



What Are My Educational Options After High School With Precarious Immigration Status?

Presented by Stefan Enrique Joseph Kallikaden
Youth and Access to Education Coordinator
FCJ Refugee Centre



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The land we are standing on today is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Huron-Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaty signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

DISCLAIMER

This presentation is NOT legal advice. It is for information purposes to navigate and understand the systems discussed.

The information provided in this session is dated April 09, 2026

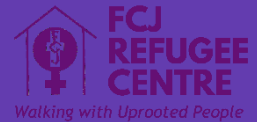
OVERVIEW

- FCJ Refugee Centre
- FCJ Youth Network
- Education System in Canada – Ontario Education Act
- Secondary School Requirements
- Options after High School
- Resources & Advocacy Efforts

Who We Are

- We are a non-profit organization which serves refugees and others at risk due to their immigration status
- We welcome anyone asking for information, counsel and support regarding these issues.
- We address systemic issues that newly arrived refugee claimants and persons with precarious immigrations status face in Canada including lack of resources, marginalization, and discrimination.
- FCJ Refugee Centre is unique in its capacity to serve anyone who needs assistance. We have a particular penchant for serving populations who we term as “precarious migrants”.

**FCJ
REFUGEE
CENTRE**



**WALKING
WITH
UPROOTED
PEOPLE**



Service and Resources



**SETTLEMENT &
INTEGRATION**

**IMMIGRATION
SUPPORT**

**ANTI-HUMAN
TRAFFICKING**

**PUBLIC
EDUCATION &
NETWORKING**

**FCJ
REFUGEE
CENTRE**

- Shelter for women & children
- Refugee Housing Hub
- Women's services
- Food distribution
- English Classes
- Clinic
- Youth
- Access to Education

- Refugee process
- Immigration orientation
- PRRA (risk assessment)
- Refugee appeal
- H&C (Humanitarian & Compassionate App.)
- Sponsorship
- Work permit
- Etc.



- Migrants Workers Mobile Clinic
- Direct services to trafficked persons
- Migrant Women's Counter Trafficking Alliance
- Youth Alliance Against HT

- Webinars & training sessions
- Borderless Voices podcast
- YouTube channel
- Resources
- Country research
- Newsletter & annual reports

416-469-9754

437-217-3786

info@fcjrefugeecentre.org

fcjrefugeecentre.org

@FCJRefugeeCentre

@fcjrefugeecentre

@RefugeeCentre

FCJ Refugee Centre

WWW.FCJREFUGEECENTRE.ORG

FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE YOUTH NETWORK

- The FCJ Youth Network has been operating for more than 14 years and has supported over 650 youth since its inception.
- The FCJ Youth Network is a Brave Space for newcomer and migrant youth to come together on a weekly basis to learn, build, and participate in community engagement.
- A Brave Space is where everyone feels safe, heard, respected and involved.
- A really important aspect of our youth group is that it is open to any newcomer youth regardless of their status.
- It is an inclusive space for youth to support each other, get involved in the community, participate in a variety of activities and workshops, and engage in self-advocacy and activism.



- Many of the projects the youth network pursues, including the original idea of Access To Education, are borne from the challenges and barriers many of the youth have personally experienced.
- We often attend and present at conferences, host community gatherings, travel, have movie nights, monthly family dinners, attend marches and rallies in solidarity with each other.
- The members of the FCJ Youth Network continue to act as leaders in the community.
- The FCJYN engages in policy related discussions at all levels of government – Local, Municipal, Provincial and Federal.



- The official age range of the FCJYN is 13-30; with most youth falling between 20-27 presently. The overall network has 120 active members with a weekly attendance of 10-15 youth.
- Majority of the youth come to Canada having some level of Secondary Education, with a significant portion having already completed school or in their final year. Some youth also either have their Post-Secondary Education or had to leave their country in the middle of their post-secondary schooling.
- The youth come from countries such as; Mexico, Columbia, Peru, Gambia, Morocco, Uganda, Barbados, Algeria, United States of America, Kenya, St. Kitts, Bahamas, Cuba, Nigeria, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Brazil, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Chile, Saudi Arabia, El Salvador, India & China.
- Many of their first languages are Spanish, Arabic and English, but we aim to never allow language to be a barrier to access our services with staff and volunteer interpretation; and encouraging methods of learning English to build confidence in integration and socializing.



What is regularized status vs precarious status?

REGULARIZED VS. PRECARIOUS STATUS

What are examples of 'regularized' status?

- Canadian Citizen
- Permanent Resident
- Convention Refugee
- Protected person
- International student*
- Visitor*

What are examples of 'precarious' status?

- Refugee Claimants
- Refused Refugee Claimants
- International student*
- Visitor*
- Those caught in limbo due to immigration policy changes
- Victims & Survivors of Human Trafficking
- Those involved in sponsorship breakdown
- Anyone without official immigration status living in Canada

Education System FAQs

EDUCATION SYSTEM IN CANADA

- Education in Canada is Provincially Administered
- Levels of Education in Ontario can be divided by - Preschool Daycare, Elementary, Secondary, and Post-Secondary
- The Ministry of Education is the ministry of the Government of Ontario responsible for government policy, funding, curriculum planning and direction in all levels of public education, including elementary and secondary schools
- Paul Calandra is the Minister of Education for the Province of Ontario
- The Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security is the ministry of the Government of Ontario responsible for administration of laws relating to post-secondary education.
- Nolan Quinn is the Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security for the Province of Ontario

Getting Your OSSD (Ontario Secondary School Diploma)

What you need to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma depends on the year you started Grade 9.

