

Methodology

HEQCO’s Pathways to French-language Institutions infographic is informed by research we conducted in 2024. HEQCO partnered with one publicly assisted French-language postsecondary institution in Ontario to survey current students about their decision to attend a French-language institution. The survey asked students about their French-language experiences and high school education, postsecondary preferences, factors that influenced their decision making and sociodemographic characteristics. Our questions asked respondents to reflect on the time when they first considered their options for postsecondary education (PSE) (i.e., during or after the final year of high school) to understand their initial postsecondary preferences and decisions.

The survey was administered online in the fall of 2024 and received 108 responses, including 90 complete and 18 incomplete responses. Respondents included individuals who were over 18 years old, could conduct a conversation in French during their final year of high school and first attended a French-language postsecondary institution in Ontario after high school. Although students who first attended any French-language postsecondary institution in Ontario could complete the survey, all respondents indicated the partner institution was their first PSE institution. Since participation in the survey was voluntary and the sample was not representative, survey findings cannot be generalized beyond the sample.

Language(s) Used Regularly at Home in the Final Year of High School

Language	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
English	19	18%
French	99	94%
Other language(s)	23	22%

n=105
Note: Respondents could select multiple language options and may be represented across more than one category.

Types of French-language Education Enrolled in During High School

French-language Education	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
French-language high school	67	68%
French Immersion program	8	8%
Extended French program	10	10%
Core French (after Grade 9)	17	17%
Other	6	6%
None	9	9%

n=99

Note: Respondents could select multiple types of French-language high school education and may be represented across more than one category.

Preferred Language of Postsecondary Instruction

Preferred Language	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
English only	0	0%
French only	53	50%
Bilingual (English and French)	51	49%
Not sure	1	1%
No preference	0	0%

n=105

Note: This table presents responses to the question, “Think back to when you were first considering your postsecondary education options. What language(s) of instruction did you prefer for your postsecondary studies?”

Factors that Influenced Decision to Attend a French-language Institution

Factors	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Affordability	26	29%
Institution location	41	45%
Program offerings	58	64%
Program reputation	43	47%
Institution reputation	46	51%
Employment advantages	44	48%
Professional development	44	48%
Study in French	64	70%
French-speaking community	39	43%
Other	1	1%

n=91

Note: This table presents responses to the question, "Which of the following factors were influential in your decision to attend a French-only institution? Select all that apply."