

STUDY IN CANADA · RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

The U15 Universities in Canada

The U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities: fifteen research-intensive public universities, listed alphabetically. This is a group, not a ranking.

15

Public research universities

6

Provinces

10

In the QS 2027 Canadian top 10

Why the U15 matters

These fifteen universities carry most of Canada's university research. If you want a thesis-based Master's, this is where most supervisors and research funding sit. All fifteen are public, so a Master's student here needs no PAL.

Before you shortlist

A U15 name does not make admission easier: admission ranges are high and change every year. Check the program's prerequisites, English score and deadline, confirm the DLI number on IRCC's list, and compare the city's living costs.

Sr No	University	City	Province	Teaching language	QS 2027 world rank	Official website
1	Dalhousie University	Halifax	Nova Scotia	English	—	dal.ca
2	McGill University	Montréal	Quebec	English	#30	mcgill.ca
3	McMaster University	Hamilton	Ontario	English	=174	mcmaster.ca
4	Queen's University	Kingston	Ontario	English	=179	queensu.ca
5	Université de Montréal	Montréal	Quebec	French	=162	umontreal.ca
6	Université Laval	Québec City	Quebec	French	—	ulaval.ca
7	University of Alberta	Edmonton	Alberta	English	#96	ualberta.ca
8	University of British Columbia	Vancouver	British Columbia	English	#45	ubc.ca
9	University of Calgary	Calgary	Alberta	English	—	ucalgary.ca
10	University of Manitoba	Winnipeg	Manitoba	English	—	umanitoba.ca
11	University of Ottawa	Ottawa	Ontario	Bilingual	=228	uottawa.ca
12	University of Saskatchewan	Saskatoon	Saskatchewan	English	—	usask.ca
13	University of Toronto	Toronto	Ontario	English	#32	utoronto.ca
14	University of Waterloo	Waterloo	Ontario	English	=113	uwaterloo.ca
15	Western University	London	Ontario	English	=142	uwo.ca

QS 2027 world rank shown for the ten U15 universities placed in Canada's top ten in the QS World University Rankings 2027 (published June 2026); a dash means outside Canada's top ten. Verify ranks at topuniversities.com. Amratpal A Vision is a private consultancy with no affiliation with the U15 group, IRCC or any university listed. Universities decide admission; IRCC decides study permits.