

Higher Education Expectations: The View from Grade 12

Provincial Tables
September 2015



Higher Education Expectations: The View from Grade 12

***Bold font denotes statistic significantly different from the average for all first degree holders**

Maritime grade 12 students' destination fall 2014	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=5,219)	(n=2,162)	(n=2,607)	(n=450)
Study at a university	46%	45%	47%	48%
Study at a community college or other public college	20%	21%	19%	26%
Study at a private college or training school	3%	4%	3%	2%
Begin work with an employer and register in an apprenticeship	2%	2%	2%	1%
Upgrade or continue high school	4%	2%	5%	3%
Enter the workforce	9%	9%	9%	7%
Take a gap year to explore options through travel, volunteer	10%	11%	10%	9%
Military	1%	1%	0%	0%
Other	1%	1%	2%	0%
Don't know/unsure	3%	3%	4%	3%

Maritime grade 12 students' destination fall 2014 by Parental Education	Total	High School Diploma or less	PSE below Bachelor's	Bachelor's degree or above
	(n=4,895)	(n=1,165)	(n=1,701)	(n=2,029)
Study at a university	46%	27%	39%	66%
Study at a community college or other public college	20%	25%	25%	13%
Study at a private college or training school	3%	3%	4%	2%
Begin work with an employer and register in an apprenticeship	2%	2%	2%	1%
Upgrade or continue high school	4%	6%	4%	2%
Enter the workforce	9%	15%	10%	4%
Take a gap year to explore options through travel, volunteer	10%	14%	11%	7%
Military	1%	1%	1%	1%
Other	1%	1%	1%	1%
Don't know/unsure	3%	5%	3%	2%



Maritime grade 12 students' destination fall 2014 by Parental Education	Total	High School Diploma or less	PSE below Bachelor's	Bachelor's degree or above
NEW BRUNSWICK	(n=2,042)	(n=483)	(n=762)	(n=797)
Study at a university	47%	27%	39%	66%
Study at a community college or other public college	20%	29%	24%	12%
Study at a private college or training school	4%	3%	6%	3%
Begin work with an employer and register in an apprenticeship	2%	2%	2%	2%
Upgrade or continue high school	2%	2%	3%	2%
Enter the workforce	9%	14%	10%	5%
Take a gap year to explore options through travel, volunteer	10%	15%	10%	7%
Military	1%	1%	1%	1%
Other	1%	1%	1%	1%
Don't know	3%	5%	3%	2%

Maritime grade 12 students' destination fall 2014 by Parental Education	Total	High School Diploma or less	PSE below Bachelor's	Bachelor's degree or above
NOVA SCOTIA	(n=2,429)	(n=594)	(n=786)	(n=1,049)
Study at a university	48%	27%	39%	67%
Study at a community college or other public college	19%	21%	25%	12%
Study at a private college or training school	3%	2%	3%	2%
Begin work with an employer and register in an apprenticeship	2%	3%	2%	1%
Upgrade or continue high school	5%	8%	5%	3%
Enter the workforce	9%	16%	10%	4%
Take a gap year to explore options through travel, volunteer	10%	15%	11%	8%
Military	1%	1%	1%	0%
Other	1%	2%	1%	1%
Don't know	3%	6%	3%	2%

Maritime grade 12 students' destination fall 2014 by Parental Education	Total	High School Diploma or less	PSE below Bachelor's	Bachelor's degree or above
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	(n=421)	(n=87)	(n=153)	(n=181)
Study at a university	49%	32%	42%	64%
Study at a community college or other public college	27%	34%	29%	22%
Study at a private college or training school	2%	2%	2%	2%
Begin work with an employer and register in an apprenticeship	1%	2%	2%	1%
Upgrade or continue high school	2%	3%	2%	1%
Enter the workforce	6%	11%	8%	3%
Take a gap year to explore options through travel, volunteer	9%	10%	12%	6%
Other	0%	0%	0%	1%
Don't know	3%	3%	3%	3%



Main Reasons for Choosing University

"Most Important Reason" for choosing University	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=2,409)	(n=979)	(n=1,214)	(n=216)
I'll need more education to prepare for a future job or career pathway	31%	33%	29%	30%
I think it's important to get a credential (e.g., diploma, degree, certificate)	8%	7%	8%	7%
I'll need more education to have a chance at earning a good salary	15%	14%	15%	16%
The occupation I want requires the skills and knowledge I will acquire in my program	23%	22%	25%	23%
My friends are continuing their education	0%	0%	0%	0%
I'm interested in learning more about a particular area	11%	12%	10%	9%
My parent(s)/guardian(s) want me to go	2%	1%	2%	2%
My high school teachers think I should go	0%	0%	0%	0%
Community mentors/other adults in my life think I should go	0%	0%	1%	0%
I want to broaden my understanding of the world and life	5%	4%	5%	6%
I can't think of anything else to do	1%	1%	1%	1%
I want to experience university life	3%	2%	3%	3%
The program is affordable	0%	0%	0%	0%
I can complete my studies in a reasonable amount of time	1%	1%	0%	1%
My parents/guardians have invested in education fund for me	1%	0%	1%	0%
Other	1%	1%	0%	0%

