



Ministry of
Post-Secondary Education
and Future Skills






Private Training Act Regulations Amendments 2025

Measures to strengthen quality and student supports – Phase 2

Private Training Institutions
Information Session

July 25, 2024

Challenges – B.C.'s International Education System

1.  **Integrity:** Students are misled about the quality of institutions, programs, costs, living conditions, and future opportunities (work, permanent residence). Impact to B.C.'s reputation.
2.  **Housing Availability and Affordability:** Significant international student enrolment increases housing demand in supply-constrained communities, further increasing the vulnerability of students, and impacting communities and residents.
3.  **Education Standards:** Low quality standards at some institutions and programs, and insufficient compliance and enforcement.
4.  **Labour Market Outcomes:** Weak economic outcomes for international students, visible in their reliance on low-wage, low opportunity jobs; low average incomes post-graduation; low/slow Permanent Residency transition rates.
5.  **Fiscal Reliance:** Public institutions are financially dependent on the tuition revenue from international students.



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International Education Framework

Education Quality Assurance (EQA) Policy*

(required to enroll international students)

*University Act and
College and
Institute Act*

Guidelines For
International
Education at BC
Public Post-Secondary
Institutions*

*Degree
Authorization
Act **

*Private
Training
Institutes Act**

25 Public Post-Secondary
Institutions

22 Private degree granting & out
of province institutions

320 Private career
colleges and
language schools

* *Changes as part of Phase II*

Recap: January 29 Phase I Announcement

- On January 29, 2024, the Ministry announced the implementation of phase 1 changes to ensure institutions deliver a quality education with the supports students need to study and succeed, including:
 - A moratorium on new institutions seeking to host international students until February 2026;
 - Higher standards for approval of new private degree programs;
 - Strengthened standards, inspection and enforcement for private training institutions; and
 - Tuition transparency for international students at public institutions.



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Recap: PTIB April Announcement

Changes and updates from the PTIB that relate to the B.C. Government announcement on January 29, 2024:
B.C. strengthens quality standards for international education

1. **Trustee decisions posted on PTIB's website**
2. **Distance and combined delivery standards**
3. **Standards for terminology in program titles**
4. **Enrollment contracts: course materials and itemized lists of services/resources for student-paid fees**
5. **Forthcoming: language proficiency requirements**
 - On January 29, 2024, the Province announced that new minimum language requirements will be set for PTIs
6. **Updated application forms**



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Education Quality Assurance: Policy changes and Code of Practice

- Changes to the EQA policy increase the operational expectations institutions must meet to be eligible to enrol international students.
- A new EQA Code of Practice will be introduced. EQA institutions will be required to confirm their adherence to the Code of Practice standards annually, starting in January 2025.
- New standards include:
 - Clear and accurate marketing and promotion information.
 - Accountability for education agents.
 - Tuition transparency.
 - Enhanced information about student supports, including housing assistance, academic support, well-being and health.
- For additional information, go to: gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/post-secondary-education/institution-resources-administration/education-quality-assurance



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Quality Standards



Raising certification standards for designation

Existing provisions

- An institution must only hold a certificate for **one year** before it can be designated.
- An institution can become designated if it has had student enrolment for half of its programs; it is not required that students complete the full program; a **single student enrolment** in a program is sufficient.

New provisions

- Must hold a certificate for **two years** before designation.
- If the institution does not hold a designation certificate, must have provided 100% of the hours of instruction of at least **half of its approved programs** to at least **5 students** (does not apply to Regulatory Body Class Institutions).
- Must offer **at least one Class A or Class C program** unless the institution is in the regulatory body institution class, or if all programs are Class B programs accredited under the Skilled Trades BC Act.
 - Effective January 1, 2025 for institutions that do not hold a designation certificate.
 - Effective January 1, 2026 for institutions that do hold a designation certificate.

Learning Objectives & Work Experience (WE) must be appropriate

Existing provisions

- Registrar can only consider whether learning objectives are relevant.
- For WE, Registrar cannot consider whether the WE activities are appropriate to the learning objectives.

New provisions

- Allows Registrar to consider appropriateness of learning objectives to properly evaluate whether the objectives will properly prepare students for the career they are training for.
- Allows Registrar to consider whether WE activities are appropriate to ensure WE appropriately contributes to student education.