If you started Grade 9 in 2023 or in prior years, you must earn:

- 18 [compulsory credits](#); 12 [optional credits](#); the [literacy requirement](#); at least 2 [online learning credits](#)

If you started Grade 9 in 2024 or in later years you must earn:

- 17 [compulsory credits](#); 13 [optional credits](#); the [literacy requirement](#); at least 2 [online learning credits](#)

Everyone needs 40 hours of [community involvement activities](#) (volunteering) to get their high school diploma.

What can I do if I don't have these credits?

SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE 18+ AT THE TDSB

EdVance Program

18 - 20

Adult School

21+

NOTE: A VALID IMMIGRATION STATUS IS NEEDED TO ENROLL; AGE NOT COVERED UNDER THE EDUCATION ACT

LIST OF TDSB ADULT SCHOOLS

| School | Address | Postal Code |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Burnhamthorpe Adult Learning Centre | 500 the East Mall, Etobicoke, ON | M9B 2C4 |
| City Adult Learning Centre | 1 Danforth Ave, Toronto, ON | M4K 1M8 |
| Emery Adult Learning Centre | 3395 Weston Rd, North York, ON | M9M 2V9 |
| Scarborough Centre for Alt Studies Adult | 720 Midland Ave, Scarborough, ON | M1K 4C9 |
| Yorkdale Adult Learning Centre | 38 Orfus Rd, North York, ON | M6A 1L6 |

LIST OF 2025-26 QUADS

2025-2026 Program Dates

| Term | EdVance | Adult |
|------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | September 2 - November 10 | September 4 – November 10 |
| 2 | November 11 – January 28 | November 12 – January 28 |
| 3 | January 30 - April 17 | February 3 - April 17 |
| 4 | April 20 - June 24 | April 22 - June 24 |

Other pathways to get your OSSD

- Aside from Adult Day School, each school board has different options for continuing education. Some are in-person, some are virtual, along with Night School and Asynchronous learning options
- The Ministry of Education has the Curriculum and resources website for you to get the broad overview of what to expect during your learning
- TVO Learn offers the platform for some engaging educational content based off of the Ontario curriculum
- TVO ILC is a Ministry overseen independent learning pathway to acquire Ontario high school credentials

Pathways to upgrading professional skills

- The Ministry through their adult learning, offers the Ontario Bridge Training Program in partnership with participating training organizations. Fees and offering vary. The purpose of the program is to help internationally trained skilled newcomers find jobs that match their international training and qualifications
- The TDSB offers a program called Essential Skills Upgrading. This is the program description from their website: "The Essential Skills Upgrading (ESU) program provides free adult classes in Toronto to help learners improve their English reading and writing, mathematics, and computer skills."

Some alternative resources

For possibility of certificates:

- Toronto Public Library eLearning (different versions offered in other municipalities)
- Class Central

For sole purpose of learning:


- Khan Academy
- Volunteering/Internships

For paid forms of post-secondary credentials students can consider taking individual courses at the international student rates or enrolling in bridging programs where their status allows. Especially, if the program length is lesser than 6 months.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition

- The PLAR (or MPLAR for mature students) is a formal process that offers learners the opportunity to earn credit(s) for college courses based on formal demonstration of prior learning usually acquired through study, work, and other life experiences that is not recognized through formal credit transfer mechanisms
- This is usually done by the institution where the student is studying or enrolled to begin school. There might be a fee for the process.
- Up to 26/30 credits can be acquired through this process. The remaining 4 credentials including one English credit has to be taken in order to receive an OSSD

Educational Options Handout



FCJ Refugee Centre
Walking With Uprooted People

416-469-9754
fcjrefugeecentre.org
208 Oakwood Ave, Toronto, ON M6E 2V4

Educational Options After High School With Precarious Immigration Status





| Sl. No. | Category | Protected Persons/ Convention Refugees | Refugee Claimants | Non-status |
|---------|---|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Adult Learning: OSSD | YES | YES | NO |
| 2 | Curriculum and Resources | YES | YES | YES |
| 3 | TVO Learn | YES | YES | YES |
| 4 | TVO ILC | YES | NO | NO |
| 5 | TDSB Essential Skills Upgrading | YES | YES | NO |
| 6 | Adult learning: Ontario Bridge Training Program | YES | YES | NO |
| 7 | Khan Academy | YES | YES | YES |
| 8 | TPI eLearning | YES | YES | YES |
| 9 | Class Central | YES | YES | YES |
| 10 | PLAR MPLAR | YES | YES | NEED TO BE A STUDENT |

To learn more about the Post-Secondary access program “Sanctuary Scholars” you can watch the [webinar](#) on our website and download the [handout](#) attached.

Some additional resources can be found under the “Adult Education” section – [Together Project](#)

NOTE: This is not an exhaustive list of resources and are subject to change without prior notice as they are externally offered. We will periodically update this list with the version dated on the bottom right side of the handout.

Ver. April 09, 2026

 fcjrefugeecentre.org
  @FCJRefugeeCentre
  @RefugeeCentre
  @fcjrefugeecentre

QUESTIONS?

