

# British Columbia Interest Relief

## Instructions and Application

Apply online:

[www.bcslservicebureau.com](http://www.bcslservicebureau.com)

**FAST CONVENIENT SECURE**

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**[www.bcslservicebureau.com](http://www.bcslservicebureau.com)**

**Fast      Convenient      Secure**

**Just look at the benefits:**

- **The B.C. interest relief application is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.**
- **Your application is processed quickly, securely and conveniently.**
- **It's easy to use.**
- **It's good for the environment because it saves paper.**

# The Program

The British Columbia interest relief program helps former students who are having difficulty repaying their British Columbia student loans because of low income. The program protects your credit rating and ensures your student loan debt does not grow.

While you are on this program, interest will not accrue on your loan, and you are not required to make payments on either the principal or the interest. B.C. interest relief is generally approved for six months to 30 months, and extensions are available if you have been out of school for less than five years.

## ELIGIBILITY

To apply for and receive B.C. interest relief, you must:

- ◆ Live in Canada or be part of an international internship program.
- ◆ Be repaying your student loans.
- ◆ Have monthly family gross income (income before taxes and other deductions) and monthly student loan payments within set guidelines. (The income guideline chart is attached to the B.C. interest relief application.)
- ◆ Have not received the maximum of 30 months of B.C. interest relief. Once you have been on the program 30 months, B.C. interest relief may be extended up to 54 months if you:
  - Have been out of school for less than five years; and
  - Continue to meet the eligibility criteria for B.C. interest relief even if the loan repayment period was extended from 10 – 15 years.
- ◆ Have B.C. student loans that are less than five months delinquent. If your loan has been transferred to Revenue Services of B.C. you are no longer eligible.

**Note:** If you declare bankruptcy after May 11, 2004, you are still eligible for the program.

# Instructions

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Complete **Section 1**.

2/3

Complete **sections 2 and 3**.

## **IMPORTANT**

**DO NOT attach proof of gross family income or proof of monthly loan payments for you and your spouse/partner to the B.C. interest relief application. This is no longer required.**

However, if you are approved for the B.C. interest relief program, you may be subject to a random audit of the accuracy of the information on your application. If you are chosen to be audited, you will be advised in writing and will be required to submit proof of income as reported in Section 2 of your application. Although you no longer need to attach proof of gross family income or monthly loan payments to your application, we recommend you keep this information readily available. If you do not respond to an audit request:

- ◆ Further eligibility for the program will be denied.
- ◆ Your loan will be reinstated to immediate repayment status.
- ◆ Interest accrued while you were on the B.C. interest relief program will be added onto the outstanding loan principal.

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**Section 4.** Ensure your spouse or partner provides his/her social insurance number, and signs and dates the application form.

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**Section 5.** Sign and date the application form.

Determine where you should send your B.C. interest relief application.

## **MORE INFORMATION**

- ◆ Your application must be received at the British Columbia Student Loan Service Bureau, your risk lender or StudentAid BC no later than 30 days from the date it is signed. Any applications received after 30 days will be rejected, and you will have to reapply.
- ◆ You are responsible for making all loan payments until your application is approved.
- ◆ If you make a payment while you are receiving B.C. interest relief, it will be applied directly to the principal amount of your loan.
- ◆ Once your B.C. interest relief period expires, you must resume making monthly loan principal and interest payments on your B.C. student loans, and funds will be withdrawn from your bank account.
- ◆ The length of time required to pay back your loans will be increased for every B.C. interest relief period you are approved for.
- ◆ If you want interest relief for your Canada student loan, you must apply through the National Student Loan Service Centre separately.

## INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS

If you are taking part in an international internship program, a letter from your sponsor must be attached to the application. This is the company or organization under whose sponsorship you are an intern. This letter should indicate:

- ◆ Your name and social insurance number.
- ◆ The name of the sponsoring company or organization.
- ◆ The start and end dates of the internship.
- ◆ Your gross monthly income while you are an intern.
- ◆ The name and telephone number of the sponsor's contact person.
- ◆ The signature of the contact and date signed.

Your sponsor must notify the lender and/or the British Columbia Student Loan Service Bureau if you withdraw from the internship before finishing.

## WHERE TO APPLY

You must submit the B.C. interest relief application **to the last place** you negotiated a British Columbia student loan.

