



Country Profile  
**India**



**2011**

# 1. HISTORY and OVERVIEW

## Bilateral Relationship

Canada and India have longstanding bilateral relations built upon shared beliefs of democracy, pluralism, and strong people-to-people links. In November 2009, Prime Minister Stephen Harper visited India and met with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, where the 2 leaders reviewed bilateral relations and discussed regional and global issues of shared interest.

In India, Canada is represented by the Canadian High Commission in New Delhi. Canada also has Consulates in Chandigarh, Chennai and Mumbai, as well as trade offices in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Kolkata. In Canada, India is represented by the High Commission in Ottawa. There are also Indian Consulates located in both Toronto and Vancouver.

Academic exchanges between India and Canada go back many decades. In 1986, the governments of India and Canada facilitated academic exchanges between the 2 countries through the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI). In 2005, Canada opened 9 new Visa Application Centres across India. India currently supplies the second largest source of immigrants coming to Canada, where the growing Indo-Canadian community is projected to be nearly 1 million. Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) announced that the number of student visas for Indian students studying in Canada has doubled, due to a new program between CIC and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC).

In 2008, around 3244 Indian students came to Canada to study, while in 2009, Canada issued 145835 visas to Indian nationals. Of those 145835 visas, 31090 were Permanent Resident visas, 6964 were Study Permits, 98545 were Temporary Resident (visitor) visas and 9235 were Temporary Work Permits. Recently, fast-track processes have been introduced to accelerate the visa process for designated business travellers and students applying to publicly-funded post-secondary colleges and universities in Canada.

For more information on the Canada-India academic relationship, please visit:

[www.asiapacific.ca/research-report/imagining-success-canada-india-academic-relations](http://www.asiapacific.ca/research-report/imagining-success-canada-india-academic-relations)



# 2. EDUCATION SYSTEM

## Brief Overview

The education system in India falls primarily under the control of the union government and the states. Most Indian universities are union or state government-controlled. As a result of making primary education free and compulsory, India has made remarkable progress in increasing primary education attendance rates and expanding literacy to approximately two thirds of the population. India's improved education system is often cited as a main driver of the country's economic rise. Much of the progress in education has been credited to various private institutions. The private education market in 2008 was estimated to be worth \$40 billion and is expected to increase to \$68 billion by 2012.

Despite increasing investment in Indian education, the fact remains that 35 percent of the population is illiterate and only 15 percent of Indian students are able to attend high school. Of the 10 million students seeking admission to Indian universities and colleges, only 6 million will find spaces in undergraduate courses. A government ruling in 2005 increased the percentage of seats reserved for the less fortunate, thus further reducing the seats available for qualified students. Therefore, the lack of seats for the general Indian population and for the growing number of affluent Indians makes India an attractive target market for post-secondary institutions abroad.

## Policies

Since its independence, India's central and state governments have been expanding the provision of primary formal and non-formal education to realize the goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE). The current challenge is to sustain current reforms of education and encourage local planning and management strategies for expanding and improving education quality.

The Constitution Act, enacted in December 2002, stated that there will be free and compulsory education for all children between the ages of 6 to 14 years. This act extends to all of India, except for the states of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Organization

The current education system is divided into pre-school, primary, secondary, senior secondary and post-secondary education. Primary (elementary) school is attended by students in grades 1 to 5 (ages 6 to 11), secondary (middle) school is attended by students in grades 6 to 8, and senior secondary (high school) is attended by students in grades 9 to 12. Post-secondary education, which consists of technical schools, colleges and universities, begins after grade 12. In school, students are taught a uniform set of subjects including Math, Science, Languages, and Social Sciences. Post-secondary education in India provides students with the opportunity to concentrate on a specific field of their interest.