Reasons given for not pursuing post-secondary education

"Most Important Reason" given for not pursuing post-secondary education	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=952)	(n=405)	(n=480)	(n=67)
I don't know what options are available to me at college, university, private college or training school, or in an apprenticeship program	4%	3%	4%	7%
I want to take a break from school (e.g. to travel, do volunteer work, explore options)	32%	35%	29%	31%
I can't afford to go/ don't have the money	8%	8%	8%	6%
I want to start my own business	2%	1%	2%	1%
I want to work to earn money	30%	29%	30%	34%
I don't have the marks to get accepted into a post-secondary program	3%	2%	3%	4%
I was accepted into a post-secondary program, but not in the program I want	2%	1%	3%	0%
I don't have the courses I need to get accepted into a post-secondary program	2%	1%	2%	1%
I don't believe post-secondary education is worth the cost	3%	3%	2%	1%
Going to school is just not for me	6%	5%	6%	3%
Not sure what I want to do yet	2%	1%	2%	3%
Waitlisted/Preferred program is full	1%	1%	2%	0%
Not old enough for program/Age restriction	1%	0%	1%	1%
Don't know	3%	3%	2%	0%
Other	4%	5%	4%	4%

"Second Most Important Reason" given for not pursuing post-secondary education	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=873)	(n=368)	(n=444)	(n=61)
I don't know what options are available to me at college, university, private college or training school, or in an apprenticeship program	9%	11%	8%	7%
I want to take a break from school (e.g. to travel, do volunteer work, explore options)	23%	24%	23%	23%
I can't afford to go/ don't have the money	12%	8%	14%	16%
I want to start my own business	3%	4%	2%	2%
I want to work to earn money	28%	28%	27%	25%
I don't have the marks to get accepted into a post-secondary program	6%	6%	7%	3%
I was accepted into a post-secondary program, but not in the program I want	4%	4%	3%	3%
I don't have the courses I need to get accepted into a post-secondary program	2%	1%	2%	5%
I don't believe post-secondary education is worth the cost	6%	5%	7%	7%
Going to school is just not for me	6%	6%	6%	7%
Not sure what I want to do yet	0%	0%	0%	3%
Not old enough for program/Age restriction	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other	1%	2%	0%	0%

"Third Most Important Reason" given for not pursuing post-secondary education	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=833)	(n=352)	(n=424)	(n=57)
I don't know what options are available to me at college, university, private college or training school, or in an apprenticeship program	11%	12%	11%	12%
I want to take a break from school (e.g. to travel, do volunteer work, explore options)	18%	16%	19%	23%
I can't afford to go/ don't have the money	15%	16%	15%	9%
I want to start my own business	4%	6%	4%	2%
I want to work to earn money	15%	15%	15%	18%
I don't have the marks to get accepted into a post-secondary program	6%	6%	6%	7%
I was accepted into a post-secondary program, but not in the program I want	5%	5%	4%	9%
I don't have the courses I need to get accepted into a post-secondary program	4%	2%	6%	2%
I don't believe post-secondary education is worth the cost	6%	7%	7%	4%
Going to school is just not for me	11%	12%	10%	12%
Not sure what I want to do yet	2%	1%	2%	0%
Other	2%	3%	2%	4%



Impact of People on Decision to Study at University

Parents/Guardians	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
Big impact	56%	56%	56%	53%
Some impact	32%	31%	32%	37%
Not much impact	7%	7%	7%	6%
No impact at all	4%	5%	4%	3%
Don't know/unsure	1%	0%	1%	0%

High School Guidance Counsellors	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
Big impact	8%	12%	6%	6%
Some impact	22%	25%	20%	23%
Not much impact	25%	24%	26%	27%
No impact at all	42%	38%	46%	41%
Don't know/unsure	2%	2%	2%	2%

High School Teacher(s)	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
Big impact	12%	12%	12%	13%
Some impact	37%	39%	36%	42%
Not much impact	28%	27%	29%	27%
No impact at all	21%	20%	23%	17%
Don't know/unsure	1%	1%	1%	1%