- ◆ If the last negotiated B.C. student loan was a **direct lend** loan (negotiated after Aug. 1, 2000), the B.C. interest relief application must be submitted to the **B.C. Student Loan Service Bureau**.

B.C. Student Loan Service Bureau      Fax: 1-877-535-7681  
PO Box 4878, Stn Terminal  
Vancouver BC V6B 4A4      Telephone: 1-877-535-7680 (8am to 8pm)

- ◆ If the last negotiated B.C. **student loan** was a risk-sharing loan (negotiated between Aug. 1, 1995, and July 31, 2000), the B.C. interest relief application must be submitted to **your lender (the Royal Bank, CIBC or Scotia Bank)**.

Royal Bank  
Western Canada  
Student Loan Centre  
PO Box 4700 Stn D  
Toronto On M9A 4X5

CIBC National  
Student Center  
PO Box 5055  
Burlington ON  
L7R 4P3

Scotia Bank  
PO Box 9, Stn U  
Etobicoke ON  
M8Z 5M4

- ◆ If the last negotiated B.C. student loan was a **guaranteed** loan (negotiated before Aug. 1, 1995), the B.C. interest relief application must be submitted to **StudentAid BC**.

Ministry of Advanced Education  
and Labour Market Development  
StudentAid BC  
PO Box 9173 Stn Prov Gov't  
Victoria BC V8W 9H7

## Maximum Monthly Gross Family Income for British Columbia Student Loan Interest Relief Eligibility

Combined Monthly Student Loan Payment	Family Size 1	Combined Monthly Student Loan Payment	Family Size 2	Combined Monthly Student Loan Payment	Family Size 3	Combined Monthly Student Loan Payment	Family Size 4	Combined Monthly Student Loan Payment	Family Size 5+
< 25	\$1,684	<39	\$2,631	< 51	\$3,399	< 60	\$4,009	<69	\$4,569
26 - 58	\$1,934	40 - 89	\$2,981	52 - 115	\$3,824	61 - 135	\$4,509	70 - 154	\$5,144
59 - 98	\$2,184	90 - 150	\$3,331	116 - 191	\$4,249	136 - 225	\$5,009	155 - 257	\$5,719
99 - 146	\$2,434	151 - 221	\$3,681	192 - 280	\$4,674	226 - 331	\$5,509	258 - 378	\$6,294
147 - 201	\$2,684	222 - 302	\$4,031	281 - 382	\$5,099	332 - 451	\$6,009	379 - 515	\$6,869
202 - 264	\$2,934	303 - 394	\$4,381	383 - 497	\$5,524	452 - 586	\$6,509	516 - 670	\$7,444
265 - 334	\$3,184	395 - 497	\$4,731	498 - 625	\$5,949	587 - 736	\$7,009	671 - 842	\$8,019
335 - 412	\$3,434	498 - 610	\$5,081	626 - 765	\$6,374	737 - 901	\$7,509	843 - 1031	\$8,594
413 - 497	\$3,684	611 - 733	\$5,431	766 - 918	\$6,799	902 - 1081	\$8,009	1032 - 1238	\$9,169
498 - 590	\$3,934	734 - 867	\$5,781	919 - 1084	\$7,224	1082 - 1276	\$8,509	1239 - 1462	\$9,744
591 - 690	\$4,184	868 - 1012	\$6,131	1085 - 1262	\$7,649	1277 - 1487	\$9,009	1463 - 1703	\$10,319
691 - 798	\$4,434	1013 - 1167	\$6,481	1263 - 1453	\$8,074	1488 - 1712	\$9,509	1704 - 1961	\$10,894
799 - 913	\$4,684	1168 - 1332	\$6,831	1454 - 1657	\$8,499	1713 - 1952	\$10,009	1962 - 2236	\$11,469
914 - 987	\$4,934	1333 - 1436	\$7,181	1658 - 1785	\$8,924	1953 - 2102	\$10,509	2237 - 2409	\$12,044
988 - 1037	\$5,184	1437 - 1506	\$7,531	1786 - 1870	\$9,349	2103 - 2202	\$11,009	2410 - 2524	\$12,619
1038 - 1087	\$5,434	1507 - 1576	\$7,881	1871 - 1955	\$9,774	2203 - 2302	\$11,509	2525 - 2639	\$13,194
1088 - 1137	\$5,684	1577 - 1646	\$8,231	1956 - 2040	\$10,199	2303 - 2402	\$12,009	2640 - 2754	\$13,769
1138 - 1187	\$5,934	1647 - 1716	\$8,581	2041 - 2125	\$10,624	2403 - 2502	\$12,509	2755 - 2869	\$14,344
1188 - 1237	\$6,184	1717 - 1786	\$8,931	2126 - 2210	\$11,049	2503 - 2602	\$13,009	2870 - 2984	\$14,919
1238 - 1287	\$6,434	1787 - 1856	\$9,281	2211 - 2295	\$11,474	2603 - 2702	\$13,509	2985 - 3099	\$15,494
1288 - 1337	\$6,684	1857 - 1926	\$9,631	2296 - 2380	\$11,899	2703 - 2802	\$14,009	3100 - 3214	\$16,069
1338 - 1387	\$6,934	1927 - 1996	\$9,981	2381 - 2465	\$12,324	2803 - 2902	\$14,509	3215 - 3329	\$16,644
1388 - 1437	\$7,184	1997 - 2066	\$10,331	2466 - 2550	\$12,749	2903 - 3002	\$15,009	3330 - 3444	\$17,219