Work Experience

Existing provisions

- Practicums capped at 20% of hours of instruction, preceptorship at 10%, clinical placements at 50%, and cooperative placements at 50%.

New provisions

- Two or more work experience components together must not consist of more than 50% of the hours of instruction.
- Existing exemptions are preserved where regulators require higher percentages for WE components.

Students in a program with WE must receive a written evaluation on a **regular basis**, rather than only once.

Course materials & access to instructors

Existing provisions

- No requirement to provide course material prior to it being needed.
- No requirement that students have regular access to instructors.

New provisions

- Ensure that course materials are provided to students before or at the time the course materials are required for the program.
- Ensure that students are provided with regular access to the instructors of the program.

Language proficiency requirements

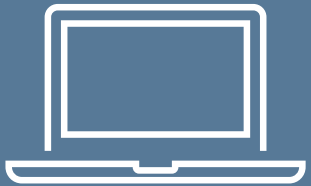
Existing provisions

- No requirements that when institutions require proof of English language proficiency, they must use generally accepted standardized tests.

New provisions

- By policy, admission requirements for Class A and B programs must include **a language proficiency requirement (LPR), regardless of the program's language of instruction.**
- By regulation, **English** language proficiency requirements must include language tests that are broadly recognized as a standardized test (e.g., TOEFL, IELTS) and that are conducted by a reputable third party. Language proficiency tests for programs delivered in a language other than English will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- Institutions will no longer be permitted to use in-house language assessments as a substitute for standardized testing.
- Student records must contain evidence of language proficiency at the level required by the institution's admission requirements.

Distance education compliance standards



Existing provisions

No compliance standards in regulation specifically for distance education.

New provisions

International students with a study permit may not be enrolled in distance education programs where more than 50% of the hours of instruction are delivered by distance.

Programs with at least 20% of the hours of instruction delivered by distance must use a learning management system (LMS).

Asynchronous delivery must have a system that enables the institution to track and confirm a student's progress.

Professional development requirement for instructors

New provisions

An instructor of a vocational or practical course who provides **20% or more of the hours of instruction** of a program, other than the hours of instructions for a work experience component, must complete at least **five hours of professional development each year** in either an area relevant to the subject matter area of the program or instructional delivery, design, assessment, or evaluation.

Effective date: January 1, 2026.

Diploma Standards

Existing provisions

Credential standards do not distinguish a certificate from a diploma.

New provisions

For Class A and B programs, an institution may only issue a diploma if the program **would require at least 12 months to complete if a student was enrolled in the program full-time.**

Applies to programs that start on or after **January 1, 2026.**

Change of control criterion in Category Assignment

- Institutions with **no changes of control in the last 5 years receive a score of 1**,
- Those with a **change within the previous 5 years but not the previous 2 years receive a score of 2**, and
- Those with a **change of control in the previous 2 years receive a score of 3**.

Existing Provisions:

- The current institutions who have changed control within the previous 2 years receive a score of 2, and institutions who have not receive a score of 1.
- Change of control is one of 10 criteria for registered institutions (12 for designated institutions) used to assess risk – otherwise known as ‘category assignment.’

Significance:

- Adjusting how the change of control criteria are calculated reflects the risk associated with institutions changing control (new parties are often unaware of their compliance responsibilities).
- Ensuring institutions are assigned to risk categories which reflect their risk to students and the sector ensures the stability of the sector and the health of the Student Tuition Protection Fund.



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Student Protections



Raising standards for information & international student enrolment

Existing provisions

- Institutions must set out information in publications, on their website, and physically at the institution, however are not always required to do so **prominently** and in an **easily accessible manner**.
- There are **no facility requirements specific to capacity for international students**.

New provisions

- Making publication, website, and posting standards require that information is **prominent** and **accessible**, including a link to the PTIB website, program information, and the institution's tuition refund policy, dispute resolution policy, sexual misconduct policy, and statement of student rights.
- Institutions must ensure that facilities include dedicated spaces that are available to international students who have been issued study permits, and are accessible by those students outside the hours of instruction of an approved program, for the purpose of study and socializing. **Effective January 1, 2026.**

Institutions are prohibited from engaging in advertising that exerts undue pressure to enrol.

