

Support For Your Family

International Student Orientation Program

August 28, 2026

ICS Settlement Advising



University
of Victoria

International Centre
for Students

UVIC



International Student Orientation Programs

- Aug 24 – 28: online info sessions
- Aug 31 – Sep 11: in-person: tours, board game nights, lawn games on the quad!
- Sep 3: International Student Welcome

[Register for ISOP](#)



REMINDER

- Submit your [OneCard](#) photo
- You'll need it to check in at the ISW event!

Welcome Notes

- This session provides information for **degree-seeking** students. Not all of it will be applicable to exchange or short-term students.
- Continuing Studies (DCS) students please contact sscoord@uvic.ca for settlement support.
- Business (GSB) students are welcome to stay. Contact gsbinternational@uvic.ca for settlement support.
- This session will be recorded. Please turn off your audio and video during the session. You will be able to turn it on again during the Q&A period.



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Disclaimer

- This session is intended to provide general information
- The information in this session is up to date as of **August 28, 2026**, some information may change without notice
- If you have case-specific questions, please contact us at icsinfo@uvic.ca or attend our daily drop-in hours: Monday-Friday from 1:30-3:30pm at JCC B202d



Territory Acknowledgment

We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Xʷsepsəm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Learn more about why and how we acknowledge the Territories at UVic at [Territory acknowledgement](#)



What we will cover

- Housing for your family
- Schools & daycares
- Healthcare & how to stay safe
- Resources for your family
- Q&A



A child's drawing on white paper, featuring a house with a red roof and chimney on the left, a large sun with rays in the center, and three green trees with red fruit on the right. In the foreground, four children are drawn holding hands in a line. The drawing is surrounded by several colored pencils (yellow, green, red, blue, orange) on the left side. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark grey rectangle.

HOUSING FOR YOUR FAMILY

Housing

On-campus options: UVic Family Housing

- 1-4 bed units for students with families
- Check eligibility and apply as soon as you have your Netlink ID
- Long waitlist, spaces are not guaranteed

Off-campus options: ICS Off-campus Housing

- Landlords may limit the # of people
- Landlords *cannot* refuse to rent to you because you have children
- Families are protected against discrimination: Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB)
- Consider building type, neighbours, nearby amenities, etc.



SCHOOLS AND DAYCARES



BC School Enrolment

Public Schools

- If your study permit is valid for at least 1 year and you are enrolled at UVic, your minor children (18 years of age and younger) may be eligible to attend public elementary or secondary school.
- In most cases, they will not be required to pay international student fees.

Private Schools

- You can also choose to enroll your children in private and independent schools that charge tuition fees.



BC Schools

English, French immersion, late French immersion

Three main stages for **ages 5 to 18:**

- **Elementary:** Kindergarten to Grade 5
- **Middle School:** Grade 6 - 8
- **Secondary:** Grades 7–12
- **Post-Secondary:** Colleges, universities, or trade schools



Grade placements

- In BC, students can register for school any time during the school year
- To enroll in school, a child must be at least 5 years old by December 31 of the school year.
- Children can start kindergarten in September of the year they turn 5 years old.
- Grade placements are determined by the child's birth year
- To learn more about BC's educational system, visit [LearnLiveBC](https://www.learnlivebc.ca)



School Districts

- Identify your school district before enrolling your child
- The SD is determined by the **municipality** of your residential address in BC
- School Districts
 - Greater Victoria School District SD 61
 - Sooke School District SD 62
 - Saanich School District SD 63



Catchments

- Every home address is associated with an elementary, middle, and secondary English and French Immersion school.
- Your children will be assigned a school based on your address at time of registration.
- The District uses a School Locator Tool to help determine catchment schools.



School Registration

Reach out to your school district's international education office:

- SD 61: [Victoria International Education](#)
- SD 62: [Sooke Schools International Student Program](#)
- SD 63: [Saanich International Student Program](#)

The SD will provide you with application information, review your documentation, and support you in registering your child for school.