# B.C Interest Relief Application

## SECTION 1 – To Be Completed by Applicant

(01) Last Name

(03) Social Insurance Number

(02) First Name  Initials

(04) Date of Birth (year/month/day)

(05) Mailing Address (Apartment Number, Street Address, or Post Office Box Number)

(06) City/Town  (07) Prov/State  (08) Postal/Zip Code

(09) Telephone Number (  )  -  (10) Do you live in Canada?  Yes  No (11) Marital Status  Spouse/Partner  Single

(12) Family Size

(13) Current Employer's Name  (14) Current Employer's Telephone Number (  )  -

## SECTION 2 – Monthly Gross Family Income

	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Source of income	Month in which this application is signed (actual/expected)	Month _____ (before Column 1)	Month _____ (before Column 2)
Applicant's gross Income			
Spouse's gross Income (if applicable)			
Monetary gifts and income from investments			
Total family gross income by month			

- Are you repaying Canada student loans?  YES total of all such monthly payments: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  NO
- Is your spouse/partner repaying Canada student loans?  YES total of all such monthly payments: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  NO
- Are you repaying other provincial/territorial student loans?  YES total of all such monthly Payments: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  NO
- Is your spouse/partner repaying other provincial/territorial student loans?  YES total of all such monthly payments: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  NO

### For Ministry Use Only

Entered by	
Date Entered (year/month/day)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied	

Date Received by StudentAid BC

# B.C. Interest Relief Application

## SECTION 3 – Monthly Family B.C. Student Loan Payments

	B.C. Direct Lend (issued after Aug. 1, 2000)	B.C. Risk Sharing (issued Aug. 1, 1995, to July 31, 2000)	B.C. Guaranteed (issued before Aug. 1, 1995)	Total Monthly Payments
Your monthly payments				
Your spouse's/partner's monthly payments (if applicable)				
Total monthly payments				

## SECTION 4 – Spouse's Declaration and Signature

I have given complete and true information on this form. I also understand that all personal information provided in connection with this application is subject to audit and verification.

SIGNATURE OF SPOUSE	SPOUSE/PARTNER'S SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBER	DATE SIGNED (year/month/day)
	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

## SECTION 5 - Declaration

I understand that by signing below it means:

I wish to be considered for the B.C. Interest Relief program of StudentAid BC and my signature means that all of the information provided in this application is complete, correct and accurate in every detail.

I understand that withholding relevant data or providing false or misleading data in this application or otherwise in support of this application shall be grounds for the Government of British Columbia to revoke my eligibility for this program. The Government of British Columbia may in that case request immediate payment in full of the B.C. student loan principal and accrued interest, and if necessary, proceed to legal enforcement of payment

I understand that all information provided in this application is subject to audit and verification. If my file is under audit, it may delay or prevent processing of the application.

If I have entered into any agreements under StudentAid BC or the B.C. Student Assistance Program, or signed any promissory notes while I was a minor, I hereby ratify those agreement and notes.

