

UVIC BOUND



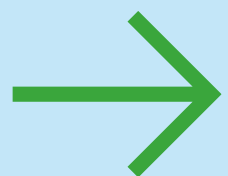
UVic Bound:

Living in Victoria: Planning Ahead





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.



Settlement Advisers

We support students with questions about:

- Housing
- Healthcare
- Community connections
- Resources

Available for appointments during drop-in hours:

M-F 1:30-3:30 pm

e-mail icsinfo@uvic.ca or call 250-721-6361



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UVic Bound Student leaders



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Agenda

- Situating Victoria
- Housing
- Planning ahead
- Breakouts rooms
- Questions





Situating Victoria

Where is Victoria?

Geography

- Small island on West Coast of Canada
- Beaches, mountains, and forests
- ~400,000 people in Greater Victoria

Climate

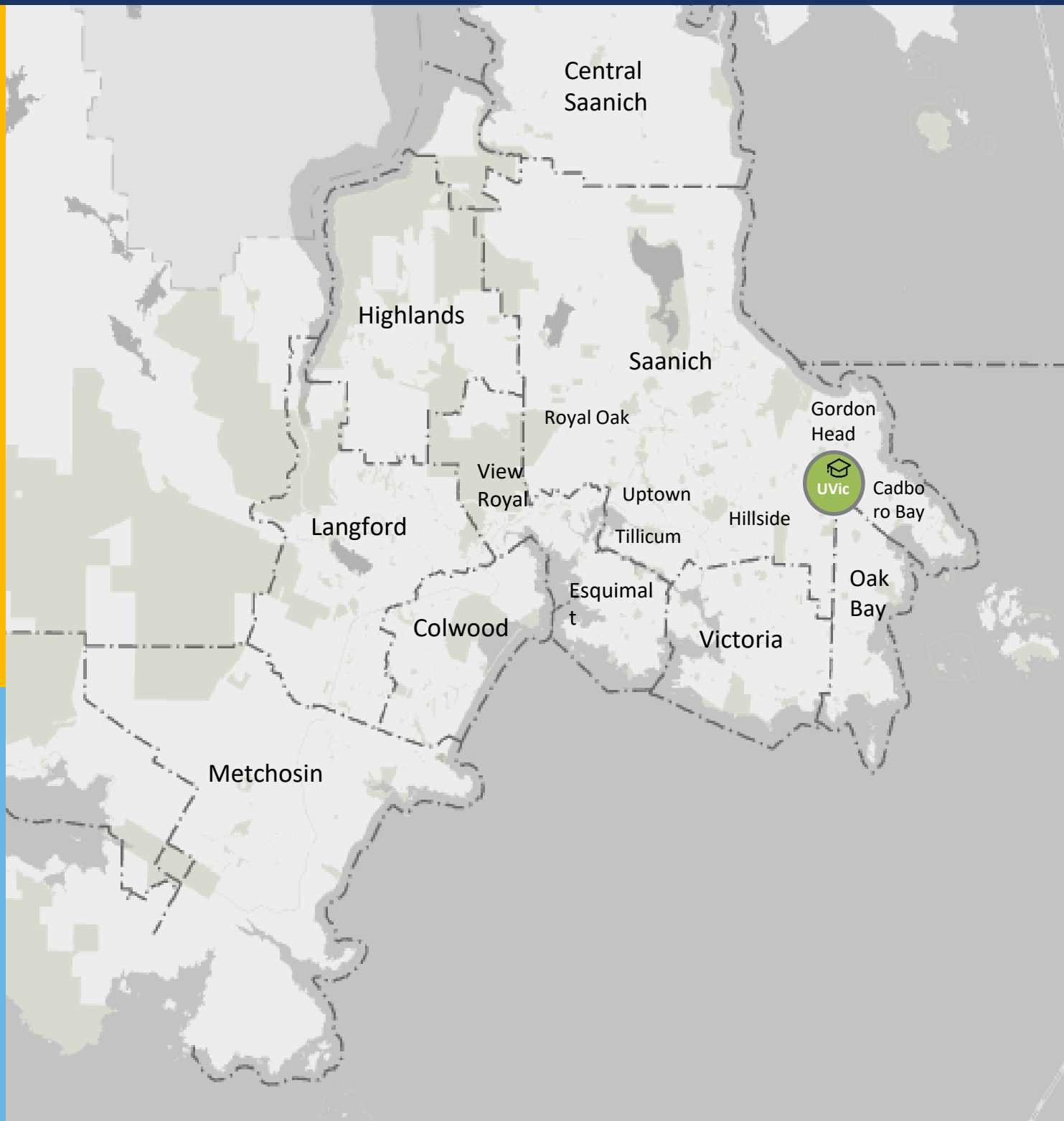
- Mild weather year-round
- Dry summers, rainy winters (rain gear is a must!)
- Snow is very rare