Preparing your Documents

To register your child, the parent (or legal guardian) should bring the following items:

- **Identification documents:** passports, original birth certificates for parents and children
- **Proof of guardianship or custody**
- **Immigration documents:** study and work permits, and/or proof of Canadian citizenship for parents and children
- **Proof of residence address:** tenancy agreement or utility bill
- **Child's immunization records**
- **School report cards, grades, from the past 2 years**



School Hours

- The school year runs from early **September** to late **June**
- Public school hours will vary but are typically **8:45am to 2:45pm, Monday to Friday**. Consult your school's schedule for exact hours.
- **If you need before or after school care**
 - Check your school's website for [affiliated daycares](#).
 - Community organizations or private daycares
 - Check community members, ads in neighborhood, other parents, etc.



Getting ready for School

- ✓ Keep an eye on school's emails
- ✓ Check the school's website for school supplies list and shop ahead of time!
- ✓ Research school lunch options ahead of time – each school is different
- ✓ Check the school's website for Important dates
 - Professional Development Days (Pro-D days)
 - Winter, spring and summer breaks and closures
 - Statutory holidays
- ✓ Contact the school if you have questions



Daycares

- For children younger than 5 years old (before school age)
- In BC, there are licensed and non-licensed centers, including chain, local and home centres
- Options on and off campus
- What varies from daycare to daycare:
 - Service hours and offer of part-time/full-time spots
 - Minimum and maximum age
 - Whether food is included
 - Weekly/monthly fees



Finding daycare

Child Care Services on campus (from UVic)

- For children of full-time students
- Infant to 5 years old
- Apply ASAP and expect a wait list
- Fees: \$10/per day (subsidized by BC)

Resources

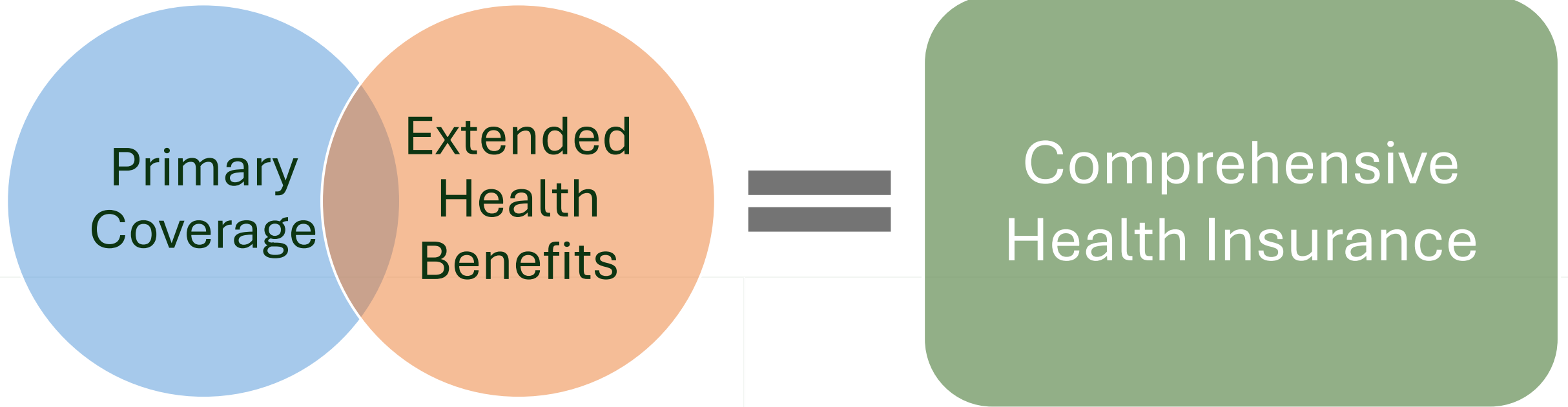
- ChildCareBC for information about the different types of childcare, accessing and finding a provider
- The Child Care Resource and Referral Centre (CCRR) offers support for finding childcare
- Ask friends, colleagues, daycare, ads
- The BC Child Care Map shows available childcare providers



