

MY FINANCES, WELL IN HAND!



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Student Financial
Guide - Québec

ARE YOU AWARE
OF ALL YOUR
FINANCIAL
COMMITMENTS?
DO YOU KNOW HOW
TO MANAGE YOUR
LOANS PROPERLY
AND PROTECT YOUR
FINANCIAL FUTURE?
THESE ARE SOME
OF THE QUESTIONS
ANSWERED
IN MY FINANCES,
WELL IN HAND!

“I’M A STUDENT RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT. I ALSO HAVE A LOAN FROM MY FINANCIAL INSTITUTION. I AM IN CONTROL OF MY DEBTS AND I PAY THEM OFF, EVEN WHEN SOMETHING UNEXPECTED COMES UP. ALL IN ALL, I’M PRETTY GOOD AT MANAGING MY FINANCES!”

YOUR STUDIES, YOUR LEISURE TIME AND YOUR MONEY

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YOUR ADVISOR IS THERE FOR YOU

YOUR STUDIES, YOUR LEISURE TIME AND YOUR MONEY

You’re about to start or have just started a new school year or term and you will soon need to start balancing your studies, your work and your leisure activities. You’ll need to manage your money carefully, because you’ll need to cover your tuition, your books and your supplies. For some, that’s in addition to expenses for rent, groceries, the phone bill and all your other activities. However, your income, which is often earned over the summer, is limited. To help you get by, you might need to fall back on various financial aid tools and you’ll also need to prepare for the unexpected.

Every year, approximately 150,000 students from vocational high schools, CÉGEP, college and university apply for financial assistance from the AFE (Aide financière aux études) division of the ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport du Québec (MELSQ). Eight-five percent of applicants receive financial assistance. These loans from the AFE are guaranteed by the government, which pays the interest to your caisse on your behalf as long as you are a full-time student.

Opting for student loans and, if necessary, other credit instruments from your financial institution could help you reduce the hours you need to work, which would increase your chances for academic success.

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BORROWING MONEY TO PAY FOR YOUR STUDIES

THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO GO ABOUT GETTING GOVERNMENT LOANS AND SUBSEQUENTLY PAYING OFF YOUR DEBT?

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

First you have to apply for financial aid. Among other things, you need to provide information on your program of study, the name of your school, your personal status (married, single, dependent children) and the terms during which you are or will be a full-time student.

HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE YOUR APPLICATION?

Although most students apply a few months before the start of their classes, the deadline is flexible. You have up to 60 days after the end of the school year to file for financial assistance.

It is important to properly fill out the form, without omitting any details or documents required depending on your situation. Forgetting or neglecting to include something could cause delays in the analysis of your file. As a result, you would receive your financial assistance payments late, which could affect your budget planning!

Finally, don't forget that as a student you are fully responsible for your loan, even if your parents fill out a portion of your financial assistance application.

APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ONLINE OR IN WRITING!

When applying for financial aid, you could go to your school's financial aid office to get the form, or get it directly from the AFE. Or you can apply online at www.afe.gouv.qc.ca by clicking on the *On-line Access to Your File* tab.

It's always better to use the online form. It adapts to your profile as you add details, showing only the pages that apply to you. If one section is not properly filled in, you will not be able to continue to the next section. At the end, you will be told which documents to provide, depending on your situation.

It's just faster to do it online.

WHAT ARE THE PARENTS' OBLIGATIONS?

Your parents also have to fill out the appropriate Declaration. This Declaration lists and describes the family's financial resources and situation, enabling the AFE to establish the parent's contribution. This information remains confidential and will be used exclusively by the ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport. These forms are different from the student form and are submitted separately. Regardless of whether they use the paper or online version, parents only need to submit one declaration for all their children.

The amount of financial assistance awarded to students is based on their allowable expenses, their own financial contribution toward the cost of their education and their parents' contribution. Under the Québec Civil Code, parents must fulfil certain obligations toward their children. Education is one of them. Regardless of the type of assistance (money, rent payments, etc.), this contribution must meet the minimum amount required by the parents according to the AFE calculations. This amount is listed on the "Financial Assistance Statement" received by the student. Parents also receive a confirmation of their contribution.

N.B.: For more information, please see the end of this brochure for ways to contact the AFE.

AS A STUDENT YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE
FOR YOUR LOAN.