### India Education System

School Stages	Class/Duration	Corresponding Age of Student
<b>Elementary</b>		
Primary	1-5	age 6-11
Upper Primary	6-8	age 11-14
<b>Secondary</b>		
High School	9-11	age 14-16
Higher Senior Secondary	11-12	age 16-18
<b>Higher/University Education</b>		
Non-Professional Degree Courses		age 18-24
Undergraduate	3 years	
Post-graduate	2 years	
Professional Degree Courses	Depends on the nature of the course	



## Primary and Secondary Education (K-12)

Pre-primary school is not a fundamental right, so there is a very low percentage of children enrolled in pre-primary educational facilities. Pre-primary school is divided into 2 stages: lower kindergarten (LKG) and upper kindergarten (UKG). Typically, an LKG class would comprise of children 3 to 4 years of age, and the UKG class would comprise of children 4 to 5 years of age. After completing upper kindergarten, a child enters class 1 of primary school. Although kindergarten is an integral part of regular schools, enrollment numbers remain limited in under-privileged areas.

Elementary education in India is comprised of 8 years of schooling starting from the age of 6. The government runs 80% of all recognized elementary schools in the country, and has made numerous efforts to enhance the quality of elementary education. After the launch of the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) in 1994, which was aimed at universalizing primary education in India by reforming and revitalizing the existing education system, the government introduced the “Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan” (SSA) in 2001. SSA seeks to provide quality elementary education through community ownership of elementary education, focusing in particular on life skills, girls’ education and children with special needs.

Elementary education consists of 2 stages: primary and upper primary education. Once a student completes the 8th grade, compulsory education is over and the student is expected to begin secondary education. Secondary education takes 4 years to complete, and is expected to prepare students in the age group of 14 to 18 years for the working world and for entry into post-secondary education. While secondary education remains primarily the responsibility of the State Governments, the Ministry of Human Resources Development is focused on making high

quality secondary education accessible and affordable to all students in the age group of 15 to 16 years.

There are few requests for information regarding secondary schools in Canada, as India already has many high quality secondary schools and students are able to complete their education at a subsidized fee. A major contributing factor to the lack of study abroad inquiries is Indian culture; most Indian parents are not comfortable allowing their adolescent-aged children to part from them, so inquiries generally come from individuals who already have family members in Canada.

## Post-Secondary Education

Post-secondary education in India is one of the most developed education systems in the world. A typical bachelor’s degree takes 3 years to complete, an Engineering degree requires 4 years, while Medicine and Law degrees require 5. Post-graduate degrees generally require 2 years. Universities and their constituent colleges are the main means of post-secondary education in India. There are currently 227 government-recognized universities in India.

According to the Department of Higher Education, there are approximately 16885 colleges, comprising of 9954000 students and 457000 teachers in various post-secondary institutes in India.

With its large network of colleges and universities, India has one of the most comprehensive post-secondary education systems in the world. However, the quality of education in India varies with each institution. Moreover, the shortage of quality education providers is a key reason for the increasing number of Indian students pursuing their post-secondary education abroad. It was reported in 2007 that close to 100000 India students go overseas annually for post-secondary education, yet Canada only attracts about 2500 of these students.

The most popular undergraduate programs include Engineering, Business and Computer Science. Other programs of interest are Biotechnology, Hospitality, Environmental Studies, Fine Arts, Communication, Architecture, Medicine, and Law.

## Career Colleges

It was estimated that about 25 percent of students in secondary school would pursue vocational streams upon graduation. However, recent data shows that only 5 percent of the population (in the 19 to 24 age group) possess the skills acquired through vocational education. Due to this lower-than-expected percentage, the Government of India has announced a National Skill Development Mission which comprises of a comprehensive skill development programme, aimed at increasing the number of skilled workers to 500 million by 2022. As part of this mission, 1000 new polytechnics are anticipated to be developed in the public and private sectors. Polytechnics are educational institutions which offer 3 year general diploma courses in subjects such as Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.