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Where is UVic?



- Located 20 mins from Downtown Victoria
- Between the municipalities of Saanich and Oak Bay
- Spacious, green campus
- Near the ocean - Cadboro Bay is just a 20min walk from campus!
- Check out the [Campus Video Tour](#)

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How to get around?

Walking:

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

Cycling:

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

Buses

- Uvic is a transit hub
- Students get discounted bus pass ([U-pass](#))

Cars

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





Housing

On-campus Housing

Regular move-in

- Labour Day weekend, Aug 31 & Sept 1
- Check your email for more details

Early move-in:

- Must be registered for International Student Welcome
- Apply for early move-in option on Residence website

Next steps:

- Be on top of 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 Resources

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

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

Watch our recorded sessions: [The Housing Hunt](#)

Register for our upcoming session: [Ready to Rent](#)



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Planning Ahead



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Living Costs & Regular Expenses

Costs and expenses 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?

Numbeo is a useful tool for calculating living costs!



Bank Account

Opening a bank account

Study permit holder → open a bank account in Canada

Major banks in Victoria include:

BMO, CIBC, RBC, Scotiabank, TD Canada Trust

Documents needed:

- Passport
- Study permit
- Letter of enrolment from UVic

Apply for a credit card

- Helps you build a credit score in Canada
- Make bill payments
- Learn more about Credit Cards



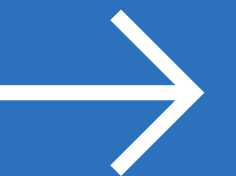
Managing Your Finances

If you need to **transfer money** from your home country:

- Consult your bank on 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:](#)

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



Documentation and Translation



Important documents you may need:

- Identification (passport)
- Driver's license
- References from previous employers or landlords
- Prescriptions for ongoing medication

To register with UVic Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL):

- Relevant medical history or diagnosis
- Reach out to them as soon as possible

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)

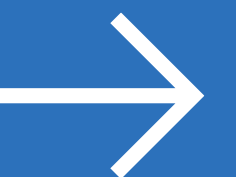
Coverage: Sep 1-Dec 31, 2025

Grace period: Aug 18 – Aug 31

Watch for an email from GuardMe mid August:

- Create your online account
- View your card
- Learn about your policy
- Submit claims

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



Health Insurance – BC MSP

Enrolment in **British Columbia's Medical Service Plan (BC MSP)** is **mandatory** for any person who will reside in BC for 6 months or longer.

[Apply online](#) for BC MSP as soon as you arrive in BC. Waiting period for coverage eligibility is 3 months from arrival month.