Approximately three weeks after receiving your Application for Financial Assistance the AFE will send you the “Financial Assistance Statement” letting you know how much you have been granted and how much you will receive in each month.

You then need to go to your school’s financial aid office at the beginning of the term to obtain your **Guarantee Certificate** and your **Loan Agreement**. For students who apply early, prior to June 30, there will be a delay between the time you receive your “Financial Assistance Statement” and the time your school receives the documents, since they are sent out only at the beginning of the school year or term.

You then have to bring your **Guarantee Certificate** and **Loan Agreement** to your caisse, or to another caisse acting as intermediary. The caisse will forward the documents to the Desjardins Student Loan Management Service. The Service will contact the AFE, and direct deposit payments begin. You will have to provide the names of two people close to you, who can reach you at any time in case you move, as a security or guarantee for the institution lending you the money.

ARE YOU MOVING?

It is important to know that, according to the administrative rules of student financial assistance, you have a 30-day period in which to inform the appropriate government department, that is, the ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, of any change of address, both during your studies and afterward. If you move, payment of your financial assistance is suspended when your address becomes obsolete after mail is returned to sender.

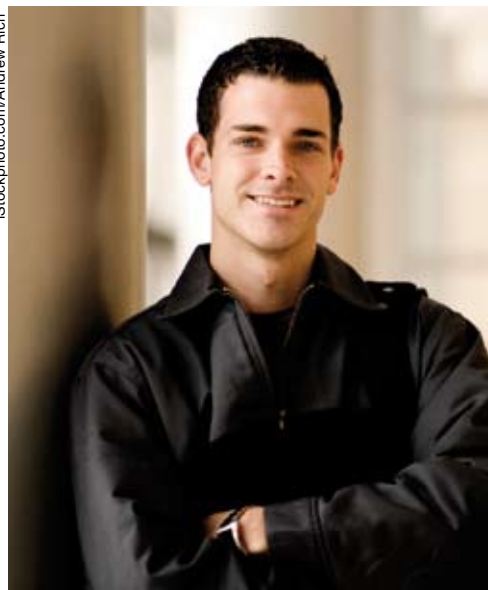
SIX STEPS TO YOUR APPLICATION:

- 1 Submit the **Application for Financial Assistance** to the AFE.
- 2 Receive the **Financial Assistance Statement** from the AFE.
- 3 Receive your **Guarantee Certificate** from the financial aid office.
- 4 Sign the **Guarantee Certificate** and **Loan Agreement** and submit them to your caisse.
- 5 **Your file** is then registered by your caisse with the Desjardins Student Loan Management Service.
- 6 Receive **financial assistance** payments in your chequing account.

SEPTEMBER AND JANUARY: MARK THESE MONTHS IN YOUR AGENDA!

On the **Application for Financial Assistance**, you must specify the amount you have earned since January and expect to earn by December 31. In September, you must confirm your earnings to date by filling out the “Confirmation of Financial Resources” form available on the AFE Website. In January of the following year, you have to do it again. **Both forms must be filled out in order to continue receiving your payments!**

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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ALL YEAR LONG

Since the program was reviewed, financial assistance is now paid out in the form of a loan for the full year. If you are entitled to a \$2,000 loan and a \$3,000 bursary, you will receive \$5,000 as a loan during the school year. At the end of the school year, your income will be checked by Revenu Québec and if your declaration matches, your financial institution will be reimbursed for the amount corresponding to the bursary allotted. If your income is higher, the first \$1,000 of financial assistance overpaid will become a loan. Any amount over \$1,000 will be recovered when you receive financial assistance payments during the following year and will be added to your student debt.

IT PAYS TO REPORT ALL YOUR INCOME!

When you confirm your income, make sure you haven't forgotten anything. Neglecting to declare your income may mean you're dealing with a false declaration. In such a case, you'd be given only 30 days to completely repay the overpayment and you would not be eligible for financial assistance for the following two years. Think about it!

THE DESJARDINS STUDENT LOAN MANAGEMENT SERVICE AND THE DESJARDINS CAISSES: WELL-BALANCED EXPERTISE!

The Desjardins Student Loan Management Service is where Desjardins has grouped all its experts in student financial assistance management, in order to address its student members' needs.

