



UVic Bound

Living in Victoria: Planning Ahead





Territory Acknowledgement



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.





UVic Bound Student Leaders



- **FAITH** (3rd year, Social Sciences)
- **HARSHIKA** (2nd year, Chemistry and Ocean Sciences)
- **MATEO** (4th year, Psychology)
- **OM** (3rd year, Microbiology)
- **PHEBE** (3rd year, Sociology)
- **AVNI** (2nd year, Computer Science)





Settlement Advisers



We support students with:

- Housing
- Health Insurance and Accessing Care
- Banking & Finances
- ID & Documentation
- Community Connections

How to contact us?

icsinfo@uvic.ca | 250-721-6361

Daily drop-in appointment hours:

- Monday-Friday
- 1:30-3:30 pm





Agenda



BREAKOUT
ROOMS!



What will we talk about today?

- Situating Victoria & UVic
- Travel Planning
- Housing & Living Costs
- Banking & Documentation
- Health Insurance
- Culture Shock
- Chat with our Student Leaders!



Where's Victoria?

- On an island on the West Coast of Canada
- ~400,000 people live in Greater Victoria
- Beaches, mountains, forests – we have it all!
- Mild weather year-round
- Dry summers, rainy winters – rain gear is a must!
- We are all about nature and outdoor activities – bring your hiking shoes!





Where's UVic?



- 20 mins from Downtown Victoria
- In Gordon Head, between Saanich & Oak Bay
- Spacious, green campus full of walking paths
- Near the ocean - Cadboro Bay is just a 20min walk from campus!
- Check out the [Campus Video Tour](#)
- Learn more [about the university!](#)



Can you find George?
[@campuspeacock](#)





Travel planning



Plan your travel and what to bring:

Entry documents

- Check our [planning your travel](#) for information about entry requirements, documentation and travel options.

Pack for Canada!

- You can also find information about [what to bring to Canada](#)





How to Get Around?

Walking

- If you live on-campus or close by off campus

Cycling

- [Bike friendly campus](#) and [city](#)
- [Galloping Goose](#) Regional Trail

Busing

- UVic is a transit hub – check schedule at [BC Transit](#)
- Students get discounted bus pass ([U-pass](#)) - UMO

Driving

- International students can use their [driver's license](#)
- [Carshare](#) or renting



On-Campus Housing

Regular [move-in](#)

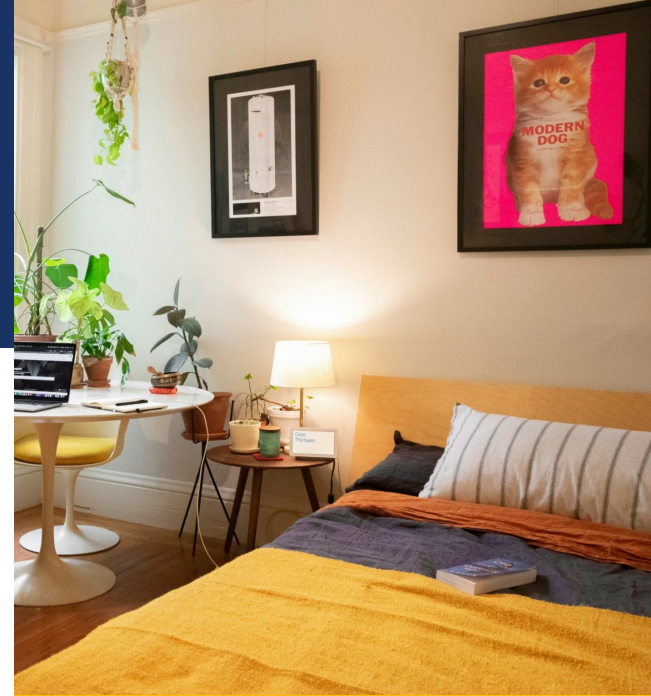
- During Labour Day weekend, Sep 6 & 7
- Information will be sent via email – check your inbox!

Early move-in

- Must be registered for ISW on Sep 3 – more info in July
- Apply for early move-in on the [Residence Services](#) page

Next steps

- Know the [fees and deadlines](#)
- Check out “Moving in” info – packing list, etc.
- Attend Residence Orientation



**Reach out to Residence Services
if you have any questions!**

Email: housing@uvic.ca

Phone: 250-721-8395

Off-Campus Housing

Check out our [Off Campus Housing](#) page for info on:

- Where to look for housing
- Understanding housing terminology
- What to look for
- How to avoid scams
- Rights and responsibilities
- Resources

- ✓ Watch our recorded sessions: [The Housing Hunt](#)
- ✓ Register for our upcoming session: [Ready to Rent on Jul 9](#)



Home Sweet Home!



Expenses will vary based on:

- **Housing:** living in Residence, sharing house/apartment, or renting a unit
- **Lifestyle:** eating out vs cooking at home
- **Transportation:** bus, bike or car?
- **Sports and leisure:** gear, a gym membership, entrance passes to events, museums, cinema, books
- **Shopping:** how much you spend on clothing, shoes and other items?

Living Costs



Numbeo is a useful tool for calculating living costs!

Opening a Bank Account



Open a bank account in Canada, especially if you have a Study permit.