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

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



Home Away From Home

Culture Shock

- It happens to everyone
- Understand and be prepared for the different stages

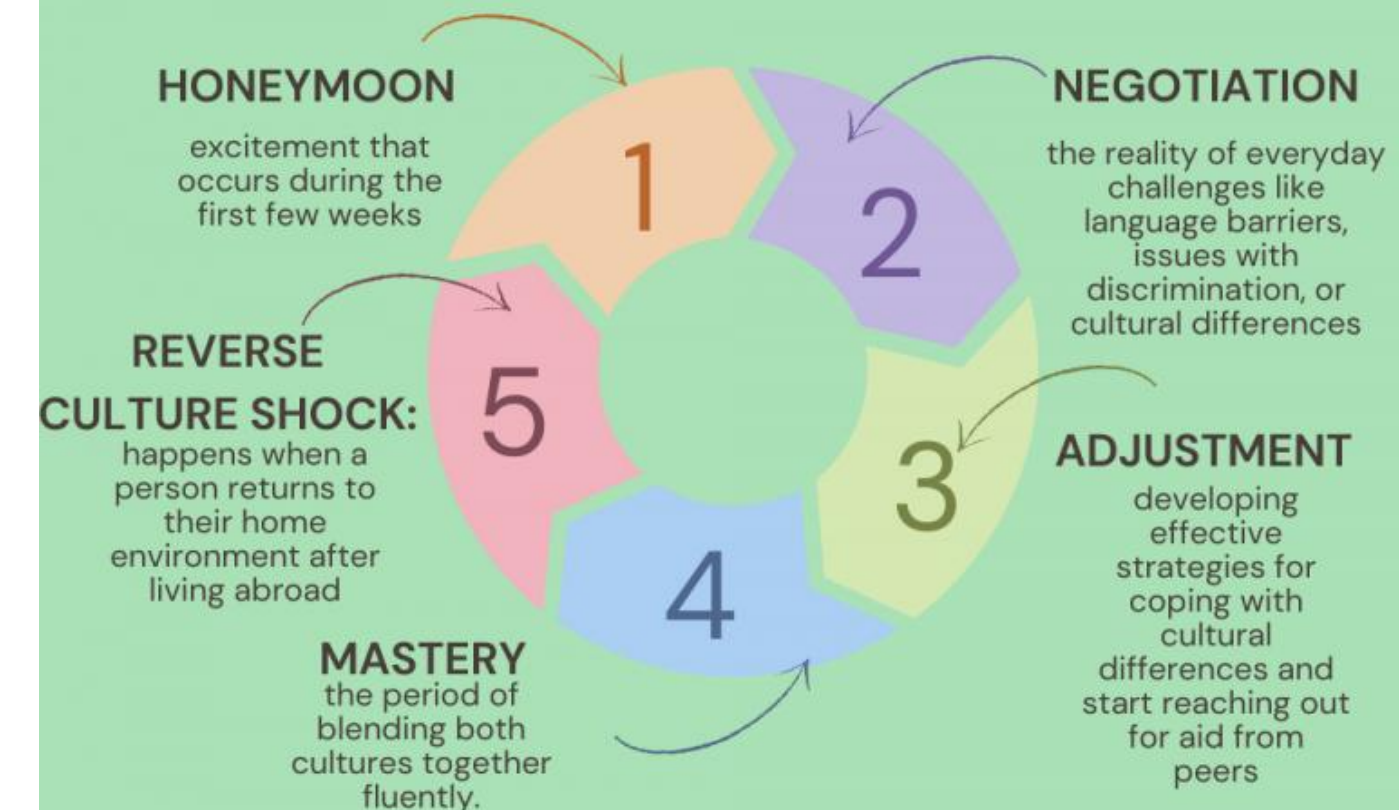
Coping with Homesickness

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

You're not alone

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

Stages of culture shock



International Student Advising

ICS Website

- <https://www.uvic.ca/ics>
- “Living in Victoria”

International Student Advising

- Immigration + settlement
- Email: icsinfo@uvic.ca
- Phone: 250-721-636

Advising Drop-in hours

- Virtual, phone or in-person
- Weekdays, 1:30pm-3:30pm (PT)



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Stay Connected



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ACADEMIC SUCCESS IN THE
CANADIAN CLASSROOM:
TIPS FROM CURRENT STUDENTS
AND AN ACADEMIC ADVISOR

June 18 6:00pm - 7:00pm PDT

EMAIL YOUR STUDENT LEADER

uvicbound@uvic.ca

FOLLOW OUR INSTAGRAM

[@uvicinternational](https://www.instagram.com/uvicinternational)

Follow us on Instagram [@uvicinternational](#).
Join the Global Community [Facebook group](#), subscribe
to our [newsletter](#), and join our [upcoming events](#)!



Thank you!



Welcome to the UVic Global Community.