According to *India Education*, some of the most popular vocational programs in India are:

- Aeronautical Engineering
- Animation and Cartoon
- Aviation
- Banking
- Business Process Outsourcing
- Chartered Accountants
- Fashion Design
- Hotel Management
- Mass Communication
- Entrepreneurship
- Teacher's training courses
- Counselling

## English Language Programs

The Department of Higher Education considers language the most important medium of communication and education, and therefore, English has received due attention. The government also stresses the impact of a foreign language on one's career. The Government of India highlights the importance of foreign language study in improving one's analytic and interpretive skills.

## Key Program Interests

**According to Canadian Education Centre, the top 10 programs potential students usually request information for are:**

1. Engineering
2. Business Management

3. Computer Science
4. Biotechnology/Bioinformatics
5. Environment Sciences
6. Hospitality and Tourism
7. Media/Communications, Film and Technology, Creative Arts (Animation and Computer Imaging)
8. Fashion Management/Design
9. Health, Applied Sciences, Agriculture
10. Dentistry and Medical Services, Pharmacy

## Academic Calendar

The school year usually runs from June to March for primary and high school students. For universities and other post-secondary institutions, the school year runs from August to April. There is a mid-year break during summer, which usually begins at the end of May and lasts until the start of July for universities. In elementary and high schools, the vacation breaks range from the beginning of April to the end of May. There is also a winter vacation of 2 weeks at the end of the year.

A semester system is currently being implemented in most Indian universities, as directed by the country's University Grants Commission.

## Best and Worst Time to Promote in this Market

The school year runs from June to March, with short holidays during the year based on religious calendars; therefore, the best and worst times to promote in India are as follows:

**Best:** summer months (May to June), and winter break (December to January)

**Worst:** February or March, as grade 12 students are writing their exams during those months

## Financial Aid

Indian students going overseas can take out study loans from public or private banks for financial aid. Students are encouraged to search the websites of India's top banks for details regarding student loans. One agency which specializes in student loans is called Credila ([www.credila.com](http://www.credila.com)); Credila has been promoted by HDFC Bank.

For further scholarship-related information, please visit the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India website ([www.goindia.nic.in](http://www.goindia.nic.in)) as well as the Ministry of Higher Education ([education.nic.in/scholarship/scholarship.asp](http://education.nic.in/scholarship/scholarship.asp)). Some scholarships for overseas education are provided to students by the Department of Science and Technology ([dst.gov.in/](http://dst.gov.in/)) and the Department of Biotechnology ([dbtindia.nic.in/index.asp](http://dbtindia.nic.in/index.asp)).

# 3. STUDY PERMITS and MOBILITY

## Obtaining a Visa

Over the past 3 years, the number of Indian college and university students studying in Canada has increased fourfold. In 2008, Canada approved a little over 3152 visas. In 2009, the total number of Indian students studying in Canada was 5718. Moreover, according to the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, 1284 of these Indian students were studying in British Columbia. This number has been steadily increasing since 2005, when the Ministry recorded only 931 Indian students studying in BC at the time. With these increases in mind, Canadian diplomats expect to issue student visas to as many as 14000 Indian students this year and approximately more than 20000 in 2011. This increase of visa issuance is due to Canadian schools strengthening ties in India.

The Canadian High Commission office in New Delhi reported that the acceptance rate for total study permits for Indian Citizenship at the university level in 2008 was 84 percent. This number increased to 87 percent in 2009. The chart below provides a breakdown of study permits issued in New Delhi and Chandigarh.

According to the Trade Commissioner in India, the processing time for students applying for study permits is currently 4 weeks (28 days). This number is based on the length of time it took to process 80 percent of all cases between Oct 1, 2009 and September 30, 2010.

