

International Students **Fee Paying and Non Fee Paying**

Recently the Canadian government has approved a significant amount of study permits for non-Canadian citizens. This has led to an increase in students attending Vancouver Island University. Often these university students bring their children with them from their home countries. The school district has very specific guidelines issued by the Ministry of Education and Childcare that outlines who is a funded student for the purposes of free education in British Columbia.

There are a number of students who do not qualify for free education in British Columbia. These students would be fee paying students. This FAQ is intended to outline the basis for when a student is and is not funded for the purposes of free education due to their parent studying in BC. To be clear, Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools will always do our best to admit international students on a fee-paying basis if they do not meet the requirements issued by the Ministry of Education and Childcare.

FAQ

What are the requirements for admission as a non-fee-paying student per the Ministry of Education and Childcare?

The requirements can be found using the link [here](#).

I am taking an ESL course at Vancouver Island University, does this meet the requirements?

No, it does not qualify for free education for your child as it is temporary in nature.

What if my status changes mid-year and I now meet the requirements to have my child enrolled as a non-fee-paying student?

The district does not provide a refund because as of September 29th we no longer receive funding for students from the Ministry of Education and Childcare.

I'm taking a degree / diploma granting program at Vancouver Island University, does this apply?

Yes, your child qualifies for free education in BC for the same period of time you are actively enrolled, as a student, in a two-year diploma or a four-year degree program. However, registering and paying post-secondary tuition is not sufficient to provide non-fee paying status for your children. For instance, if you are accepted for September and pay your fees in advance in April or May that would not qualify a student for registration without requiring fees. Based on the requirements of the Ministry of Education and Childcare the requirements are only met if the parent is attending at the time of registration.

