

# DESIGNATING SCHOOLS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

## Why is student financial assistance available only for students attending certain schools?

Colleges, universities and private institutions and their programs must be approved or designated by Manitoba Student

Aid before students can apply for student financial assistance. A designation policy was implemented to strengthen consumer protection and to reduce default rates on student loans. It is part of an overall strategy to reduce student loan debt which also includes the Manitoba Bursary and student advisory services within Manitoba Student Aid.

Before Manitoba can designate an institution in Canada, its home province in which the institution is located must deem the institution and/or program of studies as eligible for its students to access Canada Student Loan and provincial assistance. In addition, institutions outside of Canada must be accredited by an accrediting body recognized by a government agency in its home country, or be affiliated with another designated institution.

### To become designated, institutions must:

- offer full-time, post-secondary programs
- offer programs that are at least 12 weeks in length, within a period of 15 weeks
- offer programs that are minimally 15 instructional hours per week at a degree-granting university or college; or a minimum of 20 instructional hours per week (minimum 240 hours total) at a private institution, private training provider or religious college
- have published entrance requirements of Grade 12 or equivalent or Mature Student Status (at least 19 years of age and one year out of high school)
- have administrative processes in place to support student success
- be registered under Manitoba's Private Vocational Institutions Act, if required.

### Private institutions must also:

- have offered an eligible program of studies for at least 12 months
- have the support of the curriculum by a recognized accrediting or certifying body
- provide education and training that leads to positive employment outcomes
- meet all criteria as required by regulated occupations.

Refund policies and default prevention plans for all post-secondary institutions must be in place and filed with Manitoba within one year of becoming designated.

Manitoba is working closely with all institutions to support student success. For more information about designation please contact Manitoba Student Aid at 1 204 945-8507.

Website: [www.manitobastudentaid.ca](http://www.manitobastudentaid.ca)