For more information on visa processing times, visit: [www.canadainternational.gc.ca/india-inde/visas/processing\\_times\\_tr-durees\\_traitement\\_rt.aspx?lang=eng](http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/india-inde/visas/processing_times_tr-durees_traitement_rt.aspx?lang=eng)

Total Study Permits for Indian Citizenship  
University Levels of Study (In Persons)

Year	New Delhi					Chandigarh					Total				
	Intake	Passed	Refused	Total	Acceptance Rate	Intake	Passed	Refused	Total	Acceptance Rate	Intake	Passed	Refused	Total	Acceptance Rate
2008	983	876	121	997	88%	214	147	70	217	68%	1,197	1,023	191	1,214	84%
2009	1,247	1,142	63	1,205	95%	442	276	141	417	66%	1,689	1,418	204	1,622	87%
YTD	1,293	1,129	188	1,317	86%	414	269	169	438	61%	1,707	1,398	357	1,755	80%

## Student Partners Program

For the past 2 years, the Canadian mission in New Delhi has partnered with Canadian colleges to create the Student Partners Program (SPP). The SPP is an administrative structure designed and applied in partnership between the Canadian visa offices in India and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC). The SPP was launched in April 2009 as a pilot to improve student recruitment outcomes and visa processing times. Under the program, colleges work closely with the Canadian mission to understand which students would likely be approved for a visa. The approval rate for Indian students applying to Canadian colleges has increased since the program's inception.

For more information on the Student Partners Program and the current list of participating ACCC members, visit ACCC's website:

[www.canadainternational.gc.ca/india-inde/visas/StudentPartnersProgram\\_ProgrammePartenairesEtudiants-Nov09.aspx](http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/india-inde/visas/StudentPartnersProgram_ProgrammePartenairesEtudiants-Nov09.aspx)

### Useful links

India Immigration  
[www.immigrationindia.nic.in](http://www.immigrationindia.nic.in)

Canadian Immigration  
[www.kemdiknas.go.id](http://www.kemdiknas.go.id)

# 4. KEY CONCERNS

## Diplomatic Concerns

After 55 years of bilateral programming in India totaling C\$2.39 billion, Canada's bilateral development assistance program came to a close in 2006 due a change in Indian government policy concerning assistance. Nonetheless, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) continues to maintain its involvement with India and continues to offer assistance through activities funded by partnerships between Indian and Canadian NGOs and multilateral programs. From 2009 to 2010, this aid was valued at approximately C\$14 million. In addition, the Canadian High Commission in New Delhi manages the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives to support local projects in India focusing on gender equality, human rights, and good governance.

## Educational Concerns

Although the SSA Act towards making education free and compulsory for students aged 6-14 has successfully increased the number of students enrolling in primary education, there are still some challenges India continues to face. Despite growing investment in education, 35 percent of the Indian population remains illiterate, only 15 percent of Indian students reach high school and only 7 percent graduate.

As of 2008, India's post-secondary high schools offer only enough seats for 7 percent of India's college-age population, 25 percent of teaching positions nationwide are unfilled and 57 percent of college professors lack their master's or PhD degrees.

Many institutions face shortages in terms of faculty staffing and capacity, and thus concerns have been raised over the quality of post-secondary education in various areas of India.

# 5. COMPETITOR OVERVIEW

## Competitors by Market

### AUSTRALIA

According to the Australian Government, the number of Indian students entering Australia was listed as 89457 students in 2009. In recent years, Australia recruits more than 90,000 Indian students annually; however, this number has decreased tremendously due to the racial attacks on Indian students in Australia. Over the past 2 years, Indian media outlets have furiously pursued stories of this nature, and the negative publicity has in turn affected the number of prospective students choosing Australia as a study destination.

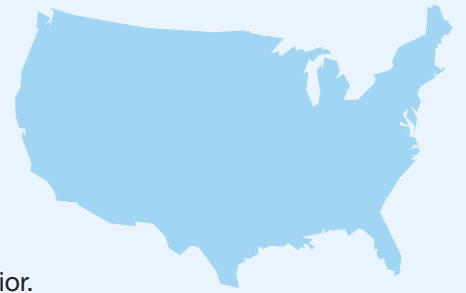
The Australian and Indian Governments have collated their efforts to address issues affecting Indian students in Australia. The government of Australia has established a Council of Australian Governments (COAG) working group to develop a national International Student Strategy to improve the experience of overseas students. The Australian Government confirmed its commitment to strengthening links between Australian and Indian educational institutions with an agreement to initiate a Joint Faculty Development Program which will allow for regular exchanges in mutual areas of teaching, research and curriculum development.