You start the process at your Desjardins caisse when you hand in the **Guarantee Certificate** and **Loan Agreement**. The Desjardins Student Loan Management Service then takes over, providing sound advice and all the information you need to manage your government loan:

- The disbursement and management of your loan
- The terms for repayment
- The deferred payment plan

The Service maintains direct contact with the ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, and, as a Desjardins member, you will receive an answer to any question you have in less than ten minutes.

The caisse, meanwhile, can advise you on additional products and services that could make your student life easier (see Your Desjardins Caisse and You).

You can reach the Desjardins Student Loan Management Service by:

- dialing 1-866-ÉTUDES (1-866-388-3373)
- e-mail at: pret.etudiant@desjardins.com
- mail: 163-1 Gaspé Blvd. Gaspé, Québec G4X 2V1

As a borrower, you are not only responsible for paying off your loans when you finish your studies, but also for keeping yourself apprised of the latest changes made to the ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport's Loans and Bursaries Program. That way, you will be sure to properly carry out your end of the contract without penalties. Assistance is also available for exceptional or difficult circumstances.

“WHAT’S THE RUSH TO PAY OFF MY STUDENT LOANS?”

It might be tempting to pay off other loans before your student loans because of the lower and therefore more advantageous interest rate on the latter. However, your financial institution must follow certain rules and make sure that you honour your commitment just as you would with any other type of personal loan. Even if you take out new loans to buy a car or furniture, for example, you must be able to keep making your payments on your student loans. There is no avoiding it and your financial institution has a duty to remind you of your responsibility.

“I DON’T HAVE TO PAY A PENNY FOR SIX MONTHS...”

Actually, interest starts accruing as soon as you are no longer a full-time student. You can pay the interest every month or add it to your student debt. Six months later, you have to start paying back your debt, including both the principal and the interest.

If you are among the lucky few who has found employment right after finishing school, you may choose to start paying off your interest without waiting for the six month period to end. All you have to do is contact the Desjardins Student Loan Management Service to let them know.

“WHAT ARE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS?”

Some time before making your first payment, you will receive a letter from the Management Service listing your repayment terms (amount to be paid each month and the repayment period). Depending on the size of the loan, your repayment period will be spread over 5, 10 or 15 years. You therefore do not have to go anywhere or sign anything to get started.

BE SURE TO ASSESS YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION AND YOUR ABILITY TO PAY!

In order to lower their interest charges, some people opt for a shorter repayment period than the one recommended by the Management Service. But before you commit to a quicker repayment plan, be sure to assess your financial situation and your ability to pay! You don't want to make a hasty decision and risk staining your future credit rating should it become too heavy a burden to bear. On the other hand, if you can afford to pay it off more quickly, then by all means do so.

QUESTIONS?

In any event, if the proposed repayment terms don't work for you, or if you have neglected to inform the government that you are still a full-time student, contact the **Desjardins Student Loan Management Service** to let them know.



“I HAVE TO PUT MY STUDIES ON HOLD FOR AWHILE”

You can defer paying off your student debt for up to two school terms if you temporarily stop studying full time for any of the following reasons: following the birth or adoption of your child, because of a temporary disability, because you have been elected an executive officer of a student association or because you’re a member of the Army Reserve on a mission abroad.

Simply fill out the AFE’s “Application to Postpone the Repayment of a Student Loan Debt During a Temporary Interruption of Studies” and provide the necessary supporting documents.

“I DON’T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY, I DON’T HAVE A JOB, I CAN’T MAKE THE PAYMENTS”

Need a break? If you haven’t found a job after finishing school or if your gross monthly income is under \$1,441 (provided you don’t have any children) and you don’t expect your circumstances to improve in the next three months, you may qualify for the Deferred Payment Plan.

If you are eligible, you will be exempt from paying off your student loan for a six-month period.

You may qualify for the plan for a lifetime total of 24 months (4 six-month periods) over the five years following the end of your partial exemption period (i.e. the six months after you stop being a full-time student).

WHEN DO YOU START PAYING OFF YOUR LOAN?

Even if you can begin right away, you start paying off your loan six months after you finish your full-time studies. At that time, Desjardins will apply the variable rate reserved for student loans.

Variable rate for the first six months

When you start paying off your loan, the interest rate will be variable. This is because a variable rate may be more advantageous in the long run. However, if you are not comfortable with the idea of a fluctuating interest rate, you can always request that the variable rate be replaced by a fixed rate. To change the agreement, you will need the consent of the Desjardins Student Loan Management Service.