A photograph of a healthcare reception area. On the left, a young woman with long brown hair, wearing a black face mask, a grey hoodie with 'UW' and 'UNIVERSITY' printed on it, and dark jeans, stands with a black backpack. She is looking towards the right. On the right, a woman with long brown hair, wearing a light blue face mask and a light pink long-sleeved shirt, sits at a reception desk. In front of her is a computer monitor and a calendar. The background shows a waiting area with a large snowman cutout on the wall and other people. The text 'HEALTHCARE & HOW TO STAY SAFE' is overlaid in the center in white, bold, sans-serif font.

HEALTHCARE & HOW TO STAY SAFE

Health Insurance

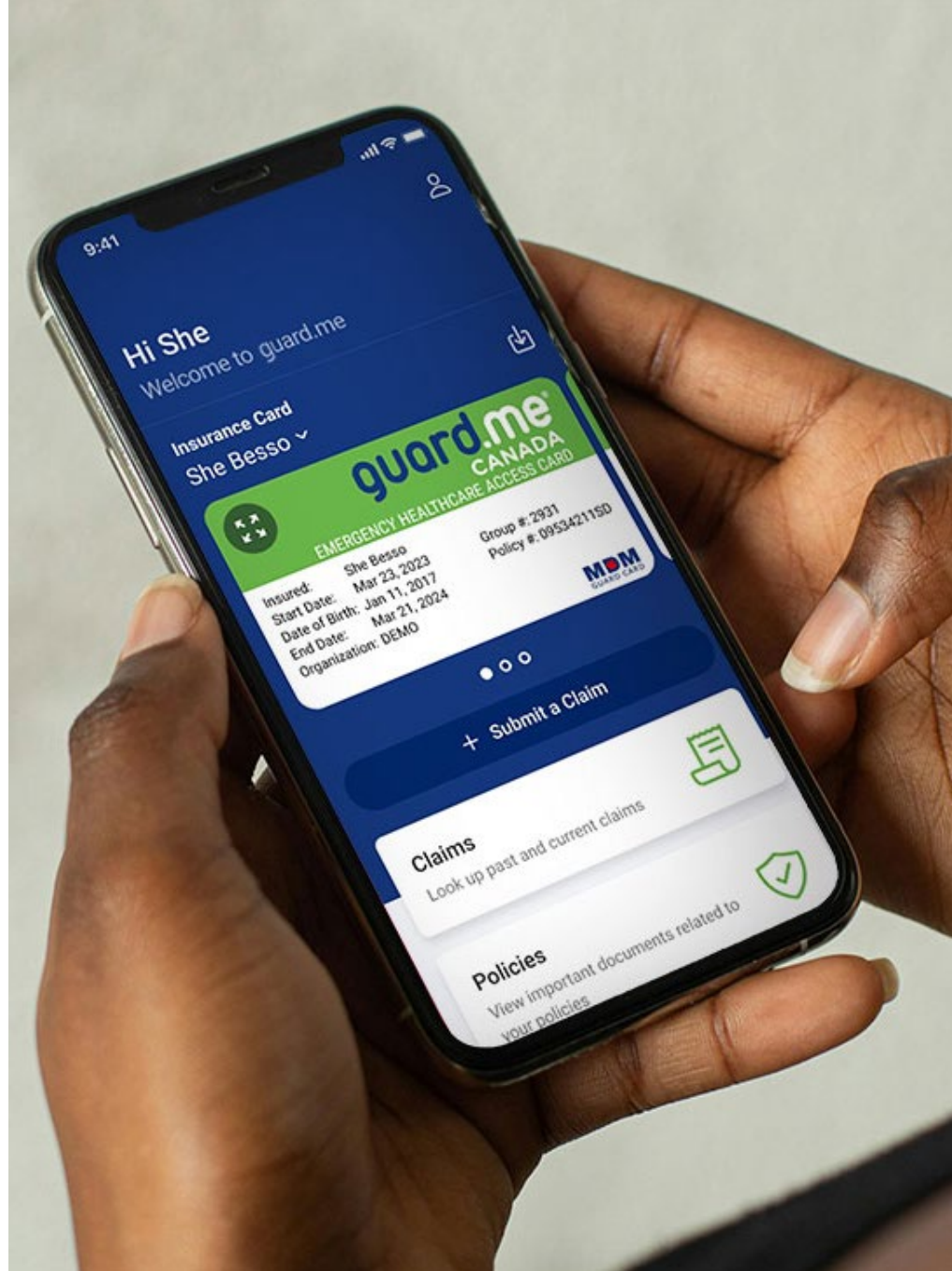


Health Insurance Levels

	All students First 4 months	2-term students Rest of studies in BC
Primary (mandatory)	GuardMe@UVic /Mandatory Temporary Medical Insurance Basic medical and emergency coverage during first term at UVic CAD\$ 265/term	BC Medical Services Plan (MSP) Basic medical and emergency coverage for people living in BC for more than 6 months CAD\$ 75/month
Extended (opt-in option)	<u>UVSS</u> AND <u>GSS</u> EXTENDED HEALTH AND DENTAL BENEFIT PLANS Dental, vision, and additional coverage to members of the students' society (via Alumo). Students can opt-in. Fees vary. Find it on your student account	

GuardMe – MTMI Coverage

- Primary health insurance (medical care for emergencies and illnesses)
- Aim is to cover individuals until BC MSP coverage begins
- Students will be automatically enrolled in MTMI
- Option for dependents of students (spouse and children) to purchase coverage for when they arrive
- Purchase online at [GuardMe@UVic plan](#) under the “Dependents of students” section



BC Medical Services Plan (BC MSP)

- Mandatory for anyone who will reside in BC for 6 months or more
- Apply for BC MSP:
 - If arriving together: submit everyone's enrolment in one application
 - If dependents will arrive later: update your account when they arrive
- 3-month eligibility waiting period once family members arrive in BC
- The \$75 fee: only for study permit holders



Extended Health and Dental

- Provided via the GSS/UVSS - Alumo
- Students may enroll dependents (extra fee)
- Dependent opt-ins must be renewed annually
- Opt-in online:
 - [Undergrad Student Society](#)
 - [Graduate Student Society](#)
- Opt-out: consult with Alumo and/or the Student Society for deadline and details of the opt-out process



Where to go when you get sick?

Is it an emergency?

- Call 911 or go to the Emergency Room at a hospital
- Call Campus Security: 250 721 7599 for help
- Call 811 (non-emergency) for free health information and advice

Need to see a doctor for a specialist referral or another non-emergency care?

- Same day or pre-booked appts: [Student Wellness Centre](#) (at UVic)
- Same day appts: [walk-in clinics](#) or [Urgent and Primary Care Centres](#)

Online healthcare

- MobileDoctor (GuardMe) or Telehealth options (BC MSP)

→ Don't forget to bring your insurance information and ID with you!

Medical/drug prescriptions

- From a doctor or nurse practitioner
- Pharmacists may be able to prescribe some types of medication



Healthcare Resources

On-campus: Student Wellness Centre & Multifaith Centre

- Physical and mental health services for students*
- Counselor appointments
- Spiritual care for students and families at the Multifaith Centre

Virtual health

- SupportConnect: 24/7 virtual mental health support. Free, confidential supports in multiple languages and via app
- Empower Me via extended health (GSS only)
- Mobile Doctor: free virtual health via GuardMe
- TELUS health: virtual health for BC residents
- 811 to talk to a nurse for free



