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## Low funding for universities puts students at risk for cycles of poverty, especially in the wake of COVID-19

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Tracy Smith Carrier, [The Conversation](#)

Post-secondary education has consistently been linked to the promise of a better life. Graduating from post-secondary study has been identified as the [single most important factor affecting intergenerational mobility](#). Yet, several factors at play today show how this function of post-secondary education [is in crisis in Canada](#).

Shrinking government funding is behind higher university tuition fees. Government funding of Canadian universities in [1982 comprised 82.7 per cent of university operating revenues; by 2012, that percentage went down to 54.9 per cent](#). By 2019, in Ontario, [universities' receipt of government grants represented a paltry 24 per cent of total university revenues](#). Many college and university students [face significant debt](#) with no guarantee of a decent job.

Universities have adopted labour practices in common with the private sphere that result in a rise of precarious work in universities. In 2016, [one-third of part-time professors, many of them women, did not make enough money to raise them above the poverty line](#).

In the COVID-19 context, [young people have reason to be concerned](#) as the entry-level job market has [significantly "dried up," and employers are now revoking job offers or cutting back their graduate recruitment plans](#).

[Read the full article](#)

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