

Adult Education

Adult education in a form of learning adults engages in beyond traditional schooling. Adult education is everything from learning to read the most basic materials to personal fulfillment as a lifelong learner.

Adult Day Schools

The **Waterloo Region District School board** and the **Catholic District School Board** offer programs for adults, including newcomers to Canada. The courses are offered by the **Continuing Education** Department, full or part-time, during the day, evenings and weekends. Some of the programs offered for adults are:

- **LINC** (English language classes for newcomers)
- Credit and non-credit ESL courses
- **TOEFL** preparation courses
- **Computer** training; **Citizenship** preparation
- Employment & job search training including co-operative education
- Literacy and **basic skills** (English and math); **Academic upgrading**

Some job specific training programs help students improve English skills and prepare them for the world of work. They may include:

- **Career Counseling** – identify career goals and develop strategies to meet them
- **Language and Academic Upgrading** – improve language/literacy and math skills
- **Training and Development** – Improve transferable skills
- **Job Search Services** – how to access the hidden job market and conduct an effective job search
- **Work Placement Programs** – provide opportunities to gain work experience and learn new skills

Fees for courses may apply depending on the program. For more information, please contact the Adult Education or Continuing Education programs at both school boards:

Academic upgrading - Waterloo Region District School board

Mary Adamson, Continuing Education Vice Principal
151 Weber St. South Waterloo, ON N2J 2A9
519-885-0800

Literacy & Basic Skills - Waterloo Region District School Board

Open Door Centre for Learning - WATERLOO CAMPUS
108 University Avenue East
Waterloo, ON N2J 2W2
519-885-4356

Continuing Education - Waterloo Catholic District School Board – <http://stlouis.wcdsb.ca>

St. Louis Adult Learning Centre
80 Young St. Kitchener, ON
519-745-1201

You will find other academic upgrading courses available at colleges, universities and other private schools; however the fees for courses are significantly higher. It is best to consult with an employment counselor or career counselor to find out which is the best path for you.

College & Employment Preparation - Conestoga College

Offers Academic Upgrading courses in Mathematics, Communications (English) and the Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) for adults who have not completed high school, or who have completed high school but wish to refresh their academic skills on certain topics or who wish to prepare for apprenticeship or college post-secondary programs. For more information, see the Conestoga website www.conestogac.on.ca, or call directly Conestoga College Information Centre at (519) 748-5220 ext. 3535.

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

Adult Schools also offer credit courses for people who need to earn credits for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma equivalency Certificate (OSSD). You must have a minimum of 30 credits to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). You will be granted overseas equivalency credits based on previous secondary school work in your own country. Students who wish to apply for university entrance in Canada must obtain an OSSD plus a minimum of six Ontario Academic Course (OAC) credits. For more information, please contact either the Waterloo District School Board or the Waterloo Catholic District School Board.

Co-operative Education (CO-OP)

Co-operative Education programs help students gain work experience and earn secondary school credits at the same time by integrating classroom theory with practical experience in the workplace. Participants' prerequisites include: assessment and interview with a co-op teacher, ability to communicate at the grade 12 English level and have possession of a marketable skill. For more information, please contact:

Co-operative Education - University of Waterloo

200 University Ave. West, Waterloo, ON, Canada N2L 3G1
Tel: 519-888-4026
Fax: 519-746-4103
E-mail: ceca@uwaterloo.ca

General Education Development (GED)

General Educational Development (GED) is an international testing program for adults who did not finish highschool in Canada. It recognizes that adults acquire knowledge, skills, and concepts through working, training, traveling, reading and other informal learning. Candidates who successfully complete the GED test receive the Ontario High School Equivalency Certificate, issued by the Ministry of Education. Ontario residents 19 years of age or older who have been out of high school for at least one year are eligible to take the test. There is a **\$100** fee to take the test.

For more information on the GED visit www.ged.on.ca or call toll free: 1-888-433-1211

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

PLAR is the formal evaluation and credit-granting process through which mature students who were enrolled in an Ontario Secondary School or are from another province or country may obtain credits for education or life experiences. PLAR assesses and gives credit for the knowledge and skills you have already gained through life and work experience. Most colleges, universities, and professional associations use PLAR to assess the skills and knowledge of people. There are PLAR programs for adult students in secondary school courses, and PLAR programs for youth in high school. Find out more at: Waterloo Catholic District School Board and St. Louis Adult and Continuing Education Centres.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

The Catholic District School board and Conestoga College, offer a variety of part-time evening, day or weekend, and full-time courses for permanent residents, refugees and citizens alike. Permanent residents fall under the federally funded LINC program and do not have to pay any fees. Refugee claimants and citizens must attend under the provincially funded ESL classes, where students must pay a \$20.00 administration/supplies fee.

Correspondence courses/Distance Education

You can start and finish a course at any time of the year. You can study when and where you want. You can work at your own pace as long as you finish the course within one year. Your success with ILC courses (**Independent Learning Centre**) depends on your motivation. There is an administration fee for each course request. The courses offered include: adult basic literacy, four levels of ESL and courses for upgrading your math and English skills. For more information on correspondence courses, contact the **Independent Learning Centre at 1-416-484-2600 and press 4; or check online at www.ilc.org.**

Permanent residents are able to study ESL at home for free with the LINC Home Study program. For more information about this study option, contact your local language assessment centre or LINC Home Study Program at Toll-free: 1-866- 277-5462 ext. 1257; or online: www.tcet.com/linchomestudy/

Find other topics of information in our Fact Sheet series.

YMCA Immigrant Services Locations:

Kitchener-Waterloo Office

800 King St. West, 3rd Floor
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 1E8
Phone: (519) 579-9622

Cambridge Office

258 Hespeler Road
Cambridge, ON N1R 3H3
Phone: (519) 621-1621

School Settlement

77 Young Street, Rm 101
Kitchener, ON N2H 4Y9
Phone: (519) 742-8220

www.ymcaimmigrantservices.ca

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YMCAs of Cambridge and Kitchener- Waterloo Immigrant Services

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Building healthy communities