Study in Australia, the official Australian Government site that provides information for students wishing to study in Australia, has placed information and resources on bullying and discrimination for students to read about during their study period in Australia. The Australian government is planning to ease existing visa rules in order to revive their Indian international student enrollment. Specifically, Australia will decrease the number of financial assets visa applicants are required to show. It is also re-examining its visa policies to make the visa application process for international students as efficient as possible. In particular, the Australian government proposes to upgrade their student visa program by reducing the assessment levels of selected countries (which will be in effect starting April 2011), counting prepaid boarding fees towards the students cost of living requirements, and producing an in-depth statistical publication for student visas.



## UNITED STATES

According to *Open Doors*, a report published by the Institute of International Education (IIE), the number of Indian students studying at American colleges and universities increased by 2 percent, indicating a total of approximately 105000 students during the 2009-10 academic year. Indian students represent 15 percent of all international students pursuing post-secondary education in the United States. Indian students are the second largest group next to China to pursue studies in the United States. In 2008, there were over 103000 international students from India, a 7 percent increase from the year prior.



IIE has been actively engaged in post-secondary education for more than 50 years. The organization hosts several education fairs in various Indian cities to help American universities effectively and efficiently recruit Indian students. They also have an office in New Delhi, which allows them to work closely with businesses, governments and NGOs in the area.

The United States is the preferred student destination, with UK second. The United States receives more international students from India than from any other country, a trend that continues to shape and impact the cultural, economic and diplomatic dialogue between the 2 countries.

## UNITED KINGDOM

The organization in charge of promoting international education abroad is the British Council. This body runs recruitment fairs and exhibitions for several months of each year. The British Council has 9 offices in India, all located in various areas of India. Each office is accessible to the public, and has an Education UK resource centre. The British Council India's strategy is to develop and expand both off and online services to reach more of their target audiences in more cities in India. An important part of their strategy revolves around changing perceptions of the UK; they would like to make the UK a preferred destination in terms of both study and lifestyle.



In 2009, it was reported that 19205 Indian students were studying at UK institutions. Half of all Indian students studying in the UK are studying at a post-graduate level. From CEC's experience, the turnaround time for applications to the United States, UK and Australia is very fast. Universities do everything to ensure that the student remains engaged with them.





## 6. ECONOMIC, EDUCATIONAL and COMMUNITY LINKAGES

### Sector Linkages

India is a key trade partner for Canada. Canada's trade strategy for India involves the coordination of efforts by Canada's missions in India, federal government departments, provinces, and the private sector. This strategy has defined priority sectors to increase 2-way trade, investment and technology partnerships. These priority sectors include agriculture, education, energy and renewable energy, information and communications technology, life sciences, and transport infrastructure.

According to Statistics Canada, bilateral merchandise trade between Canada and India in 2009 was approximately C\$4.1 billion. This was a 10.3 percent decrease from 2008; however this decrease largely resulted from the global economic crisis. Despite the lower numbers in 2009, bilateral merchandise trade between Canada and India has increased by 70 percent since 2004.

While Canadian merchandise exports to India totaled C\$2.1 billion (an 11.3 percent decrease from 2008), imports from India reached C\$2.0 billion (a 9.1 percent decrease from 2008), resulting in a C\$141.8 million trade surplus for 2009 for Canada. Despite the recent decrease in bilateral trade, India was ranked as Canada's 10th destination for merchandise exports in 2009 (up from 13th in 2008) and as its 20th source of imports (up from 22nd in 2008).

Top Canadian exports include vegetables (mostly peas and lentils), fertilizer, and machinery; top imports from India include organic chemicals, knit apparel, woven apparel and precious metals and stones (mostly diamonds).

