



Global Affairs Canada: Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP) Application Guideline

Funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC), the **Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP)** enables eligible Canadian post-secondary institutions to award scholarships to students from Latin America and the Caribbean undertaking [short-term study or research](#).

Established by the Government of Canada in 2009, the program aims to foster the development of human capital and the next generation of leaders in the region, while strengthening Canada's institutional partnerships and deepening people-to-people ties with the Americas.

The University of Victoria (UVic) is now accepting ELAP applications for the 2026-2027 academic year. See below for details about eligibility and application requirements.

The UVic ELAP application deadline is **Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 4:30pm PT**.

For questions, please contact the Office of Global Engagement, world@uvic.ca.

Eligibility

Scholarships may only be awarded to individuals who are:

- Citizens of the following eligible countries/territories:
 - **Caribbean:** Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos;
 - **Central America:** Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama;
 - **North America:** Mexico;
 - **South America:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela.
- Enrolled **full-time** at a post-secondary institution in an eligible country/territory;
- Paying tuition fees to that institution at the time of application and for the full duration of their mobility in Canada;
- Able to complete all project activities no later than September 30, 2027.

Scholarships may not be awarded to individuals who:

- Hold or have a pending application for Canadian citizenship or permanent residency.
- Are already holding another grant or source of funding from Global Affairs Canada (GAC), through its legal name, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD), or from a Canadian federal granting agency (e.g. Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) or Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). All additional sources of funding must be declared.
- Are already enrolled in a degree, diploma or certificate program at a Canadian post-secondary institution.

Other Requirements

- For applicants pursuing studies at UVic, a valid student exchange agreement **must** be in place at the time of application; contact your home university international exchange office.
- For undergraduate or graduate research applicants, an institutional agreement with UVic is not required. Research applicants must identify and confirm a host supervisor at UVic. If awarded an ELAP scholarship, research applicants will register at UVic via the [Visiting International Research Student](#) (VIRS) or [Graduate Visiting Research Student](#) (GVRS) program.

Scholarship Value and Duration

All values are in Canadian Dollars

- \$8,600 for 4 months or one academic term for study or research at the undergraduate level
- \$8,600 for 4 months or one academic term for study or research at the graduate level (Masters and PhD)
- \$12,400 for 5 to 6 months for study or research at the graduate level (Masters and PhD)

Key Dates

- March 12, 2026, 4:30pm PT: UVic application deadline
- May/June 2026: Notification of results from GAC to UVic; communication of results to applicants
- Scholarship recipients may commence their studies or research between August 1, 2026 and March 1, 2027. UVic will disburse scholarship funds to scholarship recipients upon their arrival in Victoria.

Application Process & Requirements

1. Complete the online [ELAP application form](#) before the deadline.

NOTE: all application submissions are final. Please ensure to review and confirm details and documents provided in the application are correct and accurate. No changes to the application will be permitted after official submission.

2. Prepare and submit the following required supporting documents in the application form:

a. Privacy Notice Statement for Non-Canadian Participants

- [Download from GAC ELAP website](#)
- Must be completed, signed, and dated for consideration of the scholarship within the last 6 months.

b. Proof of Citizenship

- Photo or scan of passport or national identify document.
- Ensure the photo/scan is clear and legible.

c. Proof of Full-Time Enrollment at Home University

- Provide a letter from the home university that confirms the applicant is **enrolled full time** and will continue to be enrolled full time upon return.
- The letter must be written in English on official home university letterhead, and signed and dated within the last six months.
- **NOTE:** it is a key eligibility requirement that the applicant is and will maintain full-time student status; ensure this is clearly stated in this letter.

d. Letter of Intent from Applicant

- Provide a letter that outlines the nature of the studies/research to be undertaken; the rationale for choosing Canada, the University of Victoria, and the program; and, how the program will impact the applicant's career.
- The letter must be a maximum of one page, written in English, and signed and dated by the applicant.

e. Letter of Support from the Home Institution

- Provide a letter prepared by the applicant's instructor, professor, or international director at the home university. The letter must explain the nature of the studies/research to be undertaken and how the applicant and home university will benefit from the scholarship program.
- The letter must be a maximum of one page, written in English on official home university letterhead, and signed and dated within the last six months.

Additional documents for research applicants ONLY

f. Letter of Invitation from Canadian Supervisor - Required for Undergraduate and Graduate Research Students

- Provide a letter prepared by the applicant's UVic research supervisor. The letter must indicate the supervisor's willingness to support and mentor the applicant. It should also demonstrate how UVic, the supervisor, the applicant, and peers will benefit from the applicant's participation.
- The letter must be a maximum of one page, written in English or French on official UVic letterhead, and signed and dated within the last six months.

g. Visiting International Research Student (VIRS) Agreement – Required for Undergraduate Research Students ONLY

- Download [VIRS Agreement here](#)
- Requires signatures from home and host institutions to verify the research agreement.
- The "host institution's international coordinator" signature may be left blank; this will be signed by the Office of Global Engagement at UVic.

3. UVic will review all complete applications. The Office of Global Engagement will submit the final qualifying applications to the Government of Canada by the official deadline.