

Continuing Care Assistant (CCA)



Program Q&A



Is East Coast International College (ECIC) an approved Designated Learning Institution (DLI)?

Yes. Our DLI number is O267638647882. This means that that we can provide a Letter of Acceptance (LOA) for students to apply for a visa.

How long is the program?

ECIC's CCA Program is 40 weeks long.

Are the 40 weeks one term or are there any breaks?

There are no breaks in the program so students need to be available for the 40 weeks.

How much does the program cost?

The tuition fees are \$20,000 for the program. There is also a \$300 non-refundable application fee.

How old do I have to be to take this program?

All students in the CCA Program must be at least 19 years old to register.

Can I get a work permit when I graduate from the CCA Program?

Yes. Students who graduate are allowed to apply for work as a CCA and when they get a job offer, they can apply for a work permit. In Nova Scotia, there is a new immigration stream for CCAs through the Nova Scotia Nominee Program. It is called the International Graduates in Demand Stream. The government of Nova Scotia has recognized that there are many job vacancies for CCAs in our province; therefore, they have opened up this new stream for CCA graduates from private career colleges.

Can I get a Post Graduate Work Permit (PGWP) when I graduate from the CCA Program?

No. Students who graduate to a Private Career College are not eligible for a PGWP.

What IELTS score do I need to apply for the CCA Program?

Students need an IELTS 6.5 to be eligible to apply for the CCA Program. Language proficiency level that is equivalent to the Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) Level 8.

If I don't have an IELTS 6.5, what do I do?

If you need to improve your English skills, you can first take English training at our language school, East Coast Language College. We offer a University and College Pathway (UCP) program to prepare students for post-secondary studies. We have many university and college partners already, and ECIC is now one of our pathways. Students need to successfully complete our UCP Level 500 in order to be ready for post-secondary studies.

I don't have any medical knowledge in English, how can you help me get prepared for the CCA Program?

As part of the UCP 500 curriculum, we have a specially designed English for Medicine component, specifically for those going on to our CCA Program. It provides you with medical terminology and CCA vocabulary.



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Can I get a Conditional Letter of Acceptance (CLOA) from ECIC?

Yes. ECIC will offer you a Conditional Letter of Acceptance (CLOA) to the CCA Program based on your successful completion of ECLC's UCP 500 level.

Can I do the program online?

No. Currently, this program must be taken in person.

Do I have work placements as part of the CCA Program?

Yes. There are three work placements in different types of institutions: Home Support, Nursing Homes/ Home for the Aged, and an open Mentorship. In addition to the three work placements, there is a Skills Development Placement that takes place before the work placements to help students develop their skills under the supervision of an RN (Registered Nurse) or LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse).

Is the work placement (Co-op) within the 40 weeks?

Yes. The work placements are part of the 40-week program.

Are the work placements paid or unpaid?

The work placements are unpaid.

When are the work placements during the program?

The work placements are all towards the end of the program, usually during weeks 30 to 39, once students have learned the skills and the knowledge that they need to apply them in a workplace setting. Timings of placements may be changed depending on current circumstances.

How long are the work placements?

Home care Support is 80 hours (3 weeks of the program); Long Term Care is 80 hours (3 weeks of the program); and the Open Mentorship is 60 hours (2 weeks of the program).

Are there any specific medical requirements?

Yes. Anyone working in a health care setting is at risk of exposure to communicable diseases.

Therefore, up-to-date vaccinations are required. Please refer to our CCA Program Overview to review the vaccinations required.

Are there any special clothes or equipment that I need to prepare or buy for this course?

The tuition fee covers textbooks, uniforms, mandatory certificate courses, and the CCA exam fee. Students will need to bring their own laptops (cell phones are not acceptable) to classes. They will also be required to purchase one set of Duty Shoes (non-marking, nonslip soles, full foot enclosure). Average cost for Duty Shoes is between about \$40 and \$60.