This year, Canada and India launched free trade negotiations. According to the Minister of International Trade, the Canada-India free trade agreement could boost Canada's economy by \$6 to \$15 billion and increase trade between India and Canada by about 50 percent. Increasing bilateral relationships with India may directly benefit Canadian sectors such as forestry, energy and manufacturing. An agreement that eliminates tariffs on substantially all goods opens doors to opportunities in services and provides Canadian exporters extensive preferential access to the large and promising Indian market. A free trade agreement would also aid Canada and India in meeting their joint goal of increasing bilateral trade to \$15 billion annually within the next 5 years.

### Community Ties

The Indian community in Canada is highly concentrated in Ontario and British Columbia. The large majority of Canadians of Indian origin live in either Toronto or Vancouver, although there is a high percentage living in other parts of the country as well. Canada's multiculturalism is an encouraging factor, allowing the country to be viewed as not only a study destination, but also as a place to live.

There is an active community of Indians in almost all major cities and suburbs in Canada.

For more information on active communities in specific Canadian cities, please visit: [www.canadaindian.com](http://www.canadaindian.com)

# 7. MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES

Visit the [India Country Specific Resources](http://www.bccie.bc.ca/educators/resources/country-specific/india) page for a full list of relevant marketing opportunities:  
[www.bccie.bc.ca/educators/resources/country-specific/india](http://www.bccie.bc.ca/educators/resources/country-specific/india)

# 8. CONTACTS

Visit the [India Country Specific Resources](http://www.bccie.bc.ca/educators/resources/country-specific/india) page for a full list of relevant government contacts:  
[www.bccie.bc.ca/educators/resources/country-specific/india](http://www.bccie.bc.ca/educators/resources/country-specific/india)

# 9. KEY INSTITUTIONS and AGENTS

Visit the [India Country Specific Resources](http://www.bccie.bc.ca/educators/resources/country-specific/india) page for a full list of relevant key institutions and agents:  
[www.bccie.bc.ca/educators/resources/country-specific/india](http://www.bccie.bc.ca/educators/resources/country-specific/india)

# 10. SOURCES

**Canadian embassy in India**  
[www.india.gc.ca](http://www.india.gc.ca)

**Ministry of Human Resource Development  
Department of Higher Education**  
[www.education.nic.in/sector.asp#size](http://www.education.nic.in/sector.asp#size)

**Ministry of Human Resource Development –  
Department of School Education & Literacy**  
[education.nic.in/Elementary/elementary.asp](http://education.nic.in/Elementary/elementary.asp)

**Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada**  
[www.international.gc.ca](http://www.international.gc.ca)

**Work Permit**  
[www.workpermit.com](http://www.workpermit.com)

**Structure of Education**  
[education.indiabizclub.com](http://education.indiabizclub.com)

**Education in India**  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education\\_in\\_India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_India)

**CEC market report  
India Education**  
[www.indiaedu.com](http://www.indiaedu.com)

**Ministry of Human Resources Development**  
[education.nic.in](http://education.nic.in)

**Development and HRD in India**  
[www.ide.go.jp/English/Events/Ideas/pdf/2010/dutt01.pdf](http://www.ide.go.jp/English/Events/Ideas/pdf/2010/dutt01.pdf)

**Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market  
Development**  
[www.WelcomeBC.ca/facts\\_and\\_trends](http://www.WelcomeBC.ca/facts_and_trends)

**Association of Canadian Community Colleges**  
[www.accc.ca](http://www.accc.ca)

**Citizenship and Immigration Canada**  
[www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)

**The Star online news resource**  
[www.thestar.com](http://www.thestar.com)

**Forbes online magazine**  
[www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com)

**British Council**  
[www.britishcouncil.org/new](http://www.britishcouncil.org/new)

**Australian Government, Department of Foreign Affairs  
and Trade**  
[www.dfat.gov.au/index.html](http://www.dfat.gov.au/index.html)

**Australian Government: Australian Education  
International**  
[aei.gov.au/Aei/Default.aspx](http://aei.gov.au/Aei/Default.aspx)

**Institute of International Education**  
[iie.org/en](http://iie.org/en)