“DO I QUALIFY FOR LOAN REMISSION?”

If you completed your program within the normal time period, you may be entitled to a loan remission equivalent to 15% of your total student loan debt. To qualify for the Loan Remission Program, you must have received bursaries every year of your undergraduate university studies and, of course, you must have earned all your credits and obtained your degree within the prescribed time.

“AM I ENTITLED TO A TAX CREDIT ON MY STUDENT LOANS?”

The provincial government grants you a non-refundable tax credit equal to 23% of the interest you pay on your student loans each year. You're also entitled to a similar tax credit from the federal government equal to 17% of the interest paid. You qualify for both tax credits until you have paid off your student loans.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU START TO FEEL THE PINCH BEFORE CONSULTING AN ADVISOR.

You must enclose the receipt from your financial institution showing the amount of interest you paid along with your income tax return. Ask your financial institution for your receipt if you didn't get one.

THINKING OF DECLARING BANKRUPTCY? DON'T BE TOO HASTY!

You're about to finish or have just finished school, you've taken out loans, and now, here you are, without a job and in debt. In a moment of panic, you think that bankruptcy is the only solution to your debt problem.

But watch out! There are serious consequences to declaring bankruptcy. You'll be given a bad credit rating. Lending institutions will most likely turn down your applications for a car loan or a mortgage. And forget about getting a line of credit or a credit card. In short, you'll have to prove that you've learned to manage your money wisely before any financial institution will trust you again.

When you declare bankruptcy, all debts from government-granted loans will remain in your file for seven years. If, at the end of that time, you have purchased goods, settled down or accumulated any assets whatsoever, your savings or property may be seized. The government will pay itself back one way or another, because student loans are considered personal loans.

WHAT TO DO?

Before making such a major decision, it would be wise to discuss it – and its consequences – with the Student Loan Management Service or consult the advisor at your caisse.

Above all, don't wait until you start to feel the pinch!

YOUR CAISSE CAN OFFER YOU FINANCING TOOLS – DO YOU KNOW HOW TO USE THEM?

The student loans awarded by the government are meant to help you pay your tuition fees and certain basic expenses. But even with extra income from a part-time job, you may not have enough money to cover all of your expenses.

The fact that you're a student today preparing for a job in tomorrow's labour market doesn't mean you have no consumer needs now. It does mean, however, that your financial means are limited.

Given the circumstances, it can be tempting to take out another loan or use another credit product such as a line of credit (which is in fact an extension of your chequing account), a car loan (because you do need to get around), a personal loan or even a credit card.

If you do, every month, you'll have to pay:

- The balance on your credit cards
- Your line of credit, if you've used it
- Your car or personal loan payment
- Plus the interest on all of these

As you can see, accumulating credit cards and loans so you can keep living off credit can end up costing you quite a bit! The best thing is to start developing good consumer habits now. Otherwise, you will have a hard time keeping your head above water and your debt load will only get heavier.

YOUR DESJARDINS CAISSE AND YOU

BUDGETING: A GREAT PLACE TO START!

Nothing beats making a budget for efficiently managing your financial affairs and clearly focusing your needs and your repayment ability.

This means making up basic spending rules for yourself so you can make the most of your money. This step is even more important if you have a limited income. When you apply for financing for something you really want to do, you'll see that having a well-defined budget will make the process a lot easier.

SETTING UP A BUDGET IS EASY!

- 1 Add up your employment income plus all the loan and bursary payments you have received, your line of credit, parental contributions, and any other income you may have.
- 2 Add up all your household expenses (electricity, phone, Internet supplier, cable, etc.), plus expenses for food, transportation, sports and recreation, clothing, personal and health care and debt* payments you make (credit card, interest on your line of credit, etc.).
- 3 Subtract your total expenses from your total income and you will see how much money you have available for your projects.

Desjardins offers a specially designed calculator to help you with this. Click on "Making a budget" in the Students section of the Desjardins website (www.desjardins.com), under *Tips*.

* Your debt ratio or your ability to pay off all your debts should not exceed 35% of your gross income.

BUILDING UP A CREDIT RATING

Borrowing allows you to deal with unforeseen expenses and to help make ends meet when necessary. However, you should think twice before borrowing and use it carefully. If you can't afford what you want or what you need and you buy on credit, make sure to pay your debts on time.