Benefits include:

- Easier online payments
- Chequing and savings options
- Consider applying for a credit card

Major banks in Victoria: BMO, CIBC, RBC, Scotiabank, TD Canada Trust

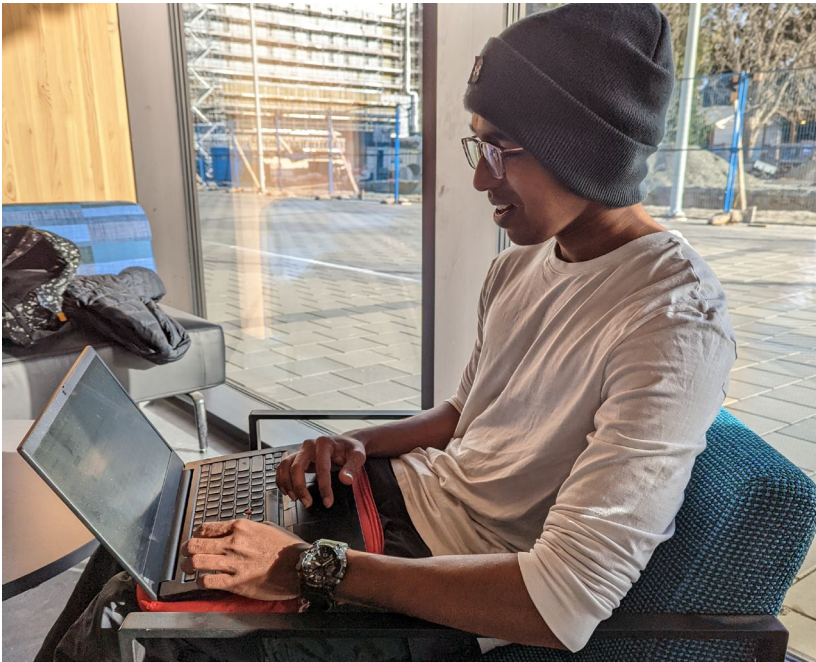
Documents needed to open an account:

- Passport
- Study permit
- Letter of enrolment from Uvic
- Photo ID





Money transfer & Paying Tuition



If you need to transfer money internationally:

- Ask your bank how an international wire process works
- Transactions may take multiple days
- Be aware of deadline for tuition and other payments
- Ask about admin/transaction fees

UVic tuition can be paid by:

- Wire transfer
- Convera Global pay
- Canadian debit or online billing
- Cheque, money order, or bank draft





Documentation & Translation

Important documents you may need translated:

- Driver's license (if transferring to a BC DL)
- References from previous employers or landlords
- Prescriptions for ongoing medication – bring up to 3 months of supply

To register with UVic [Centre for Accessible Learning \(CAL\)](#):

- Relevant medical history or diagnosis
- Early registration period for Fall term: **May 1 to July 1**

Important and medical documents should be translated to English

Translating documents in your home country will save you money and time



Health Insurance - MTMI

New international students are automatically enrolled in the [Mandatory Temporary Medical Insurance \(MTMI\)](#)

Coverage: **Sep 1-Dec 31, 2026**

Grace period: Aug 18 – Aug 31

Watch for an email from GuardMe around mid-August:

- Log in to your [MyAccount](#)
- Create your password
- View your healthcare card
- Learn about your coverage and policy
- Submit claims



Watch our recorded sessions:
[Comprehensive Health Insurance](#)
[Primary Health Insurance](#)



Health Insurance – BC MSP

Enrolment in BC MSP is **mandatory** for anyone who will reside in BC for 6 months or longer.

International students must submit a [Medical Services Plan \(MSP\) enrolment application](#) when they arrive in BC to account for the eligibility waiting period (~3 months).

[International Student Health Fee:](#) CAD \$75/month (per person) payable to BC's Revenue Services.



Check out our [online tutorial](#) on how to apply!

Home Away From Home

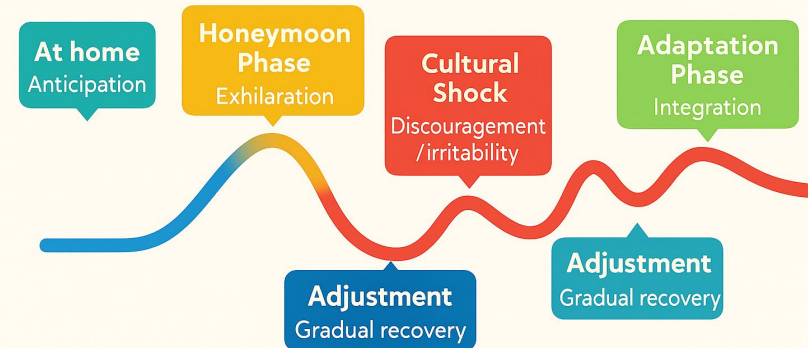
Culture Shock

- It happens to everyone
- It's not linear or has a specific order
- Understand and be prepared for the different stages

Coping with Homesickness

- Stay connected with friends and family back home
- Bring comfort items
- Make new friends and find your community
- Get involved with the Global Community + our [campus resources](#)
- Connect with clubs and course unions
- Explore local culture

Culture Shock



You're not alone

Learn about [mental health resources and support](#) at UVic

International Student Advising



ICS Website

[International Programs & Student Support](#)

- Information, resources, connection!

International Student Advising

- Immigration: isaimmigration@uvic.ca
- Settlement: icsinfo@uvic.ca
- Phone: 250-721-636

Daily Drop-in Hours

- Virtual, phone or in-person at JCC B202d
- Monday-Friday, 1:30pm-3:30pm (PT)



Let's chat!

Main lobby:
Student life on campus

Room 2:
Living in Victoria

Room 3:
**Navigating student
expenses**





Upcoming sessions



- Off the Syllabus: Next week June 10th 6:00pm-7:00pm (PDT)
- Join us on June 17 at 6:00 PM (PDT) for our UVic Bound: First Friends online social!



Instagram: [@uvicinternational](https://www.instagram.com/uvicinternational)
Email: uvicbound@uvic.ca

Thank you!

