

EDUCATIONAL EQUIVALENCY GUIDE FOR POLICE CONSTABLE APPLICANTS TO YORK REGIONAL POLICE

Why is Educational Equivalency Necessary?

The *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* (CSPA), Section 83(1) (F), Appointment of a Police Officer states that “no person shall be appointed as a police officer unless he or she, meets one of the following conditions:

- (i) The person has a secondary school diploma or equivalent.
- (ii) The person has,
 - a. A university degree,
 - b. A degree from a college of applied arts and technology established under the *Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Act, 2002* that is authorized to grant the degree, or
 - c. A degree from an Indigenous Institute that is approved under the *Indigenous Institutes Act, 2017* to grant the degree.
- (iii) The person has a diploma or advanced diploma granted by a college of applied arts and technology described in sub-subclause (ii) (B), or an Indigenous Institute described in sub-subclause (ii) (C), following successful completion of a program that is the equivalent in class hours of a full-time program of at least four academic semesters.
- (iv) The person has been granted a certificate or other document by a post-secondary institution evidencing successful completion of a program that the regulations prescribe as being equivalent to a degree or diploma described in subclause (ii) or (iii). 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1, s. 83 (11); 2023, c. 12, Sched. 1, s. 34.”

For applicants who have obtained secondary or post-secondary education outside of Canada, and who do not possess any Canadian education that meets the above requirements, an Equivalency Certificate will be required in order to prove that the international credentials they have achieved meet the Canadian standards for police constable application. Applicants are encouraged to contact one of the following approved equivalency providers:

ICAS – International Credential Assessment Service of Canada:
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100 Stone Road West, Suite 102
Guelph, Ontario N1G 5L3

Website: www.icascanada.ca
Phone: 519-763-7282
Toll Free: 1-800-321-6021

ICAS phone lines are open from 12:00pm to 3:00pm, Monday to Thursday.

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WES – World Education Services:

Website: www.wes.org
Phone: 1-800-361-6106
Fax: 1-416-972-9004

WES representatives are available Monday through Friday, from 7:00am to 7:00pm Eastern Standard Time. If possible, please be ready to quote your WES Reference Number, which will likely expedite your request. Note that WES does not offer in-office customer service.

High School Equivalency:

For applicants who do not meet any of the educational requirements under the CSPA as listed above, and who do not possess their original international education documents in order to obtain an Equivalency Certificate through the approved equivalency services as indicated above, they are encouraged to consider obtaining the ACE (Academic Career Entrance) Certificate, which replaces the previously offered Ontario GED (General Education Diploma). The ACE Certificate is offered through Ontario's public colleges, and is recognized as a high school equivalency in Ontario. The 120-hour program can be taken either in-class, totally online or a mix of in-class and online. The program is free, however, there may be a nominal administration fee charged by the individual colleges.

ACE Certificate: Adult learning: Academic career entrance | ontario.ca

Other Accepted Equivalency Certificates:

Applicants may have already obtained specialized equivalency for a variety of reasons. Each case is assessed on an individual basis to determine if the equivalency meets the educational requirement for police constable application. The following are two examples of acceptable specialized equivalency:

- When entering a Canadian post-secondary program where proof of a student's international secondary education is required, the post-secondary institution may provide an equivalency certificate that proves the student's international education meets the qualifications to enter the post-secondary program. For example, *The University of Toronto* provides an equivalency assessment service to students through *The Comparative Education Service School of Continuing Studies* (CES). YRP will accept this equivalency as meeting the educational requirement for police constable application provided that the equivalency of the credentials is equal to a minimum of a Canadian secondary school education, as the certification is comparable to a WES or ICAS equivalency assessment.

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- When requesting equivalency of international professional credentials (i.e. architect, doctor, etc.) through the appropriate Canadian regulatory board specific to their profession, the requestor is subject to an assessment of their international educational credentials. They are then provided with a certificate confirming that their international professional credentials meet the Canadian standards for their profession, which would allow them to practice in this profession in Canada. For example, in the case of an architect, the certifying board would be the *Canadian Architectural Certification Board*. As the level of education required to practice as an architect in Canada meets the educational requirement for police constable application, an equivalency certificate provided by the CACB would be accepted by YRP, as it is comparable to a WES or ICAS equivalency assessment at the university level.

NOTE REGARDING TRANSLATED EDUCATION DOCUMENTS

Please be advised that translated documents of international educational credentials on their own, with no accompanying equivalency assessment, cannot be accepted by YRP as satisfying the educational requirement for police constable application.

An equivalency assessment through one of the approved options as listed above would be required in order to proceed with the application.