



REPAYMENT INFORMATION

A guide to repaying your non-integrated student loans

Repaying your student loans on time will help you build a good credit rating by showing you can meet financial commitments. If you cannot meet your student loan repayment obligations, make sure you ask for help. When you leave school, you are responsible to begin the repayment of your student loan.

If you have finished your program, changed to part-time studies, are taking time off or have withdrawn from school, it is your responsibility to contact the National Student Loan Service Centre and the British Columbia Student Loan Service Bureau to arrange a repayment schedule within six months of leaving your studies.

☞ Although you used one form to apply for student financial assistance, your Canada and British Columbia Student Loans are paid separately until August 1, 2012. You must make separate payments to both the National Student Loan Service Centre and the British Columbia Student Loan Service Bureau.

Who do I contact to repay my student loans?

For Canada Student Loans:

National Student Loan Service Centre
1-888-815-4514
www.canlearn.ca

For British Columbia Student Loans:

B.C. Student Loan Service Bureau
1-877-535-7680
www.bcslservicebureau.com

What is the grace period? You have a grace period of six months beginning the first day of the month following your last day of full-time post-secondary studies. During the grace period you do not need to make any payments on your student loans.

Interest during the grace period: Interest will accumulate on your student loans during the grace period. At the end of your grace period, you can choose to pay off the interest that accumulated during the grace period, or you can have the interest added onto the balance owing on your student loans. Adding the accumulated interest to the principal balance is called capitalization. Your student loan payments will then be based on your new balance owing.

What is consolidation? Consolidation means your lender has given you a "repayment date." Within six months of leaving full-time studies, you will be sent a consolidation agreement with details of your current outstanding balance, your expected monthly payments and the length of your repayment period.

What will my monthly payments be? Your monthly student loan payment is determined from the total amount you owe on your loan, the interest rate at the time of consolidation, and the number of months in your repayment period. Your consolidation agreement will show your monthly payment. The minimum allowable monthly payment is \$25, including interest.

What if I return to school? If you are returning to full-time post-secondary studies, you can apply for interest-free status, which will stop your monthly payments. But remember, you must: Cash new student loan documents at the start of your new study period, or apply online and be approved for interest-free status; or, submit a paper Schedule 2 for your Canada Student Loans and your British Columbia Student Loans. If you don't notify both the National Student Loan Service Centre and the British Columbia Student Loan Service Bureau, interest on your loans will continue to be charged and you will be expected to continue making your regular monthly payments.

! Apply for interest-free status online. !

Are you eligible? Visit: www.StudentAidBC.ca today!

What do I do if I need help repaying my British Columbia Student Loans?

Extended Amortization Your monthly British Columbia Student Loan payments can be reduced to as little as \$25 (principal and interest), and the repayment (amortization) period of your British Columbia Student Loan can be extended up to as much as 234 months (19.5 years).

Principal Deferment You can ask to pay only the interest on your British Columbia Student Loan while your financial situation improves. This is called principal deferment, because you are delaying paying back the principal. Principal deferment is usually approved for six months at a time.

British Columbia Interest Relief You can apply to have the interest paid on your British Columbia Student Loans for six-month periods, up to a maximum of 30 months, once you have consolidated your loans. During this time you do not have to make any payments on your British Columbia Student Loans. If you continue to have financial problems while in your first five years of repayment, you may be eligible for an extended 24 months of interest relief.




British Columbia Loan Forgiveness Program You may be eligible if you graduated from a nursing, medical, midwifery, or pharmacy program at an accredited post-secondary school, and you began your final year of study on or after August 1, 2000, and you agree to practise full-time, part-time, or casual in a publicly funded facility in an underserved community in British Columbia for three years.

If your study period ended on or after August 1, 2004 from a program in speech language pathology, occupational therapy, audiology or physiotherapy, and you agree to work with children in underserved communities, you are also eligible. If you qualify, you will have all of your outstanding British Columbia Student Loan debt forgiven at a rate of one-third per year of practice. StudentAid BC will pay any outstanding interest that accumulated during the year after you registered in the program.

What if I default on my student loan? If you default on your student loan payments, you will not be eligible for any more student loan funding. You'll have extra interest charges and penalties to pay and you will be reported to a credit agency which will make it very difficult to get a mortgage, credit, or a bank loan. The collection agency has the authority to register debts against income tax refunds or GST rebates, garnish wages, put a lien on property, and take legal action.

I have older British Columbia Student Loans, who do I contact? If you received a British Columbia Student Loan before August 1, 2000, contact the bank or credit union where you negotiated your loan for repayment information.

Things to remember:

-  You have a legal obligation to repay your student loans, whether you complete your studies or not.
-  You are responsible for knowing the terms of your student loans, including how and when they have to be repaid.
-  If you change your address or name, you must notify:
 - StudentAid BC,
 - the National Student Loan Service Centre; and,
 - the B.C. Student Loan Service Bureau.

For more information on student loan repayment, visit: www.StudentAidBC.ca

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This informational insert is an introduction to repayment and debt management programs administered by StudentAid BC according to policies set out by the Government of Canada in the Canada Student Financial Assistance Act. The information on this insert is only part of the policy and regulations governing repayment and is in no way intended to replace the information found at www.StudentAidBC.ca or in the current policy and procedures manual or relevant legislation.