

Although there are variations, most students enter the university or the *cours collégial* of a *collège classique* after the completion of from eleven to thirteen years of elementary and secondary schooling. In from three to five years, courses of instruction lead to a bachelor's degree in arts, pure science, and such professional fields as engineering, business administration, agriculture, and education. Courses in law, theology, dentistry, medicine and some other fields are longer—usually requiring for admission completion of part or all of a first-degree course in arts or science. For those pursuing graduate studies and research, the second degree is normally the master's or licence—at least one year beyond the first degree—and the third is the doctorate, normally requiring at least two additional years.

Most universities state their requirements for admission to first-degree courses in terms of the certificates of completion of secondary schooling issued by the department of education of the province in which they are located. As a general rule, they accept equivalent certificates from other provinces and countries as qualification for entrance. Some institutions admit students at the junior matriculation level, after eleven or twelve years of schooling, others only at the senior matriculation level, which is one year more advanced.

Growing numbers of students from abroad attend Canadian universities, in both undergraduate and graduate courses. Some are assisted by scholarship and fellowship funds provided by Canadian agencies and institutions, some by governmental or private agencies of their own countries, and many come to Canada at their own expense. Most courses are open to all who are fully qualified, although in some universities and in such faculties as law and medicine crowding has made it necessary to restrict the number of candidates accepted.

Student Aid.—The most important step forward in the field of student aid was made very recently by the passage by the Federal Government of the Canada Student Loans Act (SC 1964, c. 24), assented to July 28, 1964. This Act facilitates the making of loans to full-time students at the post-secondary level through the guaranteeing of the interest payable on loans made by the banks while the borrower continues to be a student and for a period of six months thereafter, and the guaranteeing of payment of the principal and interest after the expiration of that period. Loans may be for an amount up to \$1,000 a year for five successive years, totalling \$5,000. Thus, the student is not required to pay any interest on his loan or repay any part of the capital until six months after he has completed his studies. When he takes over the debt at that time the government stands behind him, guaranteeing his loan, moderating its cost to him and taking over in case of his death. One of the main purposes of this legislation is to make it possible for students whose university education would otherwise drag on over many years of part-time work or night courses to complete their university education more quickly and to reap its intellectual and financial benefits at an earlier age.

Previously, financial assistance in the form of scholarships, bursaries, fellowships, grants-in-aid, assistantships, and loans was available to some but not to the majority of students; this assistance was given by the Federal Government through various departments and agencies and by provincial governments, universities, business and industrial corporations, voluntary associations and professional societies.* It is not the intention of the new Act to supersede these forms of assistance, although some plans may be modified and possibly a few discontinued. But the large national plan will, no doubt, carry the main financial burden, leaving the other bodies better able to consider local conditions and the personal needs of students.

* Details may be found in the calendars of the universities; in *Awards for Graduate Study and Research* (1963 ed.) published by the Canadian Universities Foundation, Ottawa; in the *National Student Aid Information Service*, 15 Welland Ave., St. Catharines, Ont.; and in UNESCO's annual listing, *Study Abroad*.