



# COMMUNICATION UPDATE

Office of Student Success & Wellbeing

**2020-04-17**

UPDATE: **CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT(CERB) FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

TO: All International Students

We understand that many International students are struggling financially during these difficult and unprecedented times and have many questions about how the federal government's Canada Emergency Response Benefit(CERB) may apply to you. Below you will find a summary of the CERB program, including it's recent updates that expanded eligibility for those that have lost income due to COVID-19.

If you still have questions after reading the information that follows, please contact our Financial Aid Office at [fao@algonau.ca](mailto:fao@algonau.ca).

If you are a student for whom the benefit does not apply, Prime Minister Trudeau also announced that "for others who still need help including post-secondary students...we'll have more to say to you very soon". We look forward to sharing that information with you once it is announced.

## **What is the Canada Emergency Response Benefit(CERB)?**

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit provides temporary income support to workers who have stopped working or have reduced income for reasons related to COVID-19.

The new Canada Emergency Response Benefit provides \$500 per week in relief funding. A maximum 16 weeks of benefits can be paid up to \$8,000.00.

The benefit is available from **March 15, 2020, to October 3, 2020**. One can apply no later than December 2, 2020.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

The Benefit is available to workers:

- Residing in Canada, who are at least 15 years old;
  - This includes International Students who hold a valid study permit and valid SIN**

- Who have stopped working because of reasons related to COVID-19 or are eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits or have exhausted their Employment Insurance regular benefits between December 29, 2019 and October 3, 2020;
- Who had employment and/or self-employment income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application; and,
- Who have not quit their job voluntarily.

On April 15th, the Federal Government announced that the CERB eligibility has been expanded to include those who, for reasons related to COVID-19, have lost income and are now earning less than \$1000 in a four week period. To get the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, you may not earn more than \$1,000 for a period of at least 14 consecutive days within the initial four week period of your claim or \$1000 in total for each subsequent claim.

### **Required Documentation**

You will need to provide your personal contact information, your Social Insurance Number and confirm that you meet the eligibility requirements.

You may be asked to provide additional documentation to verify your eligibility at a future date.

### **Eligibility Scenarios**

#### Student A

Student A began working in a minimum wage position as soon as they were legally allowed on January 6th, the first day of classes in the 2020 Winter term. They were able to max out their off-campus work eligibility by working 20 hours per week during studies and by working 40 hours per week during reading week (a scheduled break). This student was able to earn \$4,200.00 before being laid off on April 13th.

This student would not be eligible for CERB.

#### Student B

Student B began studying at Algoma University in the 2020 Winter term, but had completed a certificate at Sault College prior to studying at Algoma University. They began working in their current job on October 7th, 2019 and continued until they were laid off on March 16th, 2020. They worked 20 hours per week and were paid minimum wage. This student had earned \$6,720.00.

Based on their earnings over the last 12 months, this student may be eligible for a CERB of \$500.00 per week.

#### Student C

Student C began studying at Algoma University in the EAPP program. As a non-academic student, they were not able to work off campus, but began working on-campus at Tim Hortons on January 6th. The student was able to work 15 hours per week, but did not work during Tim

Horton's reading week shut down. This student was able to earn \$2,520.00 before they were laid off on March 16th when the Sault Ste Marie campus shut down in response to COVID-19.

This student would not be eligible for CERB.

#### Student D

Student D began studying in a certificate program on September 4th, 2019. On November 2nd, they were hired to work in a minimum wage job. On average, the student was able to work 18 hours per week until they were laid off on March 28th, 2020. During their time in working, they were able to earn \$5,292.00.

Based on their earnings over the last 12 months, the student may be eligible for a CERB of \$500.00 per week for a maximum 16 weeks.

#### Student E

Student E began studying in a degree program on September 13th, 2019. On November 4th, they were hired to work in a minimum wage job. On average, the student was able to work 12 hours per week until they were laid off on April 4th, 2020. During their time in working, they were able to earn \$4,200.00.

This student would not be eligible for CERB.

#### Student F

Student F began studying in a certificate program at Algoma University on January 7th, 2019. On February 21st, 2019, they were able to secure a part-time job and began working 20 hours per week. Their work continued until August 5th, when they graduated and travelled home to visit family until the 2020 Winter start of a second degree program. Upon returning to Canada on January 13th, the student resumed working again, but only 10 hours per week. On March 16th the student was laid-off. In 2019, the student was able to earn \$8680.00. In the last 12 calendar months the student was able to earn \$5740.00.

Based on either their 2019 earnings or their earnings over the last 12 months, the student may be eligible for a CERB of \$500.00 per week.

#### Student G

Student G began studying in a degree program on April 30th, 2018. On June 20th, they began working in a part-time job that paid minimum wage and continued to do so until the business went bankrupt and closed on January 30th, 2020. The student has been searching for work since. In 2019, the student earned \$10,920.00 and in the last 12 months has earned \$7770.00.

The student would not qualify for CERB due to falling outside of the benefit period.

#### Student H

Student H began studying in a degree program on September 9th, 2019. On September 30th, they began working an average of 20 hours per week in a part-time job that paid minimum wage and continued to do so until March 15th. On March 16th, the students' employer reduced their operating hours due to measures resulting from COVID-19, and the student's schedule was reduced to 5 hours per week . Since beginning their job they have earned \$6,850.00.

Based on their income being reduced due to reasons related to COVID-19 and because they are now earning less than \$1000.00 every four weeks, the student may be eligible for a CERB of \$500.00 per week.

**Note:** all terms and scenarios subject to change.

### **Resources**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application/questions.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application/confirmation.html>