
- Exempt from the Periods of Study + 1 Limit; however, demonstration of academic progression is still required; and
- Eligible for student financial assistance for up to 520 weeks (also called the Lifetime Assistance Limit).

*For students with a persistent or prolonged disability, these supports are available only during years in which you have been approved for persistent or prolonged disability status.