Post-Secondary & Beyond

Sanctuary Scholars Handout

Post-Secondary Access To Education Options with *Precarious Status*

YorkU (York University) AND **TMU** (Toronto Metropolitan University formerly known as Ryerson) –
Sanctuary Scholars Program

Program Overview

YorkU – [The Sanctuary Scholars Program](#)

- More information the [Sanctuary's Scholar Bridging Program](#)

TMU – [Sanctuary Scholars](#)

- **Tuition Fees:** Eligible students pay domestic fees rates (a significant reduction from international rates).
- **OSAP Eligibility:** Students with precarious immigration status are not eligible for OSAP until:
 - They receive a positive refugee decision (Protected Person/Convention Refugee)
 - They receive permanent residence.
 - For more information please refer to [OSAP's](#) website.
- **Scholarships/Bursaries:** Limited availability for students under this program.

| Direct Entry Stream | Bridging Program |
|---|--|
| For students who have the required courses to apply directly to York or TMU. How to Apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High school students in Ontario: Apply through OUAC. • International high school grads: Apply through York website, or through OUAC if you want to apply only to TMU or to both York and TMU. Contact the program officer to check if you're eligible: York: spisinfo@yorku.ca TMU: sanctuaryscholars@torontomu.ca | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who: For students who don't meet direct entry requirements or need extra academic preparation or support • What: Includes a free, one-term Sociology course to build skills and confidence (no credit). • How: Students must contact the program officer to check if they qualify (Tanya Aberman – email: spisinfo@yorku.ca). • Where: Half semester on YorkU's campus and half at TMU. |

Once students complete the course they can choose whether they will apply to YorkU or TMU.

[Spanning the Gaps](#) is separate program at **TMU**

- Mature learners (21+) who didn't finish high school or have been out of school for several years and are missing the prerequisite needed for the program they want to study in
- **Part-time, fully online** with a mix of synchronous and asynchronous courses.
- Typically spans **four semesters** (≈ 1½ years).
- Expect **2–3 evening classes per week**, plus 6–10 hours/week of homework.
- **Tuition:** Eligible learners can have their tuition fully subsidized.

Financing Education

- **Budget Consideration:** Prospective students must carefully consider their decision and manage their finances when applying for a program and selecting courses. Tuition is charged per course, so starting part-time or with fewer courses may be a more affordable option.
- Fees must be paid at the start of the semester — please note that you will be charged a small amount of interest per month if the fee is not paid.

Sanctuary Scholars Applications & Other Ventures

[York University](#)

What else do I need to know?

This program isn't open to students who are currently in Canada with international student immigration status or students who are hoping to come to Canada as international students. We have also worked hard to make other modifications across the University to ensure student safety, accessibility and a welcoming environment for Sanctuary Scholars.

To apply

Students must contact the program coordinator during their application process to ensure they are eligible for the Sanctuary Scholars program. For more information on the Sanctuary Scholars program, please contact a program coordinator: spisinfo@yorku.ca.

[Toronto Metropolitan University](#)

About This Program

The Sanctuary Scholars program offered at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) via the Office of Social Innovation (OSI), provides an access pathway specifically for students who hold precarious immigration status.

While students with precarious immigration status, who we have termed Sanctuary Scholars, can enroll in school at the elementary and secondary levels in Ontario, accessing the post-secondary level is often very difficult or even impossible. Sanctuary Scholars may have completed all of their education in Ontario, or may be coming to Canada with high school or even university-level education, but they cannot join their friends and peers in pursuing post-secondary education. This is why at Toronto Metropolitan University we have worked hard to develop a new access pathway specifically for Sanctuary Scholars.

In keeping with our commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and access as outlined in the 2020-2025 [Academic Plan](#), TMU has taken an important step by creating the Sanctuary Scholars program. We have furthered our commitment to welcome all people to an environment of belonging, based on the university's values of inclusivity, innovation and excellence. We work continuously to establish a safe and welcoming place for Sanctuary Scholars. We take the confidentiality and the unique needs of this group very seriously.

Contact

sanctuaryscholars@torontomu.ca

What is Precarious Immigration Status?

Within the Sanctuary Scholars program at TMU, the term 'precarious status' is used to include people who have made immigration applications, including: refugee claims, refused refugee claims, humanitarian and compassionate ground (H&C)* applications, pre-removal risk assessment (PRRA)* applications, people on temporary resident permits (TRPs)*, as well as those who have no immigration status.

*See the Terminology list

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION ACCESS PROGRAMS

Broad access programs:

- York University
- Toronto Metropolitan University

Some discussion, but no broad access programs:

- Queen's University
- Wilfred Laurier University
- University Of Toronto

****No colleges so far (aside from some bridging courses/programs)***

OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program)

The [Ontario Student Assistance Program \(OSAP\)](#) is a financial aid program that can help you pay for college or university.

OSAP offers funding through:

- **grants:** money you don't have to pay back
- **a student loan:** money you need to repay once you're done school

When you apply for OSAP, you are automatically considered for both grants and a loan. If you don't want to take a loan, and you're a full-time or part-time student, you can decline it after your application is approved.

