



International | Canadore Pathways to Success

Turning Challenges into Job Search Success

Job Market Overview for International Students



Barriers Are Normal

Most international students face barriers when looking for work, especially if they are new to the Canadian job market.

Common barriers may include:

- Limited local work experience
- Few Canadian references
- Unfamiliar resume or interview expectations
- Uncertainty about work eligibility
- Limited professional network
- Transportation or scheduling challenges
- Lack of confidence when speaking with employers

Key point:

Barriers do not mean you cannot succeed. They show where additional support, information, practice, or new strategies can help.



Job Experience in Canada & Limited References

Many students have experience but may not yet have experience that is familiar to Canadian employers.

Local experience can be built through:

- Part-time or entry-level work
- On-campus jobs
- Co-op, placement, or field experience
- Volunteering or community involvement
- Class projects connected to real workplace skills
- Workshops, certifications, or short training
- Strong references from instructors, supervisors, or community contacts

Key point:

Local experience does not have to be your final career job. It can be a first step that helps employers understand your skills, reliability, and workplace readiness.



Taking Advantage of Support Early

Support works best when students use it before they feel stuck or urgently need a job.

Students can use support early by:

- Checking work eligibility questions before accepting work
- Researching questions you may have about the employer or the job
- Getting feedback on resumes and cover letters
- Practicing interview answers before an interview
- Learning how to track applications and follow up
- Asking for help if they are not getting responses
- Connecting and reaching out to support when needed

Key point:

Do not wait until the job search becomes stressful. Using support early can help you avoid common mistakes and build a stronger plan.

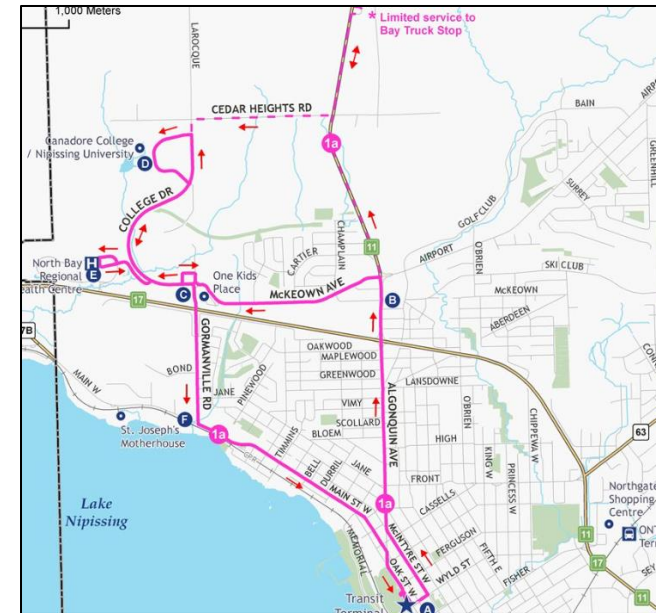


Work Eligibility, Schedule, & Transportation

A strong job search starts with knowing what work you can realistically accept.

Before applying, students should:

- Understand whether they are eligible to work
- Review the conditions of their study permit
- Know their availability
- Apply for jobs that match their available hours
- Check transportation routes and commute times
- Consider whether the workplace is realistic to travel to
- Plan ahead before they urgently need work



Key point:

A realistic job search considers work eligibility, class schedule, and transportation before applying, not after receiving an interview or job offer.



Application and Resume Challenges

A resume is not just a list of everything you have done. It should show why you are a good match for the job.

Common tips to help:

- Use resumes that highlight skills you have that more relevant directly to the job
- Almost always include a cover letter with your application
- Keep applications and resumes, applications and cover letters focused on key points
- When talking about your experience, try connect it to the job's requirements
- Use a format that is easy to scan and is ATS (applicant tracking system) friendly
- Ensure you thoroughly read the job description and application before applying

Key point:

If your applications are not getting responses, your resume may need to be clearer, more focused, and better connected to the job you are applying for.



Interview and Communication Challenges

Having experience is important, but clearly presenting yourself and your experience is equally valuable in an Interview

Strong interview communication includes:

- Giving clear, concise answers that respond to the question
- Using examples from your own experience
- Explaining your skills in a way that connects to the job
- Presenting yourself in a clean, well-dressed, and professional manner
- Making sure your phone is off or away during the interview
- Showing confidence without being disrespectful
- Asking thoughtful questions about the role or workplace

Key point:

Interview skills can improve with practice. Strong answers usually explain what you did, how you did it, and why it matters for the job.



Example: Dressing for Interview

TRADITIONAL
BUSINESS CASUAL



MODERN
BUSINESS CASUAL



Business Casual



Formalwear





What Should You Do Next?

Search for one local job posting you might apply for and identify one requirement or barrier you would need to plan around.

Next Video: How to Use the Pathways
Program Effectively

Kristopher Smith,
Coordinator International Student Services,
Canadore College
Kristopher.Smith@CanadoreCollege.ca

Office Locations:
Monday & Friday: 60 Commerce Cres, E1001Tuesday,
Wednesday & Thursday: 00 College Drive, C210