



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

Office of
Student Awards
and Financial Aid

FINANCIAL LITERACY

NEWSLETTER



November 2021

Tips for International Students



A message from the Associate Registrar

Now that we are in the midst of Financial Literacy Month, I hope that you have had an opportunity to participate in some of the great events that we have had and some of those that are up and coming. At the beginning of the month the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada released their 2021 - 2026

Strategic Plan. This is important because it provides direction on how people within Canada can look to build knowledge on becoming financially resilient. Take the time to read through this month's newsletter to learn about opportunities to help you can become more financially resilient. In this month's issue, The Royal Bank of Canada has provided an excellent piece to help educate you about Canadian banking, and this issue will explore the financial literacy opportunities that we have planned throughout the rest of the month. Another exciting opportunity is that Lakehead University has partnered with the Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE) to host a series of workshops throughout the school year. It's still not too late to participate in the monthly webinars and learn about some great topics such as income taxes, budgeting, or financial planning, all to build your resilience. Join us at the end of the month to hear Robert Brown, the author of *Wealthening Like Rabbits*, provide a talk about three critical points of money management. Interested to learn more, then see you on November 25 at 1:00pm for Robert's talk.

Sincerely,

Josh Levac

Associate Registrar

Financial Institutions in Canada



If you are an international student or newcomer to Canada, it is important to know what resources are credible and reliable. That's why we have dedicated this newsletter to you!

Bank Accounts

Setting up a bank account is one of the first things that may be on your to-do list when you arrive in Canada. Our banking system is highly regulated and there are many major banks and credit unions for you to choose from. Each banking institution offers a variety of account types, services, charges/fees, and interest rates. Although one may argue that one bank is better than another, each banking institution offers the same basic services for the most part. As Kyle touches on in his article below, there are two main account types and most individuals have both a chequing and a savings account. You will want to ask the bank advisor about the terms and conditions of your accounts. It is important to know that transaction fees can vary between the banks. Also remember to ask if they have any accounts for student's, as most financial institutions do and student accounts typically have less fees/charges associated with using them.

Credit cards

Another service you may want to look into is signing up for a credit card. There are three major credit cards within Canada: MasterCard, Visa, or American Express. A credit card allows you to make purchases with a grace period before you need to actually pay for them. Although these cards come with convenience, they also come with conditions you must meet. It is important you understand the terms and conditions of your credit card and repayment. You must be confident that you can pay the balance of your credit card on time (this would be stipulated on your credit card bill each month). Your credit card bill will tell you what your balance owing is for a specific time period, the minimum payment you must make, and when your payment is due by. For example, your statement balance is \$500 for October 12, 2021 to November 11, 2021, the minimum payment you must make is \$25 and your payment is due by December 2, 2021. If you do not pay your credit card bill in full by the payment due date (December 2nd in this example), you will be charged interest on the total amount of the bill (\$500), even if you paid a portion of the bill over the month. This means that even if you paid \$400 of the \$500 balance and made the minimum payment of \$25 by December 2, 2021, you would still be charged interest on the entire \$500 from your statement. In order to avoid being charged interest, you would need to pay the entire \$500 by December 2, 2021. Most credit cards have an interest rate of 20% or more. Credit cards are a great way to build your credit score in Canada if you are able to pay your balance in full each month.

Banks loans and Lines of Credit

You may be offered a loan or line of credit from the institution you choose to set your bank account up with. A loan would be a one-time loan from the bank to assist you in making a big purchase. A line of credit is typically reusable, which means that you can use it to make a big purchase, pay off the outstanding loan, and then use the line of credit again for a different purchase. You may need to provide some collateral (cash or goods) when setting up a loan or line of credit and that collateral usually would be handed over if you failed to make the payments on your loan. You will be charged a high interest rate if you do not meet the bank's payment terms when in repayment.

Things Every International Student Should Know



Kyle Neabel is an Banking Advisor Intern at RBC.

Your eyes casually glance up to a sign as you take your first step into Canada at the Canadian airport where you first arrive and clear customs. You are greeted by the words Welcome to Canada/Bienvenue au Canada.

As your educational adventure begins, you are introduced to a new country with its own unique culture, traditions, and nuances. Among those nuances is a new banking system in this new country – one of the most respected, established,

and secure financial systems in the world. Begin your learning journey with us below – here are 6 things every international student should know!

1. Different accounts can do different things for you.

In Canada, we have two main account types. Your chequing account is your day to day transactional account. Often individuals will have their payroll automatically deposited to this call and this is the account people will generally pay their bills from. A savings account is where you will set aside money for the future. Savings accounts are different from your chequing account as they typically have a higher level of interest but with the understanding of fewer transactions on a day to day basis. Your client card, also known as a debit card, will ensure you may pay from your account at stores or access a vast ATM network where you may pay bills, deposit cash and cheques, and take out cash. Remember to protect yourself by selecting a pin code that can't be easily guessed by others and do not ever share your pin code with others. Be sure to ask about student banking and newcomer options at your bank.

