

## Transition Resource Guide for BC Students

According to a 2016 study of Canadian students with visual impairment enrolled in post-secondary study, one of the strongest predictors of graduation is the student's perception of control over their academic success ([Fichten et al., 2016](#)). Therefore, a student's perceptions and attitudes about how "in control" she feels about her academic success may impact her prospects for graduation. The transition programming and planning process should empower students to be the architects of their own post-secondary success.

The outreach team at PRCVI has assembled a transition resource guide to assist teachers of students with visual impairments in framing the conversation with students and their families around key issues related to post-secondary transition. While this resource guide is not exhaustive, it emphasizes organizations and resources specific to post-secondary studies in British Columbia.

## Financial Support

Questions to consider:

- What will it cost for me to complete my post-secondary program?
- How will I pay for my tuition?
- How will I pay for my living expenses?

[PRCVI Scholarship/Bursary Page](#)

The PRCVI website lists a number of scholarship and bursary opportunities that are specific to students with visual impairment who are pursuing post-secondary studies. Please note the application deadline for each specific opportunity.



## Financial Support (continued)

### [StudentAid BC](#)

Students who are BC residents and are pursuing full-time studies at an eligible post-secondary institution may apply for student loans through StudentAid BC.

- [BC Supplemental Bursary for Students with a Permanent Disability](#) (SBSD). Students who are eligible for federal student grants are eligible for SBSD. Between \$400-800 is available.
- [BC Access Grant for Students with a Permanent Disability](#) (BCAG). BCAG supports full-time students with a permanent disability by replacing approx. \$1,000

### [Canada Student Loans](#)

The federal government offers education loans to full- and part-time students enrolled at designated post-secondary institutions in Canada. Students with visual impairment who qualify for financial assistance may also apply for:

- [Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Permanent Disabilities](#) (CSGP-SEPD). Eligible students can receive up to \$8000 each school year to cover the costs associated with exceptional education-related services or equipment.
- [Canada Student Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities](#) (CSGP-PD). Qualifying financial support is determined based on student need.

### [Military Police Fund](#)

The Military Police Fund provides financial assistance for children and youth up to the age of 21 across Canada.



## Enrolment Support

Questions to consider:

- Where will I find a program that best matches my interests and career goals?
- Do I have the correct prerequisite courses from secondary school to apply to my programs of interest?
- How will I apply to my programs of interest?
- If I transfer between post-secondary institutions, will my coursework be recognized by my incoming school?

### [Education Planner](#)

EducationPlanner.ca is a BC government-funded online resource that allows students to compare post-secondary programs in BC and to locate programs by institution, subject area, program length, and program credential.

### [BC Transfer Guide](#)

Many post-secondary institutions in BC accept transfer credits from other institutions. The BC Transfer Guide allows students to check how individual courses transfer from one institution to another.

### [ApplyBC.ca](#)

ApplyBC is a centralized, online application service open to anyone wanting to apply for admission to a post-secondary institution in British Columbia, Canada.

### [Disability Resource Centres](#)

Post-secondary institutions task disability resource centers on campus to provide support to students with disabilities. Linked above is a listing of all disability resource centers at post-secondary institutions in BC. Students are encouraged to contact the disability resource center at their prospective post-secondary institution to make the connection and to enquire about the supports available on campus for students with visual impairment.





## Accommodations Support

### [Centre for Accessible Post-Secondary Education Resources \(CAPER-BC\)](#)

CAPER-BC provides accessible teaching and learning materials to students with visual impairment enrolled at [qualifying post-secondary institutions](#).

### [Assistive Technology British Columbia \(AT-BC\)](#)

AT-BC provides assistive technology through loans and grants to post-secondary students and employees with disabilities in British Columbia.

### [National Educational Association of Disabled Students \(NEADS\)](#)

NEADS offers resources and programs for post-secondary students across Canada, including webinars, local workshops, recommendations, and a database of financial aid programs in each province.

### [Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians \(AEBC\)](#)

The AEBC offers a student listserv to bring together post-secondary students from across Canada and provide them with a platform through which to voice opinions, share knowledge and information, and meet fellow students. For more information about the AEBC student listserv, contact Leo Bissonnette at [leo@blindcanadians.ca](mailto:leo@blindcanadians.ca). In addition, AEBC has local chapters in major Canadian cities and offers several yearly scholarships for students.



## **Skill Development/Training**

### [VCC Visually Impaired Adult Program](#)

The VCC Visually Impaired Adult program is designed to provide adults with visual impairments with the skills needed to pursue other post-secondary programs. Courses include a variety of subjects, from high school upgrading and ESL to braille and assistive technology.

### [Blind Beginnings](#)

Blind Beginnings is a non-profit organization that runs a variety of programs for children and youth with visual impairments in BC, including Youth Leadership workshops and projects.

### [CNIB Youth Camps](#)

The CNIB SCORE 4 camp is designed for students in their final two years of high school who want to develop team-building, leadership, and career skills. Taking place in Toronto and at the CNIB Lake Joseph Centre each summer, applications are open to youth with visual impairments from across Canada.

### [Get Together with Technology \(GTT\)](#)

The Canadian Council of the Blind (CCB) runs Get Together with Technology groups in communities across Canada. These groups are designed to help people who are blind or partially sighted explore and integrate assistive technologies into their lives.