OSAP can help you pay for: tuition, books and equipment, fees charged by your school, living expenses (full-time students only), child care (for full-time and part-time students with children)

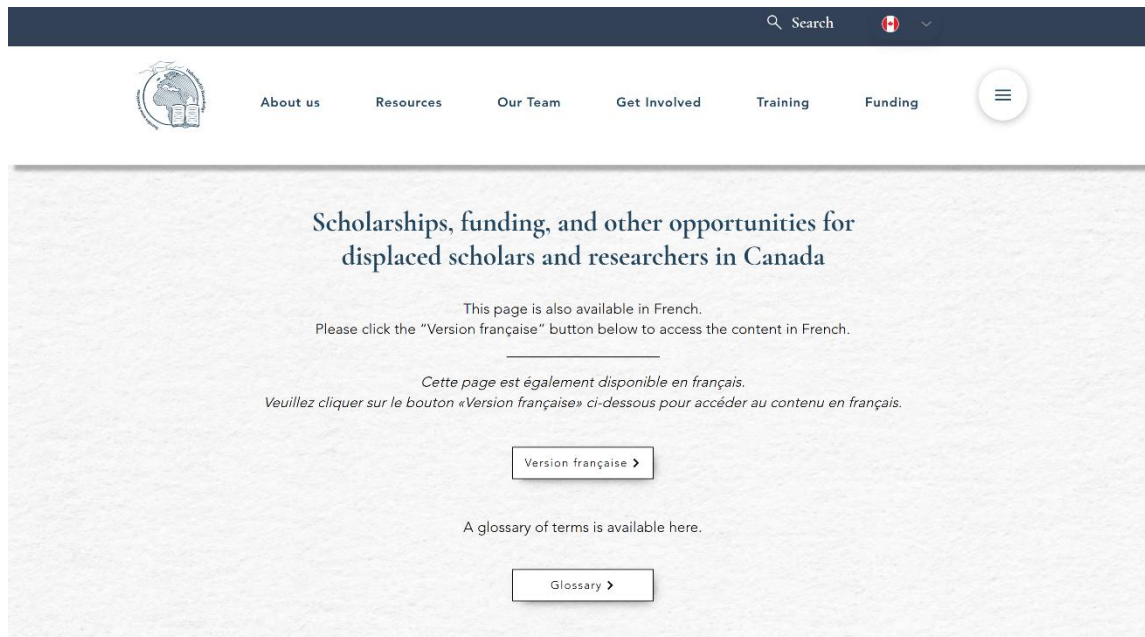
OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program)

Note: There have been some changes to the OSAP and tuition freezes in Ontario as of February 12, 2026:

- The allocation of OSAP funding for eligible students in the new school year will be reduced from a maximum of 85% to a maximum of 25% for grants, with funding for loans increased to a minimum of 75%.
- From the 2026-2027 school year, publicly-assisted colleges and universities will be able to raise tuition fees by up to 2% per year for the next three years.
- Learn more: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/osap-ontario-student-assistance-program>

Some Financial Assistance Options

[UnborderED Knowledge](#)



Search

About us Resources Our Team Get Involved Training Funding

Scholarships, funding, and other opportunities for displaced scholars and researchers in Canada

This page is also available in French.
Please click the "Version française" button below to access the content in French.

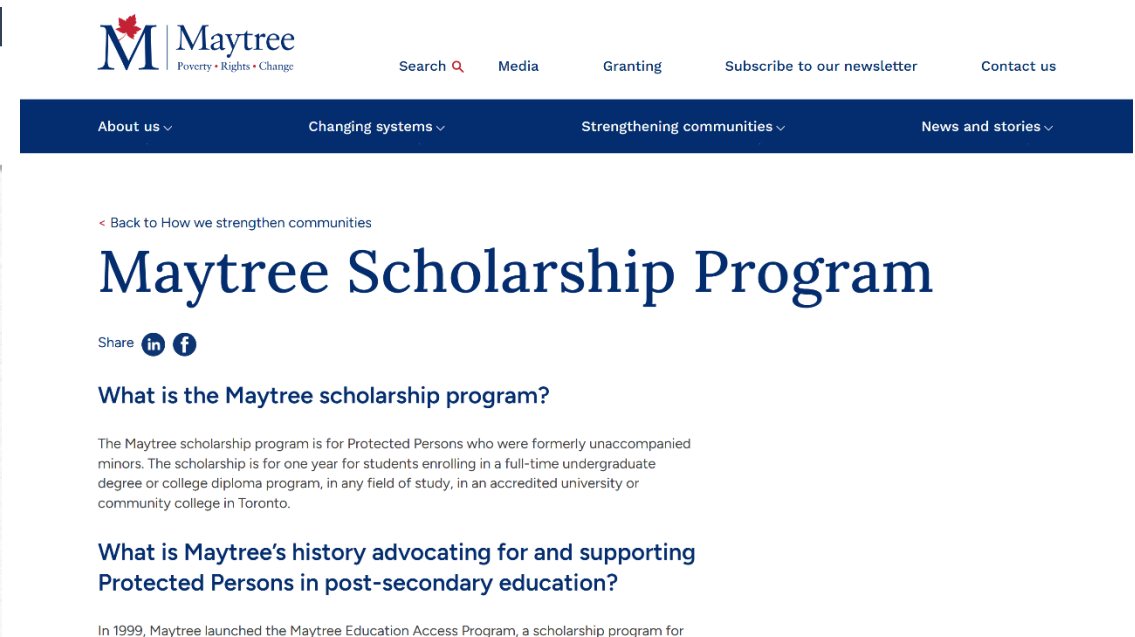
*Cette page est également disponible en français.
Veuillez cliquer sur le bouton «Version française» ci-dessous pour accéder au contenu en français.*

Version française >

A glossary of terms is available here.

Glossary >

[Maytree Scholarship Program](#)



Maytree
Poverty • Rights • Change

Search Q Media Granting Subscribe to our newsletter Contact us

About us v Changing systems v Strengthening communities v News and stories v

< Back to How we strengthen communities

Maytree Scholarship Program

Share in f

What is the Maytree scholarship program?

