

Frequently Asked Questions for International Students



Cambrian College of Applied Arts and Technology

1400 Barrydowne Road
Sudbury, Ontario, Canada P3A 3V8
Telephone: 1-705-566-8101, extension 7841
Facsimile: 1-705-560-9652
Email: international@cambriancollege.ca
Website: www.cambriancollege.ca/international

The following information has been prepared to answer some commonly-asked questions by international applicants regarding their application to Cambrian College. This is not an exhaustive list. Additional information may be obtained from our website at www.cambriancollege.ca/international or by contacting Cambrian's International office.

Which programs are open to international applicants?

International applicants may apply to any full-time Cambrian program. However, enrolment limits in some programs—such as Health and Trades—may mean increased competition for spots in these programs. In such cases, priority will be given to Canadian applicants.

Is a Cambrian diploma recognized?

Yes. Cambrian College is a fully-accredited and publicly-funded community college functioning under the direction of the provincial Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. For this reason, its full-time post secondary programs have been approved and are fully recognized by the Ministry.

The College also develops customized programs for which graduates receive special certificates.

When do classes start?

Most of our programs start in late August, but some start in January with special schedules. Please contact us for additional information.

What is OCAS?

OCAS stands for Ontario College Application Service. This is the agency through which all Canadian students must apply to colleges in Ontario. See their website at www.ontariocolleges.ca for more information.

Do I have to apply through OCAS?

No, as an international student, you can apply directly to the College. You'll need a Cambrian College application for this.

Is there an application fee?

There is no application fee if you apply directly through Cambrian. There is one, however, if you apply through OCAS. Please see their material for more information.

Do I pay the OCAS fee to Cambrian?

The OCAS application fee is payable directly to OCAS if you apply through the Centre. Please do not send this fee to Cambrian.

Do I have to pay my fees in full?

You have to pay your first-year tuition prior to applying for a Canadian Study Permit. You will not be permitted to register and, in many cases, not be issued a Study Permit without a receipt for payment of the first year tuition.

Can I apply online, by email or by fax?

Regretfully, no. You can apply by email or fax but you must follow-up with original documents. A copy of your passport/birth certificate must accompany your application.

Can I have my original transcripts returned?

Yes. Simply let us know that you wish these to be returned to you after we have processed your application and we will be pleased to do so. You can also ask for them once you are on campus.

What is an "offer of admission"?

Once we have assessed your application and determined your eligibility, we will send you an offer of admission to the program to which you are applying. To indicate that you accept the offer, you will be asked to send us a confirmation fee of \$500, payable to Cambrian College in Canadian funds, by certified cheque, money order, credit card, or electronic transfer. Please read everything carefully.

What is an "official letter of admission"?

Once we have received your confirmation fee payment in full, we will send you an official letter of admission to use as part of your application for a Study Permit to study in Canada.

What is a Study Permit?

All non-Canadian potential students must apply for a Study Permit to study in Canada. You cannot study in Canada without this visa. This is issued by the Canadian Embassy, Consulate, or High Commission office closest to your place of residence. Applications and further information are available from any Canadian Embassy office or from the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website at www.cic.gc.ca.

I was issued a Canadian Study Permit ...now what?

Congratulations! You are now ready to make your travel plans. You should plan to arrive one to two weeks prior to the start of classes so that you can settle in and get to know Sudbury and the College before you concentrate on your studies.

Remember to get a connecting flight to the Sudbury airport. You can also take the Greyhound bus from Toronto. Notify the International office to make arrangements to be picked up once you arrive in Sudbury. From there, we will be pleased to assist you in getting settled. Don't forget to let us know your arrival details so that we can prepare for it!

Can I start my program late?

On your Official Letter of Admission, we will indicate the expiry date of your letter of acceptance. No student will be permitted to enrol beyond the date indicated.

How can you help me get settled?

We have a full-time Support and Orientation Officer who will assist you in finding accommodation, opening a bank account, registering, buying a bus pass, identifying a place of worship, getting to know the campus, etc. The Officer will also provide you with support for the duration of your studies.

Can I pay my fees in U.S. funds?

Our preference is Canadian funds, of course. But, if your bank is unable to draw on Canadian funds, please have them convert the payment amount for you according to the exchange rates at the time of payment. It is your responsibility to ensure that the converted amount covers the full tuition owing in Canadian funds despite the difference in exchange rates that we will encounter by the time we receive and deposit your cheque. Please note that if the amount is improperly converted, this may cause delays in your admission process until the full payment has been made.

What is the College policy regarding the refund of the confirmation fee?

The confirmation fee can be partially refunded only if you are refused a Study Permit from Citizenship and Immigration Canada. A copy of the refusal letter will be required in order to process your refund request. No reimbursement will be processed without this letter. The full fee is refundable only if Cambrian cancels or suspends your program of study. Also, the confirmation fee can only be applied to the academic year to which you are applying and cannot be transferred to the next academic year. If you are unable to attend one year and wish to attend the next, a new offer of admission will be sent to you and you will be required to submit a new confirmation fee.

Can I get a degree at Cambrian?

Cambrian has diploma-granting status. This means that upon graduation from Cambrian, you would be issued a diploma or certificate. We have, however, signed a

number of articulation agreements with universities that may enable you to obtain both a diploma and a degree (depending on the program). More information is available from our office or through our website at www.cambriancollege.ca (under our hot links—college/ university agreements).

Can I get financial assistance to study at Cambrian?

Regretfully, no. International students are not eligible for the same assistance granted to our Canadian students. While Cambrian does have an impressive scholarship program, you would only be eligible to compete for these once you are registered and in your second semester of study at Cambrian. In order to get your study permit, you must prove that you have sufficient funds to support yourself during your studies.

Can I work part-time off-campus while studying?

To be eligible to work off-campus while studying you must possess a valid study permit, have studied full-time for at least six months out of the 12 months preceding your application at an eligible institution, and maintain a 2.0 GPA. Please note that you will be required by Citizenship and Immigration Canada to prove that you can fully support yourself and your studies prior to being granted a Study Permit. Further information is available from the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website at www.cic.gc.ca

Can I work part-time on-campus while studying?

You must be currently registered as a full-time student in order to work on-campus. Most on-campus employment opportunities for students have funding restrictions that require a Canadian Citizenship for applications. Please note the wording “work on campus” and not “work for the College.” This literally means the student must be physically working on campus.

How safe is the Cambrian campus?

Cambrian offers 24-hour, on-campus security services at its Barrydowne campus (where the Barrydowne Residence is located). The campuses are monitored by state-of-the-art video cameras. In Residence, individual bedroom doors are equipped with key-lock systems as are the front doors to each unit and the main building.

A campus watch program is also available at the Barrydowne campus for students who wish to be accompanied to their Residence units from elsewhere on the campus on scheduled evenings. The surrounding areas are also considered very safe locations as is the City of Greater Sudbury in general.

Revised January 2008