

Meteorologist

Forecast storms, warn people in time, and study how the atmosphere is changing.

TYPICAL PAY

\$112,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$70k to \$156k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 6 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Government forecast centres,
airports, television stations, energ...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Physics and calculus are the two that decide whether you can enter. Add computer science if you can.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
 Atmospheric science, meteorology, or physics with the required atmospheric courses. Only a handful of Canadian universities offer the full set.
- 3 Apply to a forecast employer** Months
 Environment and Climate Change Canada is the largest, and hiring runs in waves. Private weather firms, airlines and energy companies also hire.
- 4 Operational forecaster training** Several months to a year
 A paid, intensive in-house course before you are allowed to issue forecasts and warnings on your own.
- 5 Master's degree, for research or modelling** 1 to 2 years
 Needed if you want to work on climate research or numerical weather models rather than daily forecasting.

Pros and cons

- + Your work protects people, visibly and immediately
- + Stable government employment with a pension
- + Paid training after you are hired
- Shift work, including overnights and holidays, for years
- Only a few Canadian universities offer the right degree
- Hiring comes in waves, so timing matters

Optional boosts

Public forecasting. Aviation weather. Broadcast. Private industry.

Good to know

Forecasters cover the second largest country on Earth

Forecasters cover almost 10 million square kilometres of land plus huge stretches of the Arctic and three oceans, with far fewer weather stations in the north than in the south. A lot of northern forecasting I...

Warnings are the product

Environment and Climate Change Canada issues thousands of weather warnings a year for tornadoes, blizzards, freezing rain and storm surge. The forecast on your phone is the easy part of the job. T...

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Meteorologist in Canada, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society
 Environment and Climate Change Canada: weather tools and resources
 University of British Columbia: Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/meteorologist>



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