The Maytree scholarship program is for Protected Persons who were formerly unaccompanied minors. The scholarship is for one year for students enrolling in a full-time undergraduate degree or college diploma program, in any field of study, in an accredited university or community college in Toronto.

What is Maytree's history advocating for and supporting Protected Persons in post-secondary education?

In 1999, Maytree launched the Maytree Education Access Program, a scholarship program for

Some Financial Assistance Options

ONE City Scholarship



ONE City Scholarships are awarded to awesome TDSB students who have demonstrated financial need and/or significant personal challenges

Our multi-year scholarships for post-secondary education at college, university or apprenticeships celebrate your achievement and your future potential!

Applications for the ONE City Scholarship are now open!

APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIP

TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORMS

S4 Collective

Home [About Us](#) Partners Services Projects and Resources Annual Report Donate

S4 Collective's
IMPACT REPORT
Bursary Distribution
2024

Introduction
We are the Sanctuary Students Solidarity and Support (S4) Collective. Our vision? A world where barriers don't exist and borders are abolished. Our mission? For all Sanctuary Students to have access to education regardless of their immigration status. To us, a Sanctuary Student refers to any student who has less than permanent immigration status in Canada and includes (but is not limited to) folks awaiting a refugee claim, those whose claims have been denied, folks

Sanctuary

IMPACT REPORT
BURSARY DISTRIBUTION 2023

Introduction
We are the Sanctuary Students Solidarity and Support (S4) Collective. Our vision? A world where barriers don't exist and borders are abolished. Our mission? For all Sanctuary Students to have access to education regardless of their immigration status. To us, a Sanctuary Student refers to any student who has less than permanent immigration status in Canada and includes (but is not limited to) folks awaiting a refugee claim, those whose claims have been denied, folks who have fallen in and out of the immigration system, and folks who are undocumented.

Some Financial Assistance Options

For Youth Initiative

FYI Scholarship Program

Meet the 2025 FYI Scholarship
Winners!



Congratulations to all of our 2025
Scholarship winners!

Applications are currently closed

CONTACT DLVIAD@FORYOUTH.CA WITH YOUR QUESTIONS

Since 2005, FYI's Scholarship Program has given over \$210,000+ to 123 youth. The FYI Scholarship program, now in its 19th year, is in commemoration of Jamal Hemmings and Amon Beckles, Toronto youth who were lost to gun violence in November 2005. Jamal and Amon were participants in FYI's daily programs and will be remembered for their positive, vibrant personalities and dance skills. The FYI Scholarship Program supports our community's youth towards a brighter future through funding support for various forms of education including: college, university, training, trades, and certificate programs.

Scholarship Writing Workshops

Scholarship writing workshops typically run throughout the spring and summer. These workshops are on a bi-weekly basis, and more details will be available shortly. Stay Tuned!

CCR Daniel Schickedanz Scholarship

The Daniel Schickedanz Scholarship Award Program

Program Description

Daniel Schickedanz's belief in youth is rooted in his own experience that if given opportunity & support, youth can excel in their education and contribute to a positive social change in society. The Daniel Schickedanz Scholarship Award supports young people of refugee and/or migrant background in their efforts to pursue higher education. It encourages youth engagement within their local communities.

The Daniel Schickedanz Scholarship Award is facilitated through the collaborative efforts of [Canadian Lutheran World Relief \(CLWR\)](#) and the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR).

The program will be in place for 10 years. The purpose of the program is to support young people as they:

- Play a role in creating positive social change, and
- Prepare to be active citizens promoting diversity and advocating for refugee and migrant rights.

Details

- Ten scholarships will be available per year. Five (5) of them will be awarded on an educational basis and five (5) of them will be awarded on a community-engagement basis.
- Each scholarship is valued at \$775.00 CAD in 2025.
- Applications open on September 5, 2025 and close on October 24, 2025.
- The CCR Youth Network Core Team will review the applications and select applicants based on the criteria below, along two streams: a) educational commitment and b) community engagement.

Some Financial Assistance Options

Access Alliance



Access Alliance
Multicultural Health and Community Services

Work with us | Book an appointment online | Donate | Volunteer

Search

Home | About Us | Programs & Services | Language Services | Research & Advocacy | Program Calendar | Get Involved | Blog