2. Choose and Manage the Right Credit Card to Suit You.

Credit Cards are not only a convenient and safe way to pay for the things you need, choosing the right card for you can ensure other needs are met. Most people will use credit cards to purchase everything they need, and then will use their chequing account to pay off their credit card. Credit Cards help you to start building a credit score in Canada. A healthy credit score will help enable you to qualify for additional borrowing solutions in the future such as a mortgage or loans. But the only way to build a good credit history is with time and making sure you pay the credit card on time and in full. Some credit cards are low interest while others can earn you rewards such as travel points that you may use to visit the people you care about back home.

3. Know How to Receive or Send Money.

Typically, to receive money from home, the sender will contact their financial institution to complete a wire transfer. The information they may require will include your:

- name and address.

- bank account number
- transit/branch number
- bank's address and phone number
- bank's SWIFT code (for example: RBC's SWIFT code is ROYCCAT2)

You can find your account related information on a direct deposit slip or a void cheque, which can be easily found in your online banking or by contacting your financial institution.

To send money internationally, some Banks offer an online transfer option through online banking. The dollar amount of these transfers may be limited to protect you and the recipient. Visit your branch to learn more.

To send money to another individual with a Canadian Bank Account at any financial institution, you may transfer funds using eTransfers through mobile or online banking that require an email address or phone number.

4. What about Investing?

To purchase investments in Canada, you must be the age of majority which is 18 or 19, depending on your province. In Ontario, that age is 18. You must also be a resident of Canada and hold a valid Social Insurance Number. Investments and savings solutions are a means to achieve goals for tomorrow or down the road from purchasing a car or making a down payment on a house to saving for retirement. What's important is that you seek out tailored financial advice from a certified financial advisor.

5. Build a Budget!

Having a monthly plan is important to every one of us. Having a budget tailored for you will enable you to focus on what's really important - your education, future career, family, friends, and the people you care about back at home. The three F's to consider when building your budget include facts, fun, and flexibility.

First, look at what you are currently spending money on and begin by making room for the "MUST DOs" – rent, bills, tuition, books, travel to visit home, and of course the costs related to mobile devices and access to the internet to stay in touch with family and friends.

Next, make sure you make room for the fun – those activities that help you destress and nurture your well-being whether it be a movie or the odd inner out. Canada is a beautiful and vibrant country and we want you to explore all aspects of its culture and traditions. Lastly, make it flexible by ensuring you have a surplus every month to be prepared for the unexpected or the unplanned moments in life.

Revisit your budget often and adjust to ensure it reflects changes in your life.

6. Know Your Digital Options

Your time is valuable and so knowing your bank's digital options can help you with your planning, spending, and ensuring you stay on track financially throughout the school year. Digital solutions, such as Mobile Banking or Telephone Banking, are easy to use, empowering, and ensure you have access to your banking 24/7 at the end of your fingertips. Find the digital solution that works best for you. Your financial well-being comes from continuously being aware of your financial story and your digital solutions will enable you to do just that.

RBC recognizes the important role that International Students play in making Canadian Universities more vibrant places to learn and grow. [Read more here](#) about how we make banking easy while you live, play and study in Canada.

RBC on campus is located at the Student Union Building at the Thunder Bay campus.

This article is supplied by RBC and is for information purposes only.

November is Financial Literacy Month

Bolster your Financial Literacy Knowledge

November is Financial Literacy Month in Canada! Each year Lakehead University works with a variety of financial institutions to provide students with opportunities to learn more and ask questions on various topics within Financial Literacy. Keep an eye on our [Financial Literacy Webpage](#) for upcoming events.

Financial Literacy Month Prize Corner

Refer a Friend!

We are excited to announce that for Financial Literacy Month we have an exclusive prize for our Financial Literacy Newsletter subscribers! The "Refer a Friend" Prize is an easy way to get yourself entered into one of our prize draws. To be entered, send a friend our [Google Form](#) for them to fill out and sign up for our Newsletter mailing list. They will provide their information as well as your information within that Google Form. In addition, you and your friend will need to attend at least one event happening between November 1st and 30th.



Google form link: <https://forms.gle/ebqqZnc9EdT43kMo9>



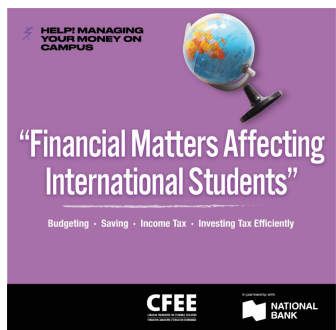
Financial Literacy Month Quiz

Want an opportunity to win a \$50 gift card? Fill out the short [Financial Literacy Month Quiz](#) below by November 30th.

Google Quiz Link: <https://forms.gle/cutSt7c7rZuuayrn6>

Upcoming Events

Financial Matters Affecting International Students | NOVEMBER 18 - 10:00AM



The Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE) has partnered with Lakehead University to offer a series of virtual workshops, designed to help improve the financial education and capability of University and College students.

