

First-Year Cost + Proof-of-Funds Checklist

Use this before choosing a program, paying a deposit, or finalizing a study-permit budget. It pairs your real first-year cost with the immigration proof-of-funds floor.

For Quebec, verify the current CAQ/MIFI financial requirements. For the rest of Canada, verify the current IRCC proof-of-funds page before applying.

1. Build the first-year cost

Cost line	Estimate	Source / note
Tuition (year 1)	\$	Use the actual offer letter.
Mandatory fees	\$	Program, student, tech, lab, co-op fees.
Books, tools, laptop	\$	Higher for trades, health, design, tech.
Rent + utilities x 12	\$	Use the city, not the national average.
Food x 12	\$	Include meal plan if required.
Transit / transport x 12	\$	Pass, insurance, winter travel.
Phone / internet x 12	\$	Canada plans may cost more than expected.
Health insurance	\$	Province/school specific.
Flight + arrival setup	\$	Ticket, bags, first supplies, deposits.
Emergency cushion	\$	Do not count every dollar twice.
First-year total	\$	Compare against funding below.

2. Compare funding

Funding line	Amount	Evidence
Savings available	\$	Bank statements / GIC / approved proof.
Scholarship / family support	\$	Letters and transfer proof.
Part-time income	\$	Buffer only; do not make the plan depend on it.
Gap to solve	\$	First-year total minus reliable funding.

3. Keep the IRCC floor visible

Family members	2026 IRCC living-funds minimum outside Quebec
1 including you	\$22,895
2	\$28,502
3	\$35,040
4	\$42,543
Each additional person	+\$6,170

Checklist: program cost confirmed in writing city rent checked proof-of-funds page checked deposit refund policy saved budget does not depend on part-time income documents match the study-permit application.