Home - Nahom Berhane Scholarship for Leadership and Inclusion

Nahom Berhane Scholarship for Leadership and Inclusion

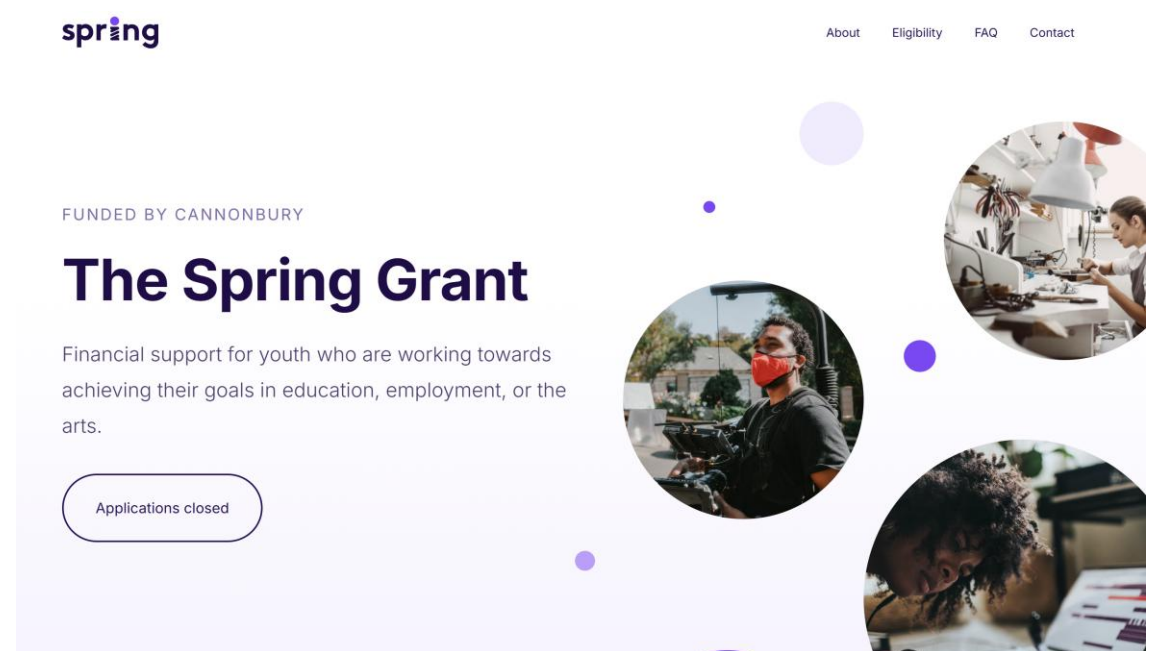


Commemorating the [life and legacy of Nahom Berhane](#), the **Nahom Berhane Scholarship for Leadership and Inclusion** provided assistance to youth with a proven track record of volunteerism, community service and leadership in the community, who were in need of financial support to attend university, college, or professional trades training.

Nahom was a charismatic and well-respected health promoter at Access Alliance for five years. His passion, leadership, and commitment to equity and social justice engaged the youth he worked



The Spring



spr̥ng


About | Eligibility | FAQ | Contact

FUNDED BY CANNONBURY

The Spring Grant



Financial support for youth who are working towards achieving their goals in education, employment, or the arts.

Applications closed



Some Financial Assistance Options

UNHCR List of Scholarships

|   Scholarship Opportunities for Refugees | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Thank you so much for your interest in higher education opportunities for refugees! We are making changes to the Opportunities website as a result of shifts in UNHCR's capacity to maintain this resource in its current format. Please explore below dashboard for the list of accredited higher education academic or scholarship programmes verified by UNHCR and available in your current country of asylum. For study opportunities outside the country where you are located and additional resources, please visit the UNHCR Help site (and filter for country-specific pages). | | | |
| Search from below table <input type="text" value="Enter SearchText"/> | This opportunity is for students who are... All | Type of funding All | Level of studies offered All |
| Opportunity | Country of study | Name(s) of Programme Provider | Link to programme website |
| "Leadership for Africa" Programme for Cameroon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Niger, and Senegal: Master's Degree Scholarships in Germany 2023/24 | Germany | DAAD - German Academic Exchange Service | |
| "Leadership for Africa" Programme for Chad, DR Congo, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo: Master's Degree Scholarships in Germany 2024/25" | Germany | DAAD - German Academic Exchange Service | |
| "Leadership for Africa" Programme in Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Mauritania: Master's Degree Scholarships in Germany 2025/26" | Germany | DAAD - German Academic Exchange Service | |
| 100 Syrian Women, 10,000 Syrian Lives Scholarship at McGill University | Canada | Jusoor, McGill University | |
| 50% Registration Fee Reduction (6 Universities) | Chad | 6 Universities in Chad | gomespr@unhcr.org |
| Agricultural Sciences (Engineer in Agronomy) | Costa Rica | EARTH University | https://www.earth.ac.cr/apply |
| Al Ghurair Young Thinkers Program | | Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education | http://www.youngthinker.org |
| Albert Einstein Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) | Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, CA te | UNHCR | https://www.unhcr.org/dafi-scholarships.html |

Catholic Charities Scholarship



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Sisters of Service Scholarship

The Sisters of Service Scholarship will be annually awarded to **two students (one youth and one adult)** who are recent immigrants or convention refugees¹ and have expressed a desire to pursue further and/or continuing education.

Each recipient will be awarded a monetary reward of up to \$5,000.

The Applicant:

- Is a Child or youth up to 29 years of age or is an adult over the age of 29 years
- Resides, studies, or works within the geographic area of the Archdiocese of Toronto
- Is in good academic standing
- Is a recent immigrant or convention refugee to Canada who has obtained landed immigrant or permanent resident status over the past five years
- Must be endorsed by a teacher, an agency, or a community partner whose values align with those of CCAT.

Submission Documentation Checklist

Apply via email, including the following:

- A submission paper (2 pages maximum) or short video (5 mins maximum) outlining why you are pursuing a career in your field of study and the impact you hope to have on your community. Please indicate how long you have been in Canada.
- Proof of acceptance into your program with an accredited institution.
- Two** letters of reference (e.g., academic, community involvement) to be submitted directly to Catholic Charities by your reference provider via this link: [Catholic Charities Scholarship Reference Form – 2026 – Fill out form](#) or by scanning this QR Code.
- Applicants will complete the attached declaration, attesting to the authenticity of their application. *Refer to Attachment 1 for the Attestation*
- Completed application to be submitted to Catholic Charities by April 30th to info@ccat.ca with the subject line: **Application for the Sisters of Service Scholarship.**