Staying Safe

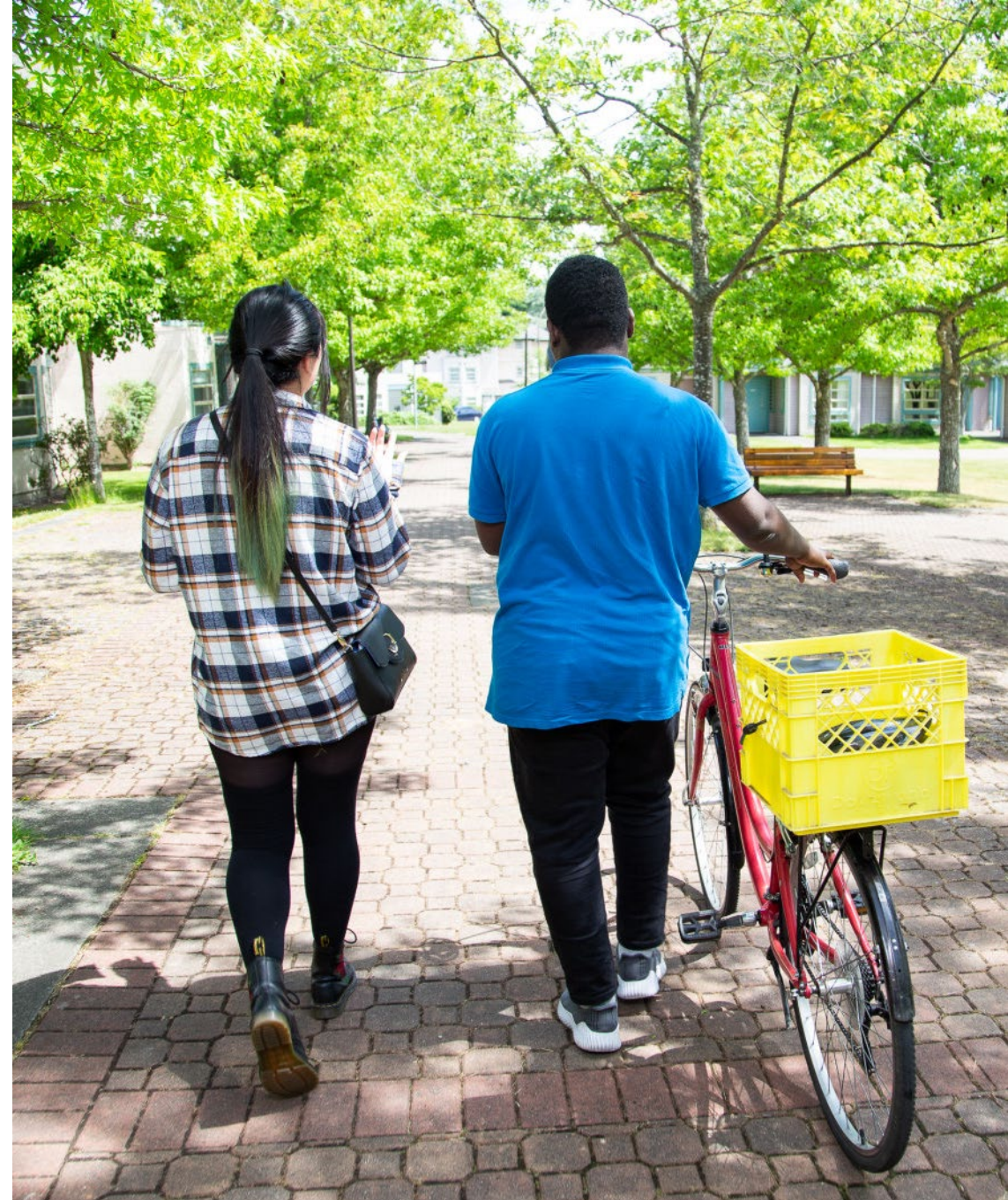
911: emergencies - ambulance, fire, police

