

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEMS OF CANADA AND UZBEKISTAN

Saidova Gulasal Abdurahim qizi
Abduvoxidova Feruza Yo'lchi qizi
Chirchik State Pedagogical University
Faculty of Tourism
Foreign Languages and Literature: English Language
3-course students
gulasalsaidova032@gmail.com
feruzaabduvokhidova5@gmail.com
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Abstract:

This article examines and compares the national education systems of Canada and Uzbekistan, focusing on structural organization, governance, curriculum, compulsory education, higher education opportunities, and contemporary reforms. By contrasting Canada's highly decentralized framework with Uzbekistan's centralized system undergoing modernization, this study highlights key differences in educational philosophy and implementation.

Keywords

Canada, Uzbekistan, education system, compulsory schooling, higher education, curriculum, governance.

Education systems differ widely across the world according to political, cultural, and socio-economic contexts. Canada and Uzbekistan provide distinct examples of such diversity. Canada's system is decentralized and internationally oriented, while Uzbekistan's system remains centralized with ongoing reform efforts following its independence. These differences shape educational experiences and outcomes in each country.

Structure of the Canadian Education System- Canada's education system is publicly funded and administered by provincial and territorial governments, with children typically beginning school at age five or six and continuing until at least age 16 to 18. It comprises primary (elementary) education, secondary (high school), and post-secondary education (colleges and universities)¹. The curriculum and policies vary by province, but broadly similar standards are followed nationwide. Many universities—such as the University of Toronto, University of British Columbia, and McGill University—are recognized globally for their academic excellence².

Structure of the Uzbek Education System- in Uzbekistan, education includes pre-school, general secondary education (Grades 1–11), vocational education, and higher education. Students usually begin at age 7 and complete secondary schooling by age 17–18; the system is regulated by national educational authorities with centralized standards and policies across the

¹Education in Canada. Wikipedia. 2025. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Canada (accessed Dec 2025).

² Education in Canada: Types of schooling (Canada.ca). 2025. <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/settle-canada/education/school-types.html>.

country³. The education sector continues to grow, with thousands of general education schools and expanding higher education institutions.

Governance and Administration- Canada's education governance is decentralized and administered by thirteen provincial and territorial authorities, each responsible for its own curriculum and standards. This design allows localized control but shared national goals of quality education and student support⁴. Conversely, Uzbekistan's system remains centralized under national legislation, with the government regulating curricula, accreditation, and standardized state exams for university admission across all regions⁵.

Curriculum and Language of Instruction- Canadian schools emphasize critical thinking and diverse elective pathways, offering education in both English and French; many provinces encourage bilingual programs and inclusive curricula. Students may choose electives in arts, sciences, and vocational fields at the high-school level⁶.

In Uzbekistan, the curriculum is more standardized, with instruction primarily in Uzbek and core subjects mandated at the national level, while Russian and other local languages may also be included in some regions according to policy provisions⁷.

Compulsory Education and Access- in Canada, compulsory schooling generally spans from ages 5-7 to ages 16-18 depending on provincial law, which supports near-universal school attendance and high literacy rates standing at about 99% among adults⁸. In Uzbekistan, children must attend school from Grades 1 through 11 under national law, ensuring broad access, although rural-urban disparities persist in resources and student outcomes⁹.

Higher Education and International Recognition- Canada's higher education institutions are widely recognized and attract international students, offering bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. Many are ranked among the top universities globally, and the country leads internationally in tertiary educational attainment rates¹⁰. Uzbek universities are expanding rapidly, with hundreds of institutions offering undergraduate and postgraduate programs; however, they are ranked mostly at the regional level and are subject to national academic standards and entrance examinations.

Reforms and Contemporary Challenges- both countries face distinct educational challenges. Canada continues refining inclusive policies and adapting to demographic changes, while Uzbekistan is actively reforming its education system, including the adoption of new unified exams and modernization initiatives aimed at improving quality and international alignment of its curriculum. These reforms reflect broader national goals of economic and human capital development.

Global Educational Outcomes- Canada is consistently ranked among high-performing OECD education systems due to its high literacy levels, strong secondary completion rates, and significant tertiary attainment among adults. Uzbekistan's education system has achieved

³ Education in Uzbekistan. Wikipedia. 2025. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Uzbekistan (accessed Dec 2025).

⁴ Understand the Canadian education system. EduCanada. 2025. <https://www.educanada.ca/study-plan-etudes/system-education-systeme.aspx> (accessed Dec 2025).

⁵ O'zbekiston Respublikasining Ta'lim To'g'risidagi Qonuni. Sorumatik. 2025. <https://en.sorumatik.co/t/ozbekiston-respublikasining-talim-tog'risidagi-qonuni/42165>.

⁶ Education in Canada. Wikipedia. 2025.

⁷ O'zbekiston Respublikasining Ta'lim To'g'risidagi Qonuni. Sorumatik. 2025.

⁸ Education in Canada. Wikipedia. 2025.

⁹ Education in Uzbekistan. Wikipedia. 2025.

¹⁰ Education in Canada. Wikipedia. 2025.

nearly universal primary and secondary enrollment, although efforts continue to enhance educational quality and equity across diverse regions of the country.

In conclusion, Canada's decentralized and globally integrated education system contrasts with Uzbekistan's centralized and reform-focused model. The structural, governance, curriculum, and assessment differences reflect broader socio-political contexts and priorities in each country, influencing how education supports individual and national development.

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