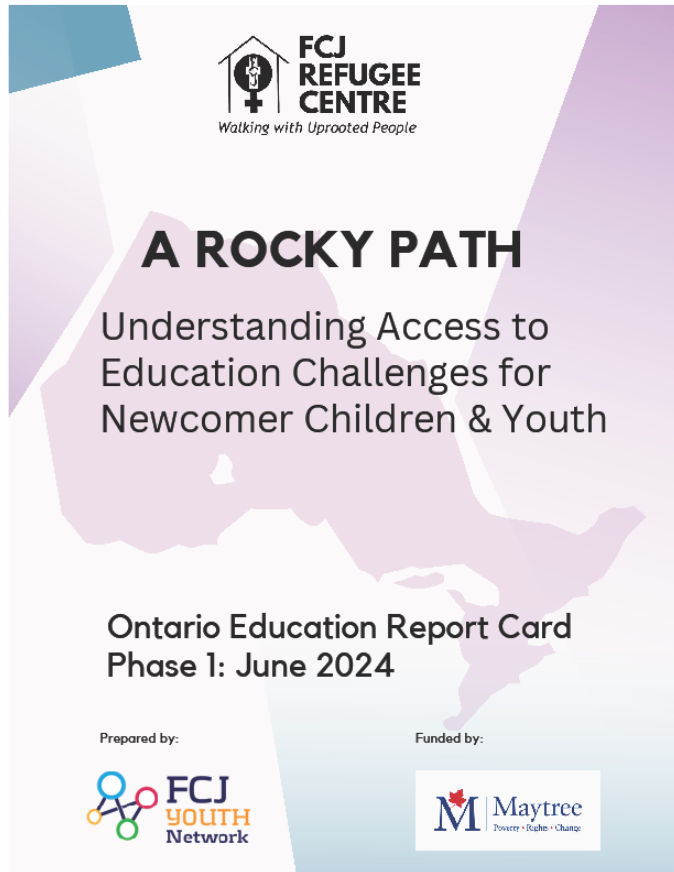



Current Advocacy Efforts

ONTARIO EDUCATION REPORT CARD PROJECT

- The Uprooted Education 2016 Ontario Report was the result of a project undertaken by members of the FCJ Youth Network to explore how the unique trajectories and social locations of migrant youth with precarious immigration status intersect with Access T.O.; particularly its involvement in, Ontario High Schools.
- The 2024-2025 reports did a follow-up on the 2016 edition detailing the current experiences through the same five salient themes (Getting In, Equitable Participation, Anti-discrimination, Support, Moving On), and offers insight into promising practices and possibilities to ignite change.

REPORT CARDS, FOCUS GROUPS & ROUNDTABLE





 FCJ
REFUGEE
CENTRE
Walking with Uprooted People

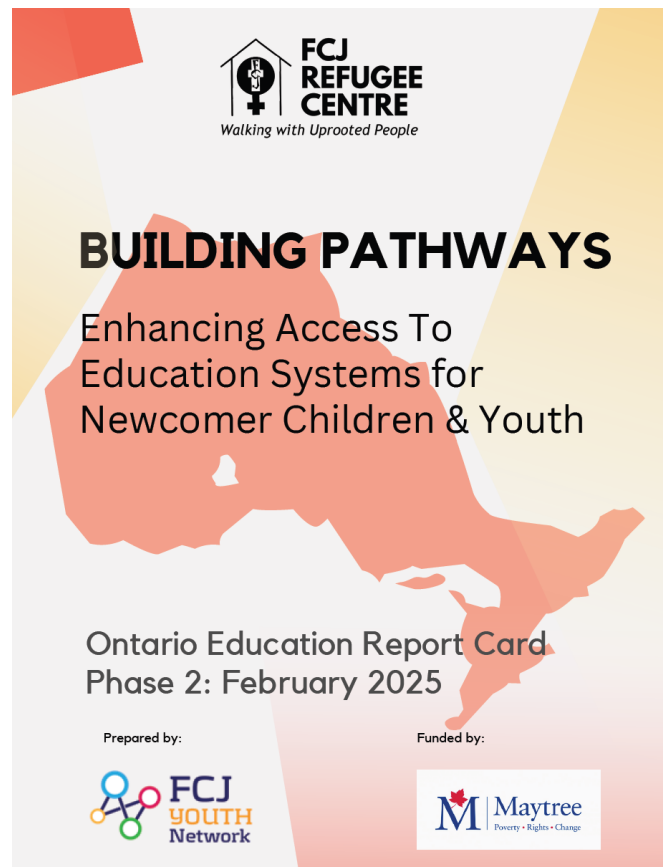
A ROCKY PATH


Understanding Access to
Education Challenges for
Newcomer Children & Youth

Ontario Education Report Card
Phase 1: June 2024

Prepared by:  FCJ
YOUTH
Network

Funded by:  Maytree
Poverty • Rights • Change





 FCJ
REFUGEE
CENTRE
Walking with Uprooted People

BUILDING PATHWAYS

Enhancing Access To
Education Systems for
Newcomer Children & Youth

Ontario Education Report Card
Phase 2: February 2025

Prepared by:  FCJ
YOUTH
Network

Funded by:  Maytree
Poverty • Rights • Change



SEPTEMBER 25
9:30AM TO
12:00PM

ROUNDTABLE

ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN ONTARIO

 FCJ
YOUTH
Network

 FCJ
REFUGEE
CENTRE

 Maytree
Poverty • Rights • Change

SOME RESOURCES

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

THE SANCTUARY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Pathways to post-secondary education in Ontario with precarious immigration status

WEBINAR

FEB. 12

4:00 PM

[Watch Here](#)