High School Principal/Vice-Principal	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
Big impact	2%	2%	2%	3%
Some impact	9%	11%	7%	8%
Not much impact	22%	23%	20%	26%
No impact at all	64%	60%	67%	58%
Don't know/unsure	3%	3%	3%	4%

Friends	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
Big impact	15%	13%	16%	16%
Some impact	39%	37%	41%	41%
Not much impact	26%	25%	27%	27%
No impact at all	18%	23%	15%	14%
Don't know/unsure	1%	1%	1%	1%

Media	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
Big impact	7%	4%	8%	9%
Some impact	24%	23%	25%	22%
Not much impact	32%	33%	31%	34%
No impact at all	35%	37%	34%	31%
Don't know/unsure	3%	3%	2%	3%

Family Member Other than Parents/Guardian	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
Big impact	23%	22%	23%	22%
Some impact	38%	37%	39%	36%
Not much impact	20%	19%	20%	24%
No impact at all	18%	19%	17%	17%
Don't know/unsure	2%	2%	1%	1%

Another Trusted Adult	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
Big impact	13%	13%	15%	9%
Some impact	30%	31%	29%	29%
Not much impact	24%	25%	23%	27%
No impact at all	26%	24%	26%	29%
Don't know/unsure	7%	7%	7%	7%

University Program

Intend to study part-time or full-time?	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
Part-time	4%	4%	4%	4%
Full-time	92%	92%	91%	92%
Don't know/unsure	4%	3%	5%	4%



Estimated Length of Time to Complete Program	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
less than one year	0%	0%	0%	0%
1 year	1%	1%	2%	3%
2 years	5%	7%	3%	4%
3 years	3%	2%	4%	4%
4 years	71%	67%	74%	74%
5 years	13%	17%	10%	11%
6 years	3%	3%	3%	1%
7 years	0%	0%	0%	0%
8 years	1%	0%	1%	1%
9 years	0%	1%	0%	0%
10 years or more	0%	0%	0%	0%
Don't know/ Unsure	3%	2%	3%	3%

Intend to work while studying, excluding co-ops/work placements?	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
Yes, part-time	57%	51%	60%	61%
Yes, full-time	3%	2%	3%	3%
No	20%	24%	17%	14%
Don't know/ Unsure	21%	23%	20%	22%

"Most Important Reason" for working part-time during studies	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=1,363)	(n=500)	(n=732)	(n=131)
I have a job, and don't want to quit	3%	4%	3%	4%
To get a break from my studies	1%	1%	0%	0%
I want the job experience	6%	6%	7%	5%
It's a job I can continue at the end of my studies	2%	2%	2%	1%
I need to work to pay for my studies	46%	48%	44%	47%
I want to work to have spending money while at school	25%	22%	27%	24%
I need to work to cover living expenses (e.g. room and board)	16%	15%	16%	18%
Other (Specify)	1%	1%	0%	0%



Main Sources of funding for university education	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
Parents/Guardians	52%	51%	54%	48%
RESP (Registered Education Savings Plan)	13%	13%	13%	13%
Government student loans	30%	33%	30%	24%
Bank/Other financial institution loans	10%	8%	10%	12%
Credit cards	2%	1%	2%	2%
Line of credit	5%	5%	6%	3%
Employment earnings	20%	19%	20%	23%
Merit-based awards	30%	33%	28%	32%
Needs-based awards (e.g., grants/bursaries)	7%	8%	6%	8%
Personal savings	22%	23%	21%	25%
Other family members	4%	4%	4%	4%
Other people (not family)	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other government sources	2%	2%	2%	2%
First Nation Funding/Band Funding	1%	0%	1%	1%
Don't know	2%	1%	2%	2%

Expect to borrow money to pay for university education	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
Yes	50%	50%	50%	50%
No	33%	34%	33%	29%
Don't know/unsure	17%	16%	17%	21%

Expect to borrow money to pay for university education by Parental Education	Total	High School Diploma or less	PSE below Bachelor's	Bachelor's degree or above
MARITIMES	(n=2,327)	(n=319)	(n=670)	(n=1,338)
Yes	50%	63%	61%	42%
No	33%	23%	26%	39%
Don't know/unsure	16%	14%	13%	19%

Expect to borrow money to pay for university education by Parental Education	Total	High School Diploma or less	PSE below Bachelor's	Bachelor's degree or above
NEW BRUNSWICK	(n=954)	(n=131)	(n=299)	(n=524)
Yes	49%	63%	60%	40%
No	34%	22%	28%	41%
Don't know/unsure	16%	15%	12%	19%



Expect to borrow money to pay for university education by Parental Education	Total	High School Diploma or less	PSE below Bachelor's	Bachelor's degree or above
NOVA SCOTIA	(n=1,164)	(n=160)	(n=306)	(n=698)
Yes	51%	63%	63%	43%
No	33%	25%	24%	38%
Don't know/unsure	16%	12%	13%	18%