WHEN YOU DEVELOP HEALTHY BORROWING HABITS, YOU PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE FUTURE

When you develop good borrowing habits, you build up a credit history based on how you manage your credit. This personal history is known as a "credit rating" and contains information on whether you make your credit-related payments on time (credit cards and loans) and on your history of bankruptcies. All your past financial activities will influence your financial institution's decision on whether or not to grant you financing in the future. Your credit history shows lenders whether or not they can trust you.

Think about it – one little thing that might seem unimportant today could have a major impact later on when you want to buy a car or a house or even get the funding you need to start a business. When you rent an apartment many landlords now do background checks on your credit rating. You should be aware that a few missed payments now could have serious consequences on future loan applications: your financial institution may charge a higher interest rate, require a guarantor or even a refuse to grant the loan. In short, it is easier to start building a good credit rating now than to rebuild it in the future.

ARE YOU A RESPONSIBLE BORROWER?

Here are a few tips on how to establish and maintain a good credit rating:

- 1 Sign up for a systematic savings plan so you develop good savings habits and offset any unforeseen expenses.
- 2 Pay your credit card bill in full each month.
- 3 Pay your bills every month (electricity, phone, cable, etc.) and fulfil all your financial obligations. If the method of payment you set up for one of your loans is too restrictive, contact your financial institution before you end up defaulting on a payment.
- 4 Find out all the terms and limits that apply to your account (e.g. account freezes), your credit card or ATM card (PIN confidentiality, what to do in case your card is lost or stolen, etc.).
- 5 Only accept credit card offers that truly meet your needs, because some cards (like those for department or warehouse stores) come with relatively high interest rates.
- 6 Don't keep too many credit cards. That way it's easier to keep track of your finances.

It is a good idea to check out your credit file held by a credit agency (e.g. www.equifax.ca), to make sure it contains no errors.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR FIRST LOAN APPLICATION A LITTLE EASIER

Applying for your first loan? To make it easier to assess your application, your advisor needs to know all about you so he or she can establish a trust relationship with you. Here are some suggestions:

- 1 Bring your pay stub and your last report card or transcript (if applicable).
- 2 Show your advisor your budget to get an idea of your ability to repay a loan.
- 3 Your life experiences are also important. Talk about your plans for the future, your jobs, your hobbies and any current or past volunteer work you do or have done, for example.

Gather all the relevant information that shows that you are a trustworthy person, capable of fulfilling your obligations as well as your ability to pay off a loan. These are good habits that will make the process a whole lot easier!

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Desjardins provides students with financing tools especially designed for them, such as the Visa Desjardins For Students Only card and the Student Advantage Line of Credit. Find out all you can about them so you can make the most of their use.

LEARN TO MANAGE YOUR CREDIT

Living on credit does not necessarily mean living beyond your means. In order to enable 18-to-24 year-olds to learn more about credit and build up a strong credit rating, Desjardins is offering the Visa Desjardins For Students Only with no annual fees and an acceptable credit limit to meet temporary financing needs.

You will also benefit from interesting advantages such as cell phone insurance¹, 3-day complimentary travel insurance² and *à la carte* Ticket Service.

Taking control of your credit proves that you are responsible enough to manage your limits. You are better off going slowly to be sure that you are comfortable with the tool.

THERE'S ALSO ACCORD D FINANCING

Accord D financing is a second credit limit³ on your card that will allow you to carry out your projects by obtaining financing at a separate interest rate, whether directly at the caisse, through Accès D services (Internet and telephone), or at one of the 6,000 participating retailers. Reimbursement periods are flexible and you can make payments in equal monthly instalments over a period of up to 60 months. It is strongly recommended that you pay off the balance due by the end of the grace period so you avoid paying interest.

Accord D financing can also be useful if you need to borrow money temporarily before receiving your student loan. You would then make an agreement with your caisse to pay off your loan as a personal loan, in equal monthly instalments.

PLAYING YOUR CARDS RIGHT SO YOU DON'T LOSE YOUR SHIRT!