For the purpose of verifying and/or investigating information pertaining to this application, related documents and the eventual repayment of my loan awards, whether defaulted or not, and any other money repayable, I consent to the exchange of information between the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development (or its agent) and following agencies: Canada Revenue Agency; Land Title and Survey Authority of B.C.; Corporate and Personal Property Registry; Citizenship and Immigration Canada; Drivers Services; Insurance Corp. of B.C.; B.C. Assessment; Human Resources and Social Development Canada; financial institutions; educational institutions and their financial aid offices; credit agencies; WorkSafe BC; Superintendent of Bankruptcy; B.C. Student Loan Service Bureau; National Student Loan Service Centre; Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation; native bands; Crown corporations; and federal, provincial and municipal ministries, departments and agencies.

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT	PRINT NAME	DATE SIGNED**(year/month/day)
		<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

\*\* This B.C. interest relief application must be received by your B.C. student loan lending agency no more than 30 days after it was signed, otherwise it will be rejected.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **When can I apply for British Columbia interest relief?**

You can apply for B.C. interest relief any time during the loan repayment period. An interest relief period cannot start before the date you enter repayment (the first day of the seventh month following the end of your last study period).

## **Where do I submit my application?**

Where you submit B.C. interest relief applications will depend on the type of loan you negotiated last. If the last negotiated B.C. student loan was direct lend (negotiated after Aug. 1, 2000), the B.C. interest relief application must be submitted to the British Columbia Student Loan Service Bureau. If the last negotiated B.C. student loan was risk-sharing (negotiated after Aug. 1, 1995, but before Aug. 1, 2000), the B.C. interest relief application must be submitted to your lender (Royal Bank, CIBC or Scotia Bank). If the last negotiated B.C. student loan was guaranteed (negotiated before Aug. 1, 1995), the B.C. interest relief application must be submitted to StudentAid BC, Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development.

## **How is my eligibility determined?**

Your eligibility is determined by taking, into consideration your family size, monthly gross family income and monthly totals of B.C. student loan, Canada student loan, and other provincial/territorial student loan payments. This information is then cross-referenced with the income table. For example:

- ◆ Number in your family unit is three.
- ◆ Combined (you and your spouse's) monthly loan payments are \$300.
- ◆ Monthly gross family income must be less than \$3,683 for you to be eligible for B.C. interest relief.

## **What happens if I submit an incomplete application?**

You will be advised by letter that your application is incomplete. You will be asked to respond within 30 days from the date of the letter. If you fail to respond, your application will be cancelled.

## **Am I responsible for making loan payments while waiting for my B.C. interest relief application to be processed?**

Yes, you are responsible for making your monthly payments, when they are due, while your application is being processed.

## **Is the interest accruing on my loan while I am on B.C. interest relief?**

No, the interest is not accruing on your loan while you are on B.C. interest relief. If you make payments on your loan while on B.C. interest relief, the total payment amount will be applied towards your outstanding principal balance.

**How will I be notified of the results of my B.C. interest relief application?**

You will receive written notice telling you whether your application was approved or denied. If B.C. interest relief is approved on your direct lend loan and you have other B.C. loans (risk and/or guaranteed), you must mail/fax a copy of this letter to your lender(s).

**I am four months behind payments on my B.C. student loan. Can I still apply for B.C. interest relief?**

Yes, you can. You can be up to five months in arrears on your B.C. student loan and still apply for interest relief. If you are approved, your start date can be backdated by two months from the date you signed your application and up to three months' worth of interest owed will be added to the outstanding loan principal.

**If my financial situation has not changed, when should I reapply for another B.C. interest relief period?**

You should reapply during the last month of your current B.C. interest relief period. You will receive a letter 30 days before your B.C. interest relief period expires.

**Can I appeal the decline of my B.C. interest relief application?**

The province will consider an appeal only if you and/or your spouse have had exceptional expenses due to unforeseen and/or unavoidable circumstances beyond your control. You must submit your appeal to StudentAid BC, Appeal Unit. Your appeal must include:

- ◆ A written request explaining the exceptional circumstances related to income and/or expenses incurred during the three months listed on your application.
- ◆ A copy of the B.C. interest relief application (and supportive documentation) submitted to, and declined by, your lender or StudentAid BC.
- ◆ A copy of the letter from your lender or StudentAid BC explaining why your application was turned down.





PO Box 9173 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9H7  
Calling from Victoria: 250 387-6100  
Calling from Lower Mainland: 604 660-2610  
Toll-free: 1-800-561-1818  
TTY line for deaf and hearing impaired: 250 952-6832  
Fax: 250 356-9455  
Toll-free fax: 1-866-312-3322

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