

Canadian Federation of Students Tax Season Guide for Students

Tax Year 2023

General Information for Students

Whether full time or part time students, domestic or international students, students in post secondary education should file a tax return. There are some instances where individuals don't have to file a return but it is recommended that you file even if you have no income or tax to pay. However, as a student you should file in order to carry forward your tuition tax credits to a year where you have taxable income to claim in a future year.

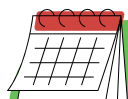
If you are a mature student, you are considered the same as regular students when filing your tax return.

For more information on filing your tax return, head over to [this page](#).

What happens if you don't file your return or file it late?

If you don't file a tax return, and you owe taxes, you may be assessed interest and penalties in addition to your unpaid taxes. This will continue for each year that you do not file.

If you do not file, you will not receive any benefits or credits that use your tax return to determine your eligibility and entitlement.



When is my tax return due?

This year, your tax return is due on: **APRIL 30, 2024**

6 Ways to File Your Tax Return

1. Certified tax software (electronic filing)

Did you know that the Canadian Federation of Students offers students free tax filing with UFile all year round? Simply enter code **CFS1981** in the "special offer" section before completing your tax return on UFile!

2. Authorize a representative - accountant, family member, or friend

3. Community Volunteer Income Tax Clinic

4. Discounter (tax preparer)

5. Paper tax return

6. Filing options by invitation only - Automated phone line (file my return) or tax filing assistance from a CRA agent



Domestic Students

If you are a full time or part time student in post-secondary, you must file a return if you have taxable income, and you should file a return to claim your education tax credits.

The most common types of income you may receive as a student include:

- Employment income
- Tips and occasional earnings
- Investment income
- Registered education savings plan payments
- Scholarships, fellowships, bursaries, and study grants
- Apprenticeship grants
- Research grants
- Artists' project grants

Find more common types of income and information about them [here](#).

Common deductions from income include:

- Moving expenses
 - Attendance at a post-secondary educational institution
- Employment
- Child care expenses

Find more details about these [common deductions here](#).

International Students

International students may have to file a Canadian income tax return. By filing your income tax return, you could be eligible for certain benefit and credit payments to help with your cost of living. Your residency status determines how you will be taxed in Canada.

For income tax purposes, international students fall into one of the **four types of residents**:

- 1. Resident** (includes students who reside in Canada only part of the year)
- 2. Non-resident**
- 3. Deemed resident**
- 4. Deemed non-resident**

Your residency status is based on the residential ties you have with Canada. If you are unsure of your residency status or want to learn more, [head over to this page from the CRA for more information](#).

What tax credits am I eligible for?

You are eligible for certain credit payments that are available to Domestic students such as the Canada child benefit (CCB), goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) credit.

You can find provincial and territorial payments that you may be eligible for on [this page](#).

Part-Time Students

Part-time students are eligible for most tax credits and benefits that full-time students are eligible for but there are different amounts of deductions available based on your student status.

Here is a list of requirements in order to be considered a part-time student:

- You are enrolled in a specified educational program
- You are taking evening classes
- Your courses are taken only by correspondence
- You attend classes during the day, however, you carry a minor course load while at the same time devoting the majority of your time to other activities such as employment

Persons with Disabilities and Their Caregivers

The Disability Tax Credit (DTC)

The DTC is a non-refundable tax credit that helps reduce the amount of income tax they, or their supporting family member, reduce the amount of income tax that they may have to pay every year. For more details and eligibility, head over to [this page](#).

Child Disability Benefit (CDB)

The child disability benefit (CDB) is a tax-free monthly payment made to families who care for a child under age 18 with a severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental functions. For more details and eligibility, head over to [this page](#).

Tax Credits for Students

Non-refundable Tax Credits

These tax credits reduce your federal tax up to the amount of owing. You can only use these tax credits to reduce your tax payable to zero and cannot get a refund for these tax credits.

