

Post-Secondary Education: What does 2017-18 look like?

September/October

Exploration

- Research your options on the available websites. (MyBlueprint, Einfo, OCAS, OUAC, AUCC, Apprenticeshipsearch.com...)
- Make sure you are taking all the required courses for the programs that interest you. Do not limit yourself to one college or university. What do you need besides the courses listed? (Volunteer work, co-op experience, work experience...)
- Have a Plan B. Do not be afraid to consider lots of options.
- Talk to people – parents, siblings, guidance counsellors, teachers, mentors, people in your community, grads.
- Keep a folder with information including passwords, PINs, application numbers, scholarship deadlines, apprenticeship descriptions, resumé, networking opportunities
- Visit the **Ontario University Fair** on September 22-24, 2017, The **Canadian Christian University Tour** on October 16, 2017 (9- 11 a.m.) at TD, and the **Ontario College Information Fair** on October 24-25, 2017. If interested in an apprenticeship, check out the programs at the community colleges.
- Check out scholarships and deadlines. (Studentawards.com, yconic.com)
- Take tours at some colleges and universities – Open Houses are available in the Fall and Spring or you can make an appointment for a tour.
- If you are planning to study outside of Canada, you may need to write the ACT or the SAT.
- If you are an international student, check the English Language Requirements.

November/December

Application

- Please note that for Ontario Universities, you will receive a PIN, after which you can begin the application process. Your guidance counsellor will help you through this process.
- For Ontario Community Colleges, you will create your own account by selecting a user name and password. Your guidance counsellor will help you through this process.
- Keep a record of all your usernames and passwords, as well as your application number, so you can access your information at all times.
- TD will send your academic records (your marks and current courses) to both OUAC and OCAS. It is your responsibility to check that they are accurate and to notify your guidance counsellor if there are errors.
- When applying to a Christian and/or private university/college or out of province, you will need to apply online and inform guidance so we can send them your transcript by mail. *Check their individual deadlines.*
- Make sure you pay by the deadlines. You can pay online using a credit card. Online is the quickest and is very secure.
- If pursuing an apprenticeship, begin the search for an employer.

January/February/March

Confirmation

- Submit your OUAC 101 application no later than January 11, 2018.
- Return to your account frequently to check that all your academic information is correct, including your marks and your current courses. Inform your guidance counsellor if there are errors or omissions.
- Make any necessary changes to your program choices.
- Submit your OCAS application no later than February 1, 2018.
- Make sure you sign-up for or submit any required tests, portfolios, on-line interviews, and supplementary application packages.
- Check to see if you have been accepted.
- Continue to research scholarships and make sure you have the necessary letters of recommendation. Do not wait until the last minute.
- Check deadlines for residence applications and scholarships.

April/May

Acceptance

- Depending on your program choices and your marks, you will hear from the colleges and universities.
- Continue to visit campuses and talk to people as you think about finalizing your choices.
- Check your emails frequently.
- Attend information sessions if available.
- Continue to work hard in your courses. Your interim marks determine acceptance (or not) and your final marks may make you eligible for scholarships. If your final marks are much lower than the midterms, you can lose your acceptance and your scholarships.
- If you need reference letters, make sure you give enough time to your referee.
- Make final decisions and make sure you check deadlines and accept in time.

Important deadlines:

University Applications: January 1, 2018

College Applications: February 1, 2018

Enjoy the journey!!