

# PAYING NATIONAL FEES

WHILE HAVING  
PRECARIOUS  
STATUS

by the S4 Collective



## WHO WE ARE

The Sanctuary Students Support & Solidarity Collective (S4 Collective) is a non-profit organization where we aim to address several challenges identified by precarious migrant and newcomer students (Sanctuary Students) at the threshold of post-secondary education in Ontario. We wish to break those barriers by fostering community care, solidarity and capacity building. We believe that education should be accessible for all, regardless of immigration status!

Check us out!

E-mail: [S4collectiveto@gmail.com](mailto:S4collectiveto@gmail.com)

Instagram: [S4Collective](https://www.instagram.com/S4Collective)



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE 'PRECARIOUS STATUS'?

To us, 'precarious status' means anyone who has less-than permanent immigration status, such as permanent residency or Canadian citizenship. We know that immigration status is something that is constantly changing and that many people can fall in between the system's cracks due to the lack of available pathways to regularize one's immigration status. Precarious status is an umbrella term which includes, but is not limited to, refugee claimants awaiting a decision, denied refugee claimants, those who have lost family/spouse sponsorships, or if someone is undocumented.



## ACCESSING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION IN ONTARIO

### WHO IS EXEMPT FROM INTERNATIONAL FEES?

*As outlined by the Government of Ontario, the following individuals can pay national fees (also called domestic fees):*



- Canadian Citizens
- Permanent Residents
- 'Protected Persons'
- Migrant Workers
- Individuals 'Approved in Principle' for permanent residence
- The **spouse** or **dependent(s)** of any of these categories

- If your **spouse** or **parent** is part of the "Global Affairs Canada"
- If your **spouse** or **parent** is a foreign clergy member and will offer services in Canada for at least 6 months
- If your spouse or parent is visiting Canada under the **Visiting Forces Act**
- If you are an institutional exchange student



### WHO IS NOT EXEMPT FROM INTERNATIONAL FEES?

You cannot qualify for national (domestic) fees if you are:

- An international student holding a work permit for post-graduation work (usually up to a year of work opportunities upon graduation)
- An international student holding a work permit to complete their co-op internship employment
- An international student whose spouse or common-law partner has received a work permit as a result of the international student holding a valid student permit
- An international student holding an off-campus work permit allowing them to work up to 20 hours a week at paid employment and full-time scheduled breaks, for example, during the summer and holiday breaks, and reading week off-campus
- SUMMARY: International students who hold a work permit are not exempt from international fees



# DEFINITIONS

## Spouse

A person you are legally married to (marriage certificate must be presented)

## Common-Law Partner

This refers to someone who:

- is not legally married to you
- is 18 years or older
- has been living with you for a continuous period of at least 12 months (any separation must be temporary and short, such as travelling for business or family obligations)
- sworn affidavit by both parties must be presented

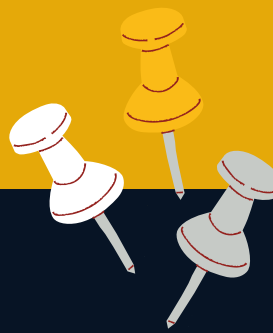
## Dependent

A dependent child is a child who is a biological child **OR** an adopted child, and who is in one of the following categories:

- Under age 22 and who is not a spouse or common-law partner, or
- 22 years or older, has depended on the financial support of the parent since before the age of 22 and is unable to support themselves financially due to a physical and/or mental condition (dependency must have been ongoing since before the age of 22)

(birth certificate, and/or legal adoption documentation must be presented)

# APPLYING AS A PROTECTED PERSON



The term "protected person" refers to anyone who has been granted refugee status in Canada through a positive decision on an application at the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB).

Note: You do not have to wait to be granted permanent resident status to pay national fees!

## WHAT DOCUMENTS SHOULD I BRING?

- "Notice of decision" issued by the IRB



IF: You are the dependent of a person who has been granted "Protected Person" status, but **you were not part of that application OR your own claim was denied**, you are still eligible to pay national fees!

You must bring your parent's acceptance letter from the IRB **AND** documentation that shows you are tied to your parents (**birth certificate, ID, etc**)

## APPLYING AS A MIGRANT WORKER OR THE SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT OF A MIGRANT WORKER

A migrant worker (also referred to as a foreign worker) is a person who is authorized to work in Canada via closed work permit.