416-469-9754
fcjrefugeecentre.org
208 Oakwood Ave, Toronto, ON M6E 2V4

FCJ Refugee Centre
Walking With Uprooted People

Post-Secondary Access To Education Options with Precarious Status

YorkU (York University) AND **TMU** (Toronto Metropolitan University formerly known as Ryerson) – **Sanctuary Scholars Program**

Program Overview

YorkU – [The Sanctuary Scholars Program](#)

- More information the [Sanctuary's Scholar Bridging Program](#)

TMU – [Sanctuary Scholars](#)

- **Tuition Fees:** Eligible students pay domestic fees rates (a significant reduction from international rates).
- **OSAP Eligibility:** Students with precarious immigration status are not eligible for OSAP until:
 - They receive a positive refugee decision (Protected Person Convention Refugee)
 - They receive permanent residence
 - For more information please refer to [OSAP's](#) website.
- **Scholarships/Bursaries:** Limited availability for students under this program.

| Direct Entry Stream | Bridging Program |
|--|---|
| For students who have the required courses to apply directly to York or TMU. | • Who: For students who don't meet direct entry requirements or need extra academic preparation or support |
| How to Apply: | • What: Includes a free, one-term Sociology course to build skills and confidence (no credit). |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High school students in Ontario: Apply through OUAC. • International high school grads: Apply through York website, or through OUAC if you want to apply only to TMU or to both York and TMU. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How: Students must contact the program officer to check if they qualify (Tanya Abernan – email: spisinfo@yorku.ca) • Where: Half semester on YorkU's campus and half at TMU. |
| Contact the program officer to check if you're eligible: York: spisinfo@yorku.ca TMU: sanctuaryscholars@torontomu.ca | |

Once students complete the course they can choose whether they will apply to YorkU or TMU.

Spanning the Gaps is separate program at **TMU**

- Mature learners (21+) who didn't finish high school or have been out of school for several years and are missing the prerequisite needed for the program they want to study in
- **Part-time, fully online** with a mix of synchronous and asynchronous courses.
- Typically spans **four semesters** (~1½ years).
- Expect **2-3 evening classes per week**, plus 6-10 hours/week of homework.
- **Tuition:** Eligible learners can have their tuition fully subsidized.

Financing Education

- **Budget Consideration:** Prospective students must carefully consider their decision and manage their finances when applying for a program and selecting courses. Tuition is charged per course, so starting part-time or with fewer courses may be a more affordable option.
- Fees must be paid at the start of the semester — please note that you will be charged a small amount of interest per month if the fee is not paid.

fcjrefugeecentre.org @FCJRefugeeCentre @RefugeeCentre @fcjrefugeecentre

[Download](#)

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

What Are My Educational Options After High School With Precarious Immigration Status?

WEBINAR

APRIL 9

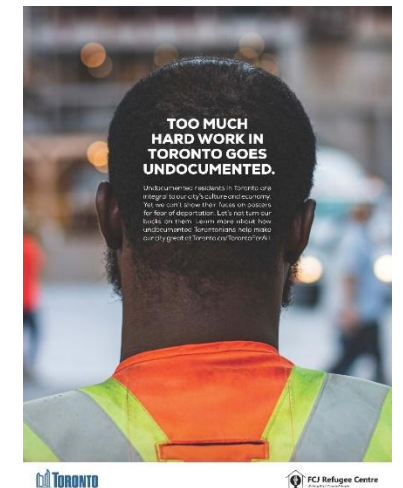
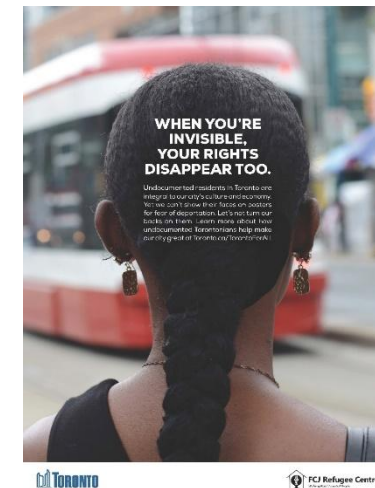
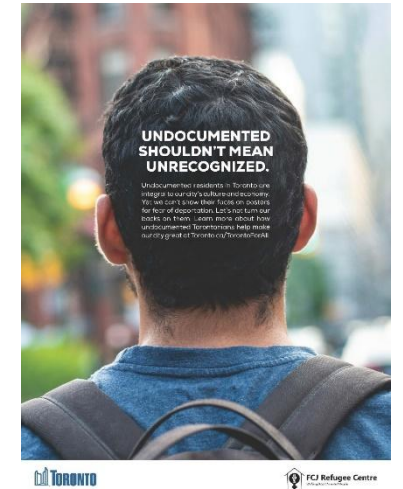
4:00 PM

Coming soon...

WHO IS ACCOUNTABLE?

- When vulnerable populations are marginalized, it often falls to local, grass roots efforts to support and advocate for equitable access and equal rights.
- Using your privilege as power.
- Importance of allies & networks
- Advocacy – the needle is moving; but it takes collective action and tireless advocacy

Toronto For All Campaign



Thank you

Stefan Enrique Joseph Kallikaden
stefanj@fcjrefugeecentre.org
416-469-9754 ext. 248

Connect with us:

 **208 Oakwood Avenue
Toronto, ON M6E 2V4**

 **416-469-9754**

 **437-217-3786**

 **info@fcjrefugeecentre.org**

 **fcjrefugeecentre.org**

