

# Estimating University Costs

(for domestic undergraduate students)

## Tuition, Fees and Books

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Education Fees<sup>1</sup>

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## Total costs for one year of study (Tuition, fees, books and living costs)

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Living at Home	\$17,610.00 - \$18,210.00
On-Campus Living	\$21,254.00 - \$24,054.00
Off-Campus Living	\$23,194.00 - \$23,794.00

## Is a university degree worth the cost?

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The above estimates show that to obtain a four-year degree it will cost approximately \$88,000. Is University worth the cost? A 2010 study conducted by the Canadian Labour Market and Skills Research Network shows that a female university graduate could expect to earn on average 37% more than a male high school graduate. By 2005, this income advantage had grown to 50%. The income advantage for women with university degrees is higher still. Despite all the talk about Bachelor graduates not getting jobs, an analysis of provincial graduate surveys shows that employment rates remain almost without exception over 90 per cent. Beyond employment outcomes, a university education also has many important non-monetary benefits. Some of these are personal to the individual, while others benefit society more generally. In both cases, these benefits may be difficult to define and measure, but they can be talked about in very general terms. For example, research suggests that university graduates:

- enjoy higher quality jobs than non-graduates
- enjoy better health
- are more influential in the community by being active citizens who are more likely to vote and participate in voluntary activities
- show positive attitudes towards diversity and equal opportunities such as on race and gender equality issues
- are a source of wider innovation and economic growth because they have a higher skill level.

"A good head and good heart are always a formidable combination. But when you add to that a literate tongue or pen, then you have something very special."

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Nelson Mandela