## WHAT DOCUMENTS SHOULD I BRING?

- A valid work permit naming the Canadian employer located in Ontario (must be valid for at least 6 months)
- Passport/Identification
- Proof of relationship to the migrant worker (if you are a dependent child, spouse or common-law partner e.g. birth certificate)



# APPLYING AS SOMEONE WHO WAS APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE / APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE (AIP) FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE



Your application is Approved in Principle IF:

- you have received a letter from IRCC stating that you meet the permanent residence eligibility requirements, but
- you still have to pass the medical, security and background checks for you and, if needed, your family members.

NOTE: This process most often applies to Humanitarian and Compassionate Grounds applications, but may also apply to other applications!

## WHAT DOCUMENTS SHOULD I BRING?

- Letter from the IRCC stating that you meet the permanent residency requirements



The documents mentioned above are non-exhaustive lists of things you may be asked to present if you wish to apply for the exemption of international fees. Please be aware that different institutions may ask you for different documentation. You can look this up by searching "international fees exemption" on the institution's website, or contacting the school's registrar's office!





# HOW DO I APPLY TO POST-SECONDARY IN ONTARIO??

Each university/college has its own admission requirements depending on what program you wish to access. Make sure you meet all the requisites, such as grades, portfolios, and language proficiency tests if necessary. The majority of post-secondary institutions manage their admissions through the **Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC)** or the **Ontario College Application Centre (OCAC)**



## OUAC

- **Handles applications to universities within Ontario**
- **You can choose to apply to any university within Ontario, but you are limited to a maximum of 3 program choices at any one university**
- **If you wish to apply to more programs, there will be an extra charge**
- **101 Application: for students currently in high school and who will receive their diploma at the end of the semester**
- **105 Application: for students who are not currently attending high school**

**TIP: Make sure to check out the FEES tab on the OUAC website. Some programs or universities may require extra admission fees.**

## OCAC

- **Handles applications to colleges within Ontario**
- **You can choose up to 5 programs in your application, but no more than 3 at any college**
- **BE AWARE! Some programs may require permanent status or citizenship for you to obtain a placement! Make sure you understand what the program requires before you apply!**

# WHAT SCHOOLS CAN I APPLY TO?

You can apply to any university and/or college within Ontario and pay national (domestic) fees if you meet the mentioned criteria. However, make sure you check out their websites and contact their registrar's office to ask about the documents they require you to present for an exemption.

## I APPLIED TO POST-SECONDARY BUT THE STAFF ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY EXEMPTIONS. WHAT CAN I DO?

Accessing education while having precarious status can often be full of barriers, including front-line staff being unaware of how to help you navigate your situation. This is why it is so important to advocate for yourself and for other community members!

If this is the case, here are some things you can try

- Searching international exemptions for the school in Ontario you wish to apply to (google "\*name of school\* international fee exemptions")
- Present this list to staff you're in communication with. Make sure you note the name of the person who is talking with you for future reference
- **ANOTHER USEFUL TOOL:** Check out the "Tuition and Ancillary Fees Reporting Operating Procedure" from 2019. This is a document written by the government of Ontario highlighting and explaining who is, and who isn't, exempted from paying international fees within the province. You can bring this with you to the registrars office



Some universities and colleges have accessible websites regarding exemptions, such as:

### Universities:

- Brock University
- University of Guelph
- Ontario Tech University
- Queen's University
- Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly known as Ryerson University)
- University of Toronto
- Trent University
- University of Waterloo
- Wilfred Laurier University
- York University

### Colleges:

- Algonquin College
- Cambrian College
- Confederation College
- George Brown College
- Seneca College
- Sheridan College



## ARE YOU HAVING ISSUES ACCESSING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION?

We understand how scary and hard it can be to advocate for yourself. You are not alone! We want to be there for you and support you every step of the way. Feel free to contact us if you have any further questions regarding post-secondary education while having precarious status, or if you need help navigating the application process. Access to education without barriers for all!

**E-mail:** S4collectiveto@gmail.com  
**Instagram:** S4Collective

