



Unisphere Canada

Frequently Asked Questions about Business Loans

Who is eligible for your loans?

- Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or convention refugee/protected person, at least 18 years old, legally able to work in Canada and resident of the Greater Toronto Area or Hamilton.
- Demonstrate financial need or inability to get a loan from a bank (this will be assessed based on your income, debt, and other factors.)
- Be up to date with, and not owing taxes to Canada Revenue Agency or child support to the Family Responsibility Office, or provide proof of ongoing payments for at least three consecutive months
- Not be in a consumer proposal or bankruptcy, or discharged for less than six months

How much can I borrow?

- For a small business loan, you can borrow up to a maximum of \$5,000. If you need additional funding after paying off the first loan in good standing, you can apply for up to \$10,000.
- For a foreign credential recognition loan, you can borrow up to \$15,000 for career-related expenses.

Are there other fees?

- There is a one-time administrative fee of 5% added to business loans at the time of disbursement. All clients will need to open an Alterna Savings account to receive the funds, which also has a small fee to open (\$15), like most bank accounts.
- You may be charged additional fees for paying your loan late.

How much is your interest?

- Our interest rates are prime plus 1.25% for business loans.
- (Prime is the standard rate which banks charge, which can change and affect the overall interest rate.)

How long do I have to pay back the loan?

- For a business loan, you have up to three years to repay.
- Loans are open, which means you can pay them back early without additional fees or interest. Interest will be calculated up to the time you decide to pay off the loan if it's before the given term.

What documents do you require?

- For business loans:
 - Proof of income, e.g. copy of pay stub
 - Credit report and score from Equifax or TransUnion
 - Notice of Assessment from Canada Revenue Agency
 - Business Plan and Cash Flow Projections
 - Business registration, if registered
 - Two pieces of valid photo ID (e.g. Driver's Licence, Passport or Immigration Documents)
 - Proof of residence, .e.g. utility bill, bank statement etc.
 - Resume

If you don't have a complete business plan, we provide business coaching for eligible applicants to help you refine your business plan.

Do you offer grants?

- No, however you may find information on grants at <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/grants-funding>.