Expect to borrow money to pay for university education by Parental Education	Total	High School Diploma or less	PSE below Bachelor's	Bachelor's degree or above
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	(n=207)	(n=28)	(n=64)	(n=115)
Yes	50%	*	59%	43%
No	29%	*	25%	35%
Don't know/unsure	20%	*	16%	23%

Main Sources of borrowing to pay for university	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=1,207)	(n=488)	(n=613)	(n=107)
Government student loan	72%	75%	69%	73%
Loans from banks or other financial institutions	35%	34%	35%	39%
Credit cards	3%	3%	3%	7%
Line of credit	15%	13%	17%	14%
Employers	3%	3%	3%	2%
Parents/guardians	41%	38%	44%	45%
Other family members	8%	8%	8%	8%
Other people (not family)	0%	1%	0%	0%
Other government sources	3%	2%	3%	2%
Don't know	2%	2%	2%	3%

Amount expect to borrow	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=1,207)	(n=488)	(n=613)	(n=107)
\$1 to \$14,999	25%	27%	22%	28%
\$15,000 to \$29,999	21%	19%	22%	21%
\$30,000 to \$44,999	16%	14%	18%	17%
\$45,000 to \$59,999	12%	13%	11%	10%
\$60,000 or more	10%	9%	11%	8%
Don't know	17%	17%	16%	16%

*NOTE: Cell size too small for reliable analysis (n<50)



Expect it to be easy or difficult to pay back money borrowed	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=1,207)	(n=488)	(n=613)	(n=107)
Very easy	3%	3%	3%	2%
Somewhat easy	18%	18%	18%	13%
Somewhat difficult	47%	44%	49%	53%
Very difficult	26%	27%	24%	26%
Don't know	7%	8%	6%	6%

% of total cost expect parents/guardians or family to pay	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
0%	9%	10%	9%	10%
1% to 9%	12%	12%	12%	12%
10% to 25%	18%	19%	16%	20%
26% to 50%	16%	17%	14%	20%
51% to 75%	14%	14%	14%	12%
76% to 99%	13%	12%	14%	11%
100%	8%	7%	8%	5%
Don't know	11%	9%	13%	11%

Expectations “What is the most important thing you want to have once you’ve completed your program in order to feel you’ve had a high quality education?”

“Most important thing”	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
Be prepared for further studies	8%	7%	8%	8%
Be prepared for the workforce	10%	9%	10%	9%
Learned the skills for a particular job	15%	17%	14%	10%
Developed in-depth knowledge of a particular area	14%	16%	12%	13%
Get a chance to earn a good income	16%	12%	19%	22%
Had a rich intellectual learning experience	5%	6%	4%	6%
Found a path for your life	17%	16%	17%	16%
Developed writing skills	1%	1%	1%	0%
Developed math skills	2%	2%	2%	0%
Developed ability to think independently and critically	5%	5%	4%	7%
Developed decision-making ability	1%	2%	1%	1%
Grown as a person	6%	7%	6%	5%
Met/interacted with people from different cultural background	1%	1%	1%	2%



What university-bound students expect to be able to do once they've completed all their education

	Total	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
Find a full-time job within 6 months	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
Definitely expect	36%	37%	35%	34%
Somewhat expect	41%	39%	43%	42%
Do not really expect	16%	17%	16%	15%
Definitely do not expect	3%	3%	2%	4%
Don't know	4%	4%	3%	4%
Find a full-time job in your home town	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
Definitely expect	14%	13%	16%	12%
Somewhat expect	26%	26%	27%	23%
Do not really expect	35%	36%	33%	37%
Definitely do not expect	21%	22%	20%	25%
Don't know	4%	4%	4%	4%
Find a full-time job in your province	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
Definitely expect	33%	32%	34%	25%
Somewhat expect	35%	34%	36%	32%
Do not really expect	21%	22%	20%	28%
Definitely do not expect	7%	8%	6%	10%
Don't know	4%	5%	4%	4%
Expect to find a job closely related to what you learned in your program	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
Definitely expect	63%	62%	65%	59%
Somewhat expect	30%	30%	30%	35%
Do not really expect	4%	5%	3%	5%
Definitely do not expect	1%	1%	1%	1%
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	1%
In your job, expect to use the skills and knowledge acquired from the program you completed	(n=2,413)	(n=981)	(n=1,217)	(n=216)
Definitely expect	69%	67%	71%	69%
Somewhat expect	26%	28%	24%	27%
Do not really expect	3%	2%	3%	3%
Definitely do not expect	1%	1%	1%	0%
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	1%