Amending the definition of **“employer provided program”** set out in the FSTPFR.

Adding, “other than an employer or third party that is a public body as defined in Schedule 1 to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act”.

Existing provisions:

- "Employer provided program" is defined to mean a program of instruction in which all the students enrolled are funded by one employer or by one other third party.

New provisions:

- Programs in which all students enrolled are funded by one employer or one third party ***that is not a public body***.
- A public body means:
 - (a) a ministry of the government of British Columbia
 - (b) an agency, board commission, office, or other body designated in Schedule 2 of FOIPPA
 - (c) a local public body

Increasing the maximum amount of security that the registrar may require from \$100,000 to **\$1,000,000.**

Existing provisions:

- Section 14.2 of the FSTPF sets the maximum amount of security that the registrar may require at \$100,000.

New provisions:

- The maximum amount of security that the registrar may require is \$1,000,000.

Trustee decisions must be published

Existing provisions

Only the outcome of a decision must be published at the registrar's discretion.

New provisions

Trustee decisions, which include reasons for a decision, must be published in a prominent place on the PTIB website.



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Tuition, Fees, and Refunds



Updated Administrative Penalties

New administrative penalties for existing compliance standards in the PTA/PTR:

- Contravention of conditions on a certificate (\$1,000)
- Failure to provide required financial statements (\$500)
- Failure to post prescribed information on website (\$250)

Adding penalties for new standards
\$1,000

- Exerting undue pressure as part of enrolment tactics
- Int. student program delivery standards (50% or more of program provided through distance delivery)
- Student enrolment contract length (exceeds 12 months)

Makes **certain contraventions carry higher financial penalties.**

- Fee and tuition refund payment compliance standards (from \$750 to \$1,000)
- **Work experience** component compliance standards (from \$750 to \$1,000)
- Current student record (\$250 to \$500)

Reduction of the maximum permitted **application fees for international students**

Existing provisions

Institutions can charge an international application fee of up to \$1000.

New provisions

Institutions may not charge more than \$500 for an international student application fee.

New partial tuition refund standards

- New tuition refund standards are detailed in the policy manual.
- Certain refunds apply to the amount of tuition paid or payable, as applicable, under a student enrolment contract.
- Institutions are required to include evidence of a refund calculation in a student record and evidence a refund has been issued (ie, cancelled cheque, money order)

Aircraft utilization fees are excluded from the definition of 'tuition' within the PTA & establish specific standards

Existing provisions

Aircraft utilization fees are subject to the rules that concern tuition under the PTA and PTR.

New provisions

Institutions must not charge a student more than \$5,000 for aircraft utilization fees at any one time, and must not hold more than \$5,000 in unused aircraft utilization fees for a student.

Aircraft utilization fees may not be used for any other purpose, such as for tuition or other related fees.

The institution must refund unused aircraft utilization fees paid by or on behalf of a student if any of the following apply:

- Student provides notice of withdrawal
- Institution provides notice of dismissal
- Student completes the program
- Student does not attend any of the first 30% of the hours of instruction of the program



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Reporting



Updates to NOC numbers and descriptions

Existing provisions

The existing section refers to outdated NOC codes as the Federal Government sometimes updates the NOCs.

New provisions

- Allows for ongoing alignment with federal NOCs and descriptions.
- Not intended to make substantive changes to which occupations are excluded from the PTA

Archived student records

Existing provisions

An institution must enter an agreement with a third party, and archive records within a specific period.

New provisions

Effective July 1, 2025, student records to be archived with PTIB.

- Institutions must submit archived student records to PTIB via the PTIB Portal. Institutions must pay a fee of **\$8 for each student record** submitted to the Registrar. Institutions will be invoiced for the archived student records annually as part of their re-certification cycle.
- * Once in effect institutions will no longer be required to archive records with a third-party vendor (Cube Global or Datawitness).

Changes to financial reporting

New provisions

Annual tuition revenue (approved programs)	Category Assignment	Reporting Requirements
➤ \$50,000 or less	N/A	Notice to reader
➤ Between \$50,000 and \$1,000,000	Category 3	Review engagement
➤ Between \$50,000 and \$5,000,000	Category 1 or 2	Review engagement

Implementation: July 2026

Changes to student data reporting

Existing provisions

- Method of delivery is not a required element of data reports.
- Reports are due annually (60 days before expiry of certificate).
- Designated and interim designated institutions self-report student outcomes data.

