

# Postsecondary Studies in French *They made it!*

As parents, it is not unusual to wonder if our children can pursue their postsecondary studies in French after several years of studying the language – in an immersion program, in a French school or possibly elsewhere. *The short answer is yes, they can do it.*

Meet **Natasha**, **Jasmine**, and **Francesco**. Three recipients of the \$3,000 FSL bursary who can tell you it's rewarding to be bilingual.



Medical science student **Natasha Rebecca Babcock** has a lot to say to young people who hesitate to continue their postsecondary studies in French. For her, it is important not to get caught up in the “What ifs”. Based on her own experience, it is likely that your child will spend a little more time doing readings for class, or may not have perfect grammar while answering a question. However, postsecondary education is about learning and developing skills for a career. She says that students do not have to rely on perfect language proficiency in order to study.

*“Your skills will develop as you go about your degree, and what better environment to enhance your abilities in French than somewhere meant for learning?”*

It is incredibly humbling because I am by no means an expert in French, so I'm constantly learning from others. I also think it's incredibly cool to realize how culture has impacted language. Being surrounded by students speaking French from all different backgrounds and regions shows you so much diversity and it's really amazing.



**Jasmine Ferreira**, a medical student, plans to use French in the future. As she wants to pursue a career in healthcare, she believes that communication and comprehension skills in both English and French are vital in her domain.

*“My decision to study in French will put me in a better position to provide care to French-speaking patients and visitors.”*

I appreciated the openness and support I was given as an Anglophone in a French postsecondary school. The students, the professors, and the faculty are all extremely understanding of the challenge and often offer words of encouragement.



Enrolled in international studies, **Francesco Balassone** chose to continue his postsecondary journey in French after many years of learning in French as a second language. He didn't want to lose such an important investment in himself. He sees it as a significant professional opportunity in his future career at the international level.

Knowing more languages and expanding one's cultural vision is always an asset, and I would have hated to let all those years of schooling and culture go to waste. Studying at a Francophone university allows me to see Canada and the world from a different angle.

**O**ther recipients of the FSL bursary added that several universities and colleges have a large Francophone community and many incentives to take French courses, which made it even more favourable to pursue their degree partially in French. Some also argue that only positive things had emerged from that experience: it was rewarding to see daily improvement, and it became easier and easier as time went by. In some cases, studying in French at the postsecondary level even helped with problem solving and autonomy.

## How does one make such an important decision?

When the time comes to decide whether to continue postsecondary studies in French, some students may be wondering if their skills in Molière's language are sufficiently advanced, or if college or university courses might prove too difficult. Here are five reasons to opt for postsecondary studies in French and be rewarded for it.

## 5 Reasons to Pursue Postsecondary Studies in French and Get a \$3,000 FSL Bursary:

1. It helps perfect your child's bilingualism
2. It's \$3,000 in your child's pocket
3. It relieves unnecessary financial stress
4. Being bilingual offers several benefits
5. And... the criteria are so simple!

**What exactly is the FSL bursary?** The Bursaries for Postsecondary Studies in French as a Second Language Program, administered by the Association des collèges et universités de la francophonie canadienne (ACUFC) and funded by the Government of Canada, offers bursaries for students who are just starting out a college or university program. These \$3,000 non-renewable bursaries are meant to encourage them to continue their studies in French thus perfecting their bilingualism, while studying in their field of interest.

Considering the increase in the cost of living and tuition, this non-renewable financial support is more than welcomed. It can help your children with tuition fees, books or part of their housing expenses.

In addition, this financial support has an impact on their future career. As we know, French language plays a critical role in many types of careers. For instance, working in the

education, justice, immigration, or healthcare sectors often requires understanding and/or speaking French as a fundamental component of providing services and connecting with clients.

**How do they apply?** The criteria are so simple! Applicants must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada, have English as their first official language spoken, be enrolled in their first year of a postsecondary study program in French (with at least 50% of their courses and program-related activities in French), and be at least 17 years old on the first day of class.

The bursaries are available at several colleges and universities across Canada. Find out if yours offers the FSL bursary by visiting [ACUFC.ca/FSLbursaries](https://acufc.ca/FSLbursaries).



# It's rewarding to be bilingual!

Is your child thinking of pursuing postsecondary studies in French?

**\$3,000  
bursaries**

Available in  
23 colleges & universities  
across Canada

For more info:  
[ACUFC.ca/FSLbursaries](https://acufc.ca/FSLbursaries)



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