Coming out of this workshop you will have a better understanding of how setting goals can help lead to more financial security, different methods to budget and how savings needs to be a key component of a budget. You will also have a better understanding of

Canada's tax system and possible ways to invest more tax efficiently. Another aspect will be learning some great tips to help you with your spending which will enable you to build a more effective budget and let you take more control of your money.

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

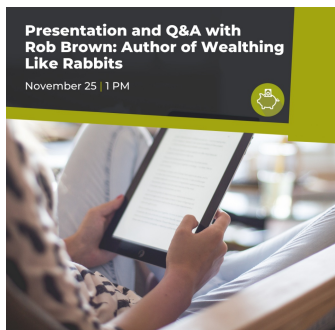
Your Brand Matters | NOVEMBER 24 - 12:00PM

Learn how to build awareness of your brand and use it effectively throughout your career.

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)



Presentation and Q&A with Rob Brown | NOVEMBER 25 - 1:00PM



The Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE) has partnered with Lakehead University to offer a series of virtual workshops, designed to help improve the financial education and capability of University and College students. Coming out of this workshop you will be much more comfortable managing your investment risks, be able to analyze and understand the potential value of the common stock of a company you choose to invest in and also know about some alternative investment opportunities.

There are a lot of layers and complexity to investing and this workshop will provide you the knowledge to invest for the long-term by applying techniques like dollar cost averaging and diversification to your portfolio. Also, you will learn the important metrics to research before investing in a company for the long-term as well as some additional ways to diversify and enhance your risk-adjusted returns.

No registration required! [Zoom Link](#)

Financial Literacy Fair | NOVEMBER 29 - 11:00AM to 1:00PM

Chat with representatives from local financial organizations to learn more about money and debt management, planning and saving for the future, and prevention against fraud. Participating organizations include:

- Kyle Neabel - RBC Royal Bank
- Jackie Ramler and Ella Headley - Raymond James Ltd.
- Karen Shalley - Thunder Bay Counselling
- Jeremy Bertrand - Ontario Ministry of Finance
- Pia Hoxell - Canada Revenue Agency
- Liany Duguay - Service Canada
- Josh McQuay - Assante Capital Management Ltd



Some organizations will have presentations you can attend while others will have drop-in style booths for you to come and ask questions.

No registration required! [Zoom Link](#)

Intermediate Investing | NOVEMBER 30 - 6:00PM

The Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE) has partnered with Lakehead University to offer a series of virtual workshops, designed to help



improve the financial education and capability of University and College students. Coming out of this workshop you will be much more comfortable managing your investment risks, be able to analyze and understand the potential value of the common stock of a company you choose to invest in and also know about some alternative investment opportunities. There are a lot of layers and complexity to investing and this workshop will provide you the knowledge to invest for the long-term by applying techniques like dollar cost averaging and diversification to your portfolio. Also, you will learn the important metrics to research before investing in a company for the long-term as well as some additional ways to diversify and enhance your risk-adjusted returns.

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

STUDENT ZONE



MEET ABBEY

Abbey is in our Concurrent Education program with a French Major and is a Greeter at Student Central.



In your own words, describe what financial literacy means.

Financial literacy means understanding how to navigate the monetary world around us! It is important to know the value of having good credit, how to apply for loans, what the range of interest rates are, how to budget, how to earn money with savings accounts, how to make investments etc. With so much information out there, it is important to do research and take information from trusted sources only! It is okay to take your time when making monetary choices and have a critical eye!

What is something that you do on a regular basis that you consider financially savvy?



To save money, I always take the bus or walk so I am not making car payments, insurance payments, repair payments, or gas payments! With our Lakehead bus pass, even if I only ride the bus from September-April, when you break it down it only is costing me 0.82 cents a day to ride! If I ride it all year round it turns out to be even less - 0.54 cents a day!



What are the resources you use to make financial decisions?

I usually go into the institution where I do my banking and make an appointment to speak with a financial advisor before I make any big financial decisions!



A piece of advice for your fellow Lakehead Thunderwolves.

Always meal plan for the week! If you meal plan, then you can create a grocery list with all the ingredients you need for the week so you are set and only have to make one trip to the store! This way, you have the food at home so you do not need to eat out or order delivery and you will be less likely to buy food that will go to waste because you have a plan! Believe me, this will save you money in the long run!

MEET A TEAM MEMBER

Hi, my name is Matt and I am new to the role of Student Central Professional, having worked in SAFA for a little over a month now. In my role, I assist with undergraduate funding opportunities, government student aid programs, as well as course registration, admissions inquiries, and more. During my tenure, I look forward to participating in some of the great events that we have for [Financial Literacy Month](#), as I enjoy providing students with advice that contributes to their overall financial knowledge and individual growth.

My biggest piece of financial literacy advice for students is to develop a plan to repay the financial aid you receive while in school. Repayment isn't always on students' minds

while applying for financial aid, however, the loans you receive become an impactful part of your adult life after graduation. Being cognizant of loan management while in school is crucial to your financial success moving forward. Essentially, the best piece of advice I can give you is that you shouldn't overspend just because you have access to funding.



Follow LakeheadLife on Facebook and Instagram for more financial tips and information.