New provisions

Institutions must report method of delivery,.

Institutions must report student data within 30 days **after every 3-month period.**

Institutions will no longer be required to submit additional student outcomes data which will instead be conducted by a third party contracted by the Ministry.



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Institution Fees



Increasing Existing Annual Fees

- Graduated Fees
- Flat Rate Fees

There are no changes to the Fund (STPF) rates.

Flat fees:	All certified institutions
Graduated fees:	Registered institutions, and regulatory body or language institution classes
	Designated/interim designated institutions
	Category 3 institutions*
	Indigenous institution class

*except those in the regulatory body institution class or language institution class

Impact example

- **Designated Institution**
- **Category 2**
- Years of operation: **7**
- Tuition revenue from approved programs: **\$250,000**
- Students in Class A programs (annually): **35**

	Current Rate	New Rate
Graduated rate	0.375%	0.488%
Graduated (\$)	\$937.50	\$1,220.00
Flat fee	\$3,118.68	\$3,432.00
STPF rate	0.3%	0.3%
STPF (\$)	\$750.00	\$750.00
Archive Fee		\$280.00
	\$4,806.18	\$5,682.00

Increasing Fees

. Transaction Fees

Fee Transaction Type	Current	New
Change in certificate type	\$500	\$1,500
Application for a certificate – Registration	\$3,300	\$4,500
Application for a certificate – Designation	\$3,300	\$4,500
Review of Designation (DR)	\$1,500	\$2,500
DR: Cost per inspector for the first day	\$1,750	\$2,500
DR: Cost per inspector for subsequent days	\$750	\$1,000
Request for reconsideration, appeal or review	\$100	\$100
Location Change	\$500	\$900
Location Change (ANR)	\$200	\$250
Change in Control	\$1,000	\$4,500
Change in legal or operating name	\$200	\$400
Change in fiscal year	\$500	\$750
Program Change (notice)	\$0	\$100
Program Application: ANR	\$150	\$400
Program Application: Class A	\$900	\$2,000
Program Application: Class B	\$500	\$1,000
Program Application: Class C	\$500	\$1,000
Program Change (consent)	\$250	\$400
Change to delete an approved program	\$100	\$0



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Next Steps & Immediate Impacts

- Applications will continue to be processed
- PTIB will continue to publish new resources as available
- PTIB will provide further direction this fall regarding the roll out of the language proficiency requirements
- PTIB will also provide dedicated information about the changes to student data reporting
- Please continue to direct questions to PTI.RegChange@gov.bc.ca. Questions directed to staff will be routed to that inbox.



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Questions and Answers

*Based on common questions submitted to the PTIB via
PTI.RegChange@gov.bc*



Q&A

Q: Will program applications (Class A, B or C) submitted prior to July 15, 2024 continue to be processed, or are they on hold? What about program application submitted after July 15?

A: PTIB will continue to process applications based on the current regulations and on the current application queue.

However, we will offer the opportunity to update now language proficiency requirements and diploma standards that do not come into effect until the date specified in the regulations.

Updated forms and resources reflecting the new regulations will be available in fall, 2024.

Q&A

Q: Will notice-only applications continue to be processed?

A: Yes. For notice-only changes, institutions only need to notify PTIB the specified number of days in advance (consent is not required).

For example, an institution must notify PTIB in writing at least 14 days before changes to tuition or related fees of an approved program.

Q&A

Q: If students are already enrolled to start programs in, say, April 2025, and the students were admitted according to an in-house placement exam prior to Jan 1, will they still meet admission requirements when the changes come into effect on Jan 1?

A: Yes.

There is no impact on students who have enrolled and started their program prior to January 1, 2025.

Students must meet the enrolment requirements in force on the date of their enrolment. Students are enrolled on the date that they sign an enrolment contract or pay fees. So, a student who enrolled prior to January 1, 2025 but has a program start date after January 1, would not need to meet the amended regulations.

Q&A

Q: Will you be charging fees for applications to change programs to meet the new regulations?

A: No. There will be no fee for changes such as changes to admission requirements to adopt a compliant language proficiency requirement, or to change the credential type awarded upon completion of a program.