Here are a few tips on the best ways to make the most of your credit card:

- 1 Settle your monthly balance in full before the deadline, or interest will be calculated retroactively from the date of purchase.
- 2 Remember not to be guided by impulse. This means that you should use your credit card as a handy method of payment when you need it, such as to reserve a room when you go on vacation, to rent a car or a trailer, buy show tickets or plane tickets or make online purchases.
- 3 Respect your credit limit and don't increase it unless your income increases.
- 4 Get cash advances only when you need them, because interest rates apply as of the transaction date since there is no grace period such as the one allowed for purchases.
- 5 Keep all your receipts so you can compare them with your monthly account statement. This is an excellent way to monitor your budget more closely and make sure no one has used your card.
- 6 Never lend out your card and only give out your card number to businesses you trust.

1. Please refer to the Certificate of Insurance at www.desjardins.com/cellphoneinsurance for terms and conditions as well as applicable exclusions.

2. Certain conditions and restrictions apply.

3. Subject to Desjardins Card Services credit approval.

A LINE OF CREDIT GIVES YOU ROOM TO BREATHE

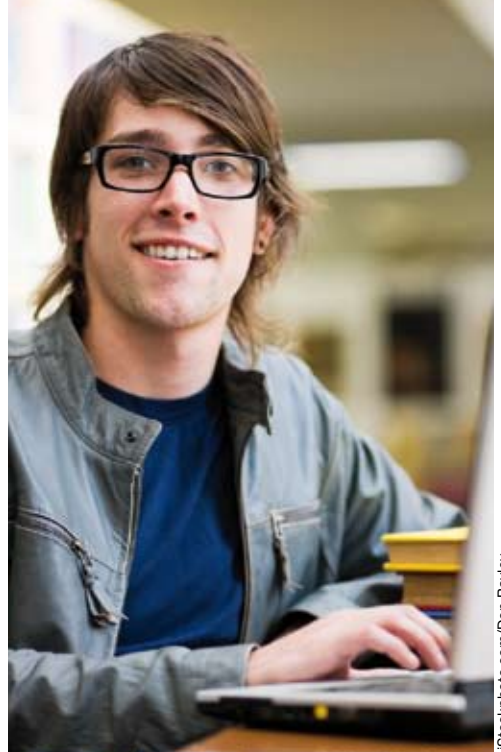
A credit line is another flexible financing tool that students can use under certain conditions.

When you are studying, you have a lot of expenses and not much income. The Student Advantage Line of Credit could be a useful tool to help you make ends meet when your summer savings, part-time job, loans and bursaries or the financial help you get from your parents just isn't enough.

The maximum annual line of credit granted to college students is generally \$3,000, and \$6,000 for university students, although this amount may be increased, depending on the circumstances. These limits may be exceeded in certain situations.

A line of credit may be used, for example, to buy a computer or software, pay tuition fees, internship costs or transportation expenses. You should meet with your advisor to determine the proper amount of credit for your needs.

WITH A STUDENT ADVANTAGE LINE OF CREDIT YOU ONLY PAY THE INTEREST DURING YOUR STUDIES.



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HOW DOES THE STUDENT ADVANTAGE LINE OF CREDIT WORK?

- 1 You receive the money as you need it.
- 2 While you are still a student, you only pay the monthly interest on the amount of money you have actually used. So, if you were granted a \$3,000 line of credit but you only used \$2,000, the interest will be calculated on the lower amount.
- 3 Once your studies are completed, the line of credit is converted into a personal loan at the interest rate in effect at that time for this type of loan. The first repayment on the capital may be postponed six months following your graduation.

Getting credit from the caisse – whether through a loan, a line of credit or a credit card – carries a certain responsibility: you have to pay it back! Even if something unexpected happens, your financial obligation remains.

INSURING YOUR CREDIT

Your caisse can help you protect your finances by offering you coverage especially adapted for your situation. Whether you opt for Loan Insurance, Line of Credit Insurance, or Credit Balance Insurance, you know you'll be covered in case of death or disability.

In case of death, it is your life insurance that will settle your debts, for the amount insured. And, if you are in an accident or get sick and can't work to earn enough money to pay off your loans, your disability insurance could take over while you recover.

GETTING CREDIT IS A SERIOUS MATTER!

If you have no safety net of savings and you can't make your payments, it's your credit rating that will likely suffer for it in the future. And if you are lucky enough to have some savings, you certainly won't want to be chipping away at them to pay off loans, much less go running to friends or family to help you meet your financial commitments.