Common federal non-refundable tax credits for students include:

- **Canada employment (line 31260)**

If you reported employment income, you can claim this credit as it provides recognition for work-related expenses such as computers, uniforms and supplies in the public and private sector. For more information head over to [this page](#).

- **Tuition, Education, and Textbook amounts (line 32300)**

In 2017, the federal education and textbook tax credits ended, however you may be eligible to claim a provincial or territorial amount. For more information, head over to [this page](#).

To claim your tuition fees, you must have received one of the following forms from your educational institution:

- **Form T2202, Tuition and Enrolment Certificate**
- **Form TL11A, Tuition and Enrolment Certificate – University Outside Canada**
- **Form TL11C, Tuition and Enrolment Certificate – Commuter to the United States**
- **Form TL11D, Tuition Fees Certificate – Educational Institutions Outside Canada for a Deemed Resident of Canada**

- **Interest paid on your student loans (line 31900)**

4 You can claim this amount for the interest paid on your student loan in 2023 or 5 years before for post-secondary education if you received the loan under the:

- the Canada Student Loans Act
- the Canada Student Financial Assistance Act
- the Apprentice Loans Act
- provincial or territorial government laws similar to the acts above

For more information, head over to [this page](#).

- **Moving expenses (line 21900)**

You can claim this amount if you paid for moving expenses in 2023 if both of the following apply:

- you moved to a new home to work or to run a business out of a new location, or you moved to be a student in full-time attendance in a post-secondary program (university, college, or other educational institution),
- Your new home is at least 40 kilometers closer (by the shortest public route) to your new work location or school

For more information, visit [this page](#).

- **Child care expenses (line 21400)**

These are expenses you or another person paid to have someone look after an [eligible child](#) so that you or your eligible spouse or common-law partner could do **one of the following**:

- earn income from employment,
- go to school, or
- Carry on research under a grant.

For more information, visit [this page](#).

- **Additional deductions: Adult basic education tuition assistance (line 25600)**

Adult basic education (ABE) is primary or secondary level education, or certain other forms of training. If you reported income assistance to cover all or part of the tuition fees for your ABE, you can claim a deduction for the following:

- The amount shown in **box 21** of your T4E slip
- The amount shown in **box 196** of your T4A slip that is more than the scholarship exemption you can claim for this tuition assistance (for more information, see [this page](#)).

Refundable Tax Credits

These tax credits reduce your tax owing and any remaining credit is refunded to you or applied to another balance owing.

Common refundable tax credits for students may include:

- **Canada training credit**

A refundable tax credit available to help Canadians with the cost of eligible training fees. You can claim this credit only if you meet all 6 conditions listed on [this page](#). For more information, visit [this page](#).

- **Child and family benefits**

This includes the Canada child benefit (CCB), goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) credit, their related provincial and territorial programs, as well as Canada workers benefit and other federal programs. For more details, head over to [this page](#).

- **Other provincial or territorial tax credits**

You may be entitled to provincial or territorial credits in addition to your federal credits. For information about your provincial and territorial credits, head over to [this page](#).

Looking for a free tax clinic?

Tax clinics are events setup by organizations to help people that need help filing their taxes for a variety of reasons. Your students' association may coordinate on-campus or virtual tax clinics to assist you with navigating your tax file. Make sure to check your students' association's website for details.

Additionally, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) helps students every year by setting up tax clinics across the country and making it easier for people looking to file their taxes to access. Learn more about this program or to find a tax clinic near you, head over to [this page](#).

The Voluntary Disclosure Program (VDP)

The Voluntary Disclosure Program (VDP) is a program that you can apply for voluntarily to come forward to the CRA to fix errors or omissions in your tax filings before the CRA knows or contacts you about it. The CRA will grant you relief on a case by case basis. You will have to pay the taxes owing plus interest (in part or in full) as a result of your corrections.

There are three types of relief you can receive if the CRA accepts your application could include relief from prosecution, relief from penalty and partial interest that you would have otherwise needed to pay. To learn more, head to [this link](#).