

UBC vs University of Toronto

Two of Canada's most-shortlisted universities —
which one actually fits your course, budget and career plans?

● UBC

● U OF T

What's inside this decision guide

A side-by-side comparison of Canada's two most frequently shortlisted universities by Indian applicants — the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the University of Toronto (U of T). Built from official rankings, fee pages and third-party study-abroad sources current for 2026-27.

- 01 At a Glance
- 02 Tuition & Scholarships
- 03 Course Strengths & City/Industry Fit
- 04 Which One Fits You?
- 05 Get Free Counselling from Shiksha

#29 vs #40

QS World Rank 2026 — U of T ranks higher

52% vs 40-45%

Acceptance rate — UBC is more accessible overall

2.5x cheaper

UBC's course-based MEng vs U of T's

Want a personalised answer instead? Talk to Shiksha — for FREE

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<https://www.wa.link/fgitij>

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<https://u.shiksha.com/SHKSHA/seSIYaWQ>

1

At a Glance

Two of Canada's most-shortlisted universities, genuinely different in scale and geography

■ UBC ■ U of T

Parameter	● UBC	● U of T
Campuses	Vancouver (~59,100 students) + Okanagan/Kelowna (~11,700) — different provinces of Western Canada, ~400km apart	St. George (downtown Toronto), Mississauga (UTM), Scarborough (UTSC) — all within Greater Toronto Area
QS World Rank 2026	#40 (Canada #3)	#29 (Canada #2 on QS; #1 Canada on THE and US News)
Acceptance rate	~52% overall — moderately selective	~40–45% overall, but Engineering/CS/Rotman Commerce specifically ~25–30%; Arts & Science ~55%
Total students	~70,900 across both campuses	60,000+ undergrads — Canada's largest university; 27,000+ international, 170+ countries
Notable strength	THE 2025: Business #29, Psychology #17 world; genuine Asia-Pacific industry gateway via Vancouver	10 Nobel laureates among affiliates; discovery of insulin; ranked in world top 15 for research output

U of T holds the higher global ranking and Canada's undisputed #1 position on THE and US News, but UBC is the more accessible option overall — a genuine trade-off between prestige and admission odds. Note the ranking-body split: QS puts McGill #1 Canada with U of T #2, while THE and US News both rank U of T #1 — which 'best in Canada' claim you hear depends entirely on which ranking body is being cited.

2

Tuition & Scholarships

UBC's course-based Master's routes are dramatically cheaper

Parameter	● UBC	● U of T
UG tuition/year (int'l)	Course-dependent; broadly comparable to U of T for most Arts/Science programmes	From ~CAD 65,000 (Rs. 44.2L)
Master's tuition — course-based Engineering	MEng from CAD 26,365/yr (Rs. 17.9L/yr)	MEng CAD 68,670+/yr (Rs. 46.7L+/yr)
Master's tuition — thesis-route	Comparable to U of T's MASc range	MASc CAD 30,800–37,310/yr (Rs. 20.9–25.4L/yr)
Application fee	CAD 149	CAD 156 (OUAC UG) / CAD 130 (SGS grad)
Total annual cost estimate	Broadly comparable once living costs are included	CAD 62,000–90,000 (Rs. 42.2–61.2L)
Automatic scholarships (Indian students)	Merit-based entrance awards considered at admission	5,000+ scholarships automatically awarded to Indian students, total value CAD 100,000+; Lester B. Pearson International Scholarship

Conversion used: CAD 1 ≈ Rs. 68 (indicative rate, mid-2026) — rates fluctuate daily.

The single biggest cost gap between these two universities is in course-based Master's Engineering: UBC's MEng starts around CAD 26,365/year, while U of T's runs CAD 68,670 or more — U of T costs over 2.5x more for a comparable course-based Master's. If you're specifically comparing Master's options rather than undergraduate degrees, this gap should weigh heavily in your decision.

■ Not sure which Master's route is genuinely cheaper for your specific programme? Let's check together — [WhatsApp us](#) | [Register free](#)

3

Course Strengths & City/Industry Fit

Toronto's financial hub vs Vancouver's Asia-Pacific gateway

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Genuine subject-level strength in Business (THE #29 world) and Psychology (THE #17 world), with Vancouver's location offering real proximity to Asia-Pacific trade and technology industries. UBC's course-based Master's programmes (like the MEng) are structured for a faster, more affordable route into the Canadian job market, without the thesis-research commitment.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Canada's largest and most research-intensive university, with 10 Nobel laureates among its affiliates and credit for the discovery of insulin. Its three GTA campuses (St. George, Mississauga, Scarborough) all sit within Canada's largest metropolitan economy and financial centre — a genuine advantage for Commerce, Finance and Business-adjacent careers specifically, though Rotman Commerce and Engineering admission is genuinely competitive (~25–30% acceptance).

A realistic read for Indian applicants: an 88% Class XII score with IELTS 7.0 gives a reasonable shot at U of T's Arts & Science or Life Sciences programmes, but Engineering and Computer Science applicants should apply to UBC or other universities in parallel rather than treat U of T as a safety option for those specific programmes.

4

Which One Fits You?

Matching the decision to your priorities

Want Canada's highest-ranked university and access to Toronto's financial/business hub

→ **Choose University of Toronto**

The #1 Canada position on THE and US News, deep research credentials, and unmatched access to Canada's largest job market — if your profile is competitive for it.

Want a more accessible admissions bar and a dramatically cheaper course-based Master's

→ **Choose UBC**

A ~52% acceptance rate and an MEng starting at under half U of T's course-based Master's cost, plus genuine Asia-Pacific industry access via Vancouver.

Targeting Engineering, Computer Science or Commerce specifically at either university

→ **Apply to both as genuine reaches**

Both universities' flagship business/tech programmes are meaningfully more competitive than their overall acceptance rate suggests.

Still unsure which fits your specific course and budget

→ **Talk to Shiksha before you decide**

A free 15-minute call can pressure-test your choice against your actual profile and compare real course-level costs.

5

Get Free Counselling from Shiksha

Your next step starts here

Choosing between UBC and U of T isn't about which is objectively 'better' — it's about matching your course, budget, and career plans to the right fit. Shiksha Study Abroad's counsellors can help you:

- Compare specific programmes (not just universities) across both shortlists.
- Check your real admission odds for competitive programmes like Engineering, CS or Commerce.
- Understand the true cost gap for course-based vs thesis-route Master's degrees.
- Plan your application, PAL/study permit, and visa timeline so nothing is left too late.

Tap below to get started — it's 100% FREE

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All figures in this guide are 2026-27 planning estimates from official university pages, QS/THE/US News rankings, and third-party study-abroad sources, current as of mid-2026. Always verify current fees, entry requirements and course details directly with each university before applying.

Still torn between UBC and U of T?

Our counsellors help Indian students match their course, budget and career goals to the right university — and flag anything you should double-check before applying. Completely free of cost.

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Figures in this guide are 2026-27 planning estimates compiled from official University of British Columbia (ubc.ca) and University of Toronto (utoronto.ca) pages, QS World University Rankings 2026, THE and US News Best Global Universities, and third-party study-abroad sources, current as of mid-2026. Acceptance rates are estimated from aggregate admissions data where universities do not publish official figures. INR conversions use an indicative rate of CAD 1 ≈ Rs. 68 (mid-2026). Fees, entry requirements and scholarships vary by programme and change periodically — always verify current details with each university before applying.