Feel free to talk to your advisor, who is well equipped to advise you on what to do.

You're doing everything you can to manage your affairs and come out ahead in your studies and your finances. So why would you let an accident put all your work at risk? That's why it's important to have insurance – for yourself as well as for your belongings.

PROTECT YOURSELF IN CASE OF AN ACCIDENT

Did you know that all the costs and expenses related to an accident are not covered 100% by the provincial medicare plan or even by private insurance?

Accirance Plus, Personal Accident Insurance is a low-cost way to help you cover the many expenses that come up following an accident. It is a very inexpensive solution (only pennies per day) that is adapted to meet your specific coverage needs:

- Coverage of costs related to loss of a summer job;
- Coverage of costs related to the cancellation or repeat of a semester of study (tuition);
- Coverage of costs related to a simple broken leg: transport by ambulance, physiotherapy, loss of income, replaced glasses, medication, etc.

DON'T LET AN ACCIDENT RUIN YOUR FINANCIAL STABILITY IN ONE FELL SWOOP!

Know how to manage the risks of an accident as well as you manage your other affairs. Ask at the caisse about the coverage possibilities available to you.

TRAVEL WITH PEACE OF MIND

As a child, you had to follow your parents wherever and whenever they decided to go on a trip. Today, you enjoy planning your own trips, down to the smallest detail. Where you're going; how much you'll need to save before you leave; how long you'll stay. But have you also planned for a several-thousand-dollar safety net in case something happens to you abroad?

Meanwhile, that is how much it could cost you if you need emergency medical care while outside your home province if you don't sign up for travel insurance before you leave.

TRAVELING IS EXPENSIVE. RECEIVING EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY IS EVEN MORE EXPENSIVE.

Why not get a Travel Insurance policy from Desjardins Financial Security? It includes considerable coverage for many different types of travel needs such as healthcare, baggage loss or trip cancellation.

These different types of coverage are offered separately or grouped as packages. With Travel Insurance, you also get free access to an unparalleled travel assistance service, with a team of professionals available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to help you in case anything happens while you are away. No matter where you are in the world, you can fix everything with just a simple phone call!

If you are a Visa Desjardins For Student Only card holder, you benefit from 3-day complimentary travel insurance for as many times as you wish during the year¹.

LOWER YOUR CAR INSURANCE PREMIUMS IN FOUR EASY STEPS

Are you a student on a limited budget? Then we have good news for you! The following tips will help you be proactive in reducing your insurance premiums:

- 1 Always drive carefully.** An impeccable driving record is the first step towards getting the best rates possible. As a good driver, you are definitely favoured by your insurer.
- 2 Choose the deductible that best meets your needs.** By increasing the amount of the deductible you would pay in case of a claim, you automatically reduce your premiums. Of course, this is only to your advantage if you are able to cover the higher deductible if something happens.
- 3 Opt for the "winning combinations".** By purchasing your car and home insurance with the same insurer, you get a nice rebate. At Desjardins General Insurance, a double contract gives you a 5% savings on your home insurance premiums and you also benefit from certain additional coverage free of charge with your car insurance. It's an advantage that is well worth it!
- 4 Remember that your car insurance premiums are based on many things, including the kind of car you drive.** For example, you will pay considerably more in premiums to insure a 2005 Acura RSX than for the same coverage on a 1999 Toyota Tercel. One more reason to call a qualified insurance agent if you are thinking of buying or leasing a vehicle!

1. Certain conditions and restrictions apply.



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YOUR FIRST APARTMENT: THREE USEFUL TIPS

- 1 Do you have home insurance? It is highly recommended that you make a list of all your belongings. Desjardins General Insurance recommends that you do this regularly to determine if your insurance needs have changed. You can then contact your insurance agent and make sure your coverage and insurance amounts are sufficient!
- 2 To help make the claim process faster and easier on you, be proactive! In addition to preparing an inventory of your property and keeping it in a safe place, make sure you keep your receipts, your instruction manuals, photos of your belongings, etc.
- 3 If anything does happen, contact the police and notify your insurer as soon as possible.

Proactive, preventive behaviour will help you save time and will make sure your claim is settled efficiently and hassle-free.

INSURING YOUR HOME: THAT'S THINKING AHEAD!

You say you have very few items of value so you don't think it's worth it to buy insurance for your home? Here are a few practical bits of information that will show you the advantages of having home insurance.