UVic Campus security

- Phone: 250 721 7599
- [SafeWalk, Campus Alone, Uvic SafetyApp](#)

Other tips:

- Ensure all family members have phone numbers and addresses recorded
- Update your emergency contact information on your UVic student profile
- Find a buddy in your program



A family of five is posing on a stone path in a park. The father, wearing a dark jacket and a baseball cap, stands in the center with his arms around his two children. To his left is a young boy in a black hoodie. To his right is a young girl in a bright pink jumpsuit. In the foreground, a baby is sitting in a red stroller, and another child is sitting in a blue stroller. The background features a lush green landscape with a stone wall, a path, and a dense forest of evergreen trees. The text "RESOURCES FOR YOUR FAMILY" is overlaid in the center of the image.

RESOURCES FOR YOUR FAMILY

Resources and Supports

Support for UVic students and their families

- International Centre for Students
 - Immigration Specialists
 - Settlement Advisers

Community Organizations

- Inter-Cultural Association of Victoria (ICA)
- Victoria Immigrant Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS)

Employment

- Work BC
- WelcomeBC: information for newcomers



English Language Resources

English learning resources are available in Victoria for UVic students and families.

Program costs and availability vary:

- [UVic Continuing Studies](#)
- [Camosun College](#)
- [Private language schools](#)
- [The Inter-Cultural Association](#)
- [Community centres](#)
- [The Library Link for Newcomers](#)



Activities at UVic

ICS + Global Community

- Fall Family Social and other family friendly events

Graduate Students' Society (GSS)

- Regular events for students and community

VIKES Recreation

- Various membership options
- Summer camps and year-round programs



Activities in Victoria

The City of Victoria offers many free or low-cost recreational resources for families.

- [Recreation Centres](#): sports, art classes, summer camps, and other activities for all ages
- [Community Centres](#): food resources, social events, child care, and more
- [Parks](#): spaces and family-friendly amenities
- [Greater Victoria Public Library](#): events, programs, and provide learning resources for all ages
- [WelcomeBC](#): information for newcomers
- [City of Victoria – Welcome to Victoria](#): information for Victoria residents
- [Tourism Victoria](#): activities in Victoria



Don't miss our Family Social event!

You and your family are invited to join us on **September 19**.
Register below:



For all events and sessions, please visit [Upcoming events](#)



University
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FAMILY SOCIAL

Connect. Play. Belong.

Meet other students and connect with important services both on and off-campus. Light refreshments and fun activities for all ages.

Saturday, Sep 19

3:00–5:00 PM

Robert Wallace Hall 150



Recommended Pre-Arrival Checklist

Before Leaving for Canada

- Apply for UVic Family Housing (if interested)
- Join daycare waitlists and research schools
- Confirm temporary health insurance
- Collect medical and vaccination records
- Plan for prescription drugs supply*
- Gather immigration and school documents
- Arrange temporary accommodation*

Within the First Month in Victoria

- Apply for BC MSP
- Open a bank account
- Obtain a BC ID and Driver's license*
- Register children in school or childcare providers
- Connect with UVic's ICS, ICA and VIRCS
- Register with community programs
- Learn local transit routes and emergency contacts

Have questions? Reach out!

SETTLEMENT ADVISERS

icsinfo@uvic.ca | 250-721-6361

Drop-in advising: M-F, 1:30 – 3:30pm
In-person support at the ICS office
Jamie Cassels Centre - room B202d

Stay Connected

Follow us on Instagram [@uvicinternational](#)

Follow us on Facebook [UVic International](#)

Subscribe to our [newsletter](#)

And join our [upcoming events!](#)

Website resources

- ✓ [ICS – Getting Settled](#)
- ✓ [Health Insurance](#)
- ✓ [Support for Your Family](#)



THANK YOU!



QUESTIONS?