In addition to offering you protection for your belongings, a home insurance policy also provides civil liability coverage. That can help you avoid a lot of problems since you will be protected against possible damage claims for which you may be accidentally at fault. For example, let's say you forget to turn off the taps of your bathtub and it overflows into your downstairs neighbour's place. Luckily, your home insurance policy covers you against lawsuits for damages for which you are liable and for which you could be unintentionally at fault.

You may be interested to know that at Desjardins General Insurance, students living in apartments may also be covered by their parents' home insurance at no additional charge.¹

1. Some restrictions apply.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE – JUST TO BE SAFE

You sometimes borrow a friend's car

You can sometimes add additional coverage to your car insurance contract. For a slight surcharge, you will be protected if you borrow a friend's car.¹ This option can be very useful, making driving more secure!

You carry a laptop computer to do your work on campus

Tenant home insurance contracts cover moveable property that you temporarily take outside the home, such as a laptop for instance, up to a certain amount. You can discuss with your Desjardins General Insurance agent the possibility of adding an option to your insurance contract that removes this limit.¹

1. Subject to other contract exclusions and limitations.

GUESS WHAT!

Desjardins General Insurance has revised its auto insurance premiums for 18-24 year-olds. You could benefit from a very interesting rebate – check it out!

Are you a member of Accès D Internet? Ask for a car insurance quote any time online at www.desjardinsgeneralinsurance.com or via Accès D.

You can also contact an insurance agent at your caisse or dial 1-888-ASSURANCE (1-888-277-8726).

N.B.: Desjardins General Insurance products are available in Quebec only.

BEWARE OF IDENTITY THEFT!

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information against or without your consent to commit crimes such as fraud, theft or forgery.

Phishing, for example, consists of using fraudulent Web sites or e-mails to mislead Internet users by having them disclose their personal and financial information. Never reply an e-mail that seems to originate from a financial institution or a credit card issuer asking for your personal information.

The www.desjardins.com/security microsite contains a lot of information and advice regarding the security of online transactions.



Just like with government guaranteed loans, the aim of all these financing tools is to give you peace of mind and help you properly manage your finances.

Your caisse advisor participates in some way in your success by analyzing your financial needs and developing an on-going, trust-based relationship with you. Feel free to ask any questions on your mind. Your advisor has access to a large number of products and services that are especially designed for your needs, and to an entire network of other expert professionals who are ready and willing to lend you a helping hand. And later on, your advisor will be able to guide you towards whatever you need to protect your financial future.

AT ANY TIME, IF YOUR SITUATION CHANGES, DON'T HESITATE TO TALK TO YOUR ADVISOR – HE OR SHE IS THERE FOR YOU!

ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES AT THE TIP OF YOUR FINGERS

Desjardins developed the Desjardins d•plan for Students, which includes, among other things, the Visa Desjardins For Students Only card and the Student Advantage Line of Credit, a range of products and services that includes the Desjardins Youth Profit Account, the Student Savings Account, the Desjardins Access Card, line of credit insurance, car loans, savings-life insurance, travel insurance and car insurance.

For information on your financial needs (credit, savings, insurance):

- 1 See the member services advisors at your caisses before, during and once you complete your studies.

- 2 To find out more about all the products and services offered with the Desjardins d•plan for Students or to apply online for a card, a line of credit or to use the Accès D Internet service, visit www.desjardins.com/students.

For questions about your government financial assistance application and repayment terms:

Contact the Desjardins Student Loan Management Service agents at 1-866-ÉtudesD (1-866-388-3373) or by e-mail at: pret.etudiant@desjardins.com.

To check the status of your application for financial assistance with the government:

The MELS-AFE interactive telephone service (have your permanent code and your social insurance number handy):
 Québec City: 418-646-4505;
 elsewhere in Québec: 1-888-345-4505.

To receive application forms and general information visit:

- 1 The financial aid office at your school.
- 2 The ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport AFE Web site at: www.afe.gouv.qc.ca, or call 418-643-3750 (Québec City) or 1-877-643-3750 (across Québec).

Bursaries!

If you are at university, try your luck at winning one of the 200 student awards offered every year by Fondation Desjardins: www.desjardins.com Companies and Subsidiaries section.



Courtesy of your Desjardins caisse