INFORMATION SESSION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS OUTSIDE CANADA

Information in the presentation is current as of April 30, 2021
Privacy Disclaimer

This presentation is hosted on Zoom and will be recorded. To protect your personal information and privacy, we ask you to keep your video off throughout the session. Access to information shared via chat function will be limited to presenters only.
Disclaimer

• Do not cite information from the presentation, information presented is current as we speak.

• This info session is not intended for Business program or Continuing Studies students.

• Business students should contact Business International team at gsbwelcome@uvic.ca.

• Continuing studies students must contact uvcsimmigration@uvic.ca for help.

• This session is not for Canadian citizens or permanent residents
International Student Services (ISS)

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (PT), Weekdays

Time Zone Converter

Phone: +1 250 721 6361
Email: issinfo@uvic.ca
Website: www.uvic.ca/iss

Our staff is currently working remotely until further notice.
International Student Advising (ISA)

- ISS Website: [Living in Canada](#)
- In the Know – Advice for international students: [UVic Global Community Newsletter](#)
- Frontline Advising
- **ISA Supports:**
  - Phone and online appointments
  - Email
- Information Sessions and Workshops
- [ISS - COVID-19 information](#)
International Student Advisers

Dos

• Answer questions about study permit, student work authorization, co-op work permit, post-graduation work permit, your accompanying family member’s immigration documents.

Don’ts

• Provide advice on academic planning
• Answer questions about Canadian citizenship or permanent residency related matters
Presentation Agenda

- Getting started
- Immigration documents
- Academic status and immigration implications
- COVID-19 special measures
- Health insurance
- FAQs
Connect with your Virtual Campus

• Get your NetLink ID – Familiarize yourself to UVic systems and online services
  ❖ Visit the [NetLink website](#) to register for your primary NetLink ID

• Stay informed with [UVic response to COVID-19](#)

• Attend [UVic Orientation](#)
  ❖ [Technology Integrated Learning](#)
  ❖ Self-paced Orientation to Online Learning

• Stay connected with UVic
  ❖ [UVic Global Community](#)

• [Student clubs and activities](#)
Settlement Resources

• **UVic Self-isolation Program**
  - Contact: uvicsip@uvic.ca

• ISS website – [Living in Canada](#)
  - [Housing options and resources](#)
  - [Open a bank account](#)
  - [Communication](#)
Do I need a Study Permit?

• A study permit is a status document that allows you to stay in Canada and engage in a program of study.

• Students engaged in online learning outside of Canada do not require a study permit. However, we recommend applying for a study permit as soon as possible as:
  
  ❖ You must have a valid study permit or letter of introduction when you arrive to Canada to engage in your studies.

  ❖ There may be implications on your post-graduation work permit if you start your program without applying for or having a study permit.
Study Permit Application

- If you’re applying for a study permit outside Canada, you must apply online.

- When you apply, you should:
  - submit all of the documents needed for a complete application
  - include a letter of explanation if you have any missing documents due to COVID-19
  - request for a co-op work permit if co-op is mandatory in your program
Dear [Your Name],

Your application to study in Canada has been approved. A permit authorizing your studies will be issued to you on your arrival to Canada following an examination by an officer of the Canada Border Services Agency, subject to your compliance with the requirements of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and its Regulations. The officer will ask to see this letter, your passport and may request to see your supporting documents, such as the letter of acceptance from your educational institution. Do not pack these or other valuable papers in your checked luggage. You can find out more about which documents you will need to bring with you by visiting www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/study-arriving.asp

As you gather your documents, please take note of the following:

- **This letter is not a passport or travel document.** You will not be permitted to board your flight without your passport, even if you have this letter with you.

- **This letter is not an authorization permitting you to enter or remain in Canada.** An officer of the Canada Border Services Agency will make that determination upon your arrival to Canada.

- **This letter is important** because it contains information that will be used by the Canada Border Services Agency to issue your study permit. Please do not misplace it.

You must seek entry to Canada to obtain your study permit by 2018/03/21 (yyyy/mm/dd). Your passport must be valid beyond the period you intend to remain in Canada. If not, the validity of your study permit will not be issued beyond the expiry date of your passport, or, for United States citizens and permanent residents, the validity date of your identity document.

Note: As an international student in Canada, it is your responsibility to ensure that you continue to meet the conditions of your study permit, including the requirement to actively pursue studies. Your study permit will automatically become invalid 90 days after you complete your study program, regardless of the expiry date indicated on your study permit. For more information, please consult: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/index.asp
What is a Study Permit?

• A status document

• Allows you to stay in Canada and engage in a program of study

• May allow eligible students to work while studying
  ❖ On-campus employment conditions
  ❖ Off-campus employment conditions

Port of Entry (POE) Letter or Letter of Introduction is:

❖ Not you study permit.

❖ You show this letter to officials at the POE when you arrive in Canada to get your study permit.
Study Permit Sample
What is a Temporary Resident Visa (TRV)?

• Only required for certain nationalities

• Entry document

• You may continue your studies in Canada if it expires

• When you apply for a study permit outside Canada, your TRV will be issued when your study permit is approved

• It usually shares the same expiry date as your study permit
Sample TRV
Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)

- Only required for certain nationalities
- Entry document
- Only required for entry to Canada by air
- You may continue your studies if it expires
- When you apply for a study permit outside Canada, an eTA will be issued when your study permit is approved
- If you change your passport, you will need to apply for a new eTA

More info on [IRCC website](https://www.cic.gc.ca)
Work Permits

- **Co-op work permit**
  - Work permit linked to a study permit
  - Allows you to engage in UVic work terms, internships, or experiential learning

- **Post-graduation work permit (PGWP)**
  - Status document allowing you to stay in Canada and engage in work after graduation

- **Spousal work permit**
  - Only spouses of full-time students are eligible
  - Open work permit
PGWP Eligibility Requirements

▸ To apply for a post-graduation work permit, you must have:
  
  • completed a study program that was at least 8 months long
  
  • maintained full-time status as a student in Canada during each semester of your study program
    » this doesn’t include scheduled breaks or your final semester, which can be part-time, or if you took an approved leave from your studies
  
  • have or had a valid study permit when you apply
  
  • Completed at least 50% of the program in-person

▸ IRCC COVID-19 special measures in effect.
ACADEMIC ENROLMENT AND IMMIGRATION IMPLICATIONS
Program Planning

• Undergraduate students:
  ❖ Resources for Undergraduate students
  ❖ Contact your academic adviser

• Graduate students:
  ❖ Your academic supervisor
  ❖ Contact your academic adviser

• Seek academic advice before course registration and as needed
Terms used at UVic

• Academic year
  ❖ Summer (May to August)
  ❖ Winter sessions (September to April)

• Scheduled breaks
  ❖ Reading break
  ❖ Winter break
  ❖ Summer break (does not apply to Grad programs and some UG programs, such as Business, Engineering etc.)
  ❖ UVic Academic Important Dates
Terms used at UVic

• **Full-time definitions at UVic**
  - [Undergraduate Calendar](#)
  - [Graduate Calendar](#)

• **Authorized leave**
  1. Consult with your Academic Adviser
  2. Consult with an International Student adviser for potential immigration implications
Is full-time enrollment required?

Yes. Full-time registration during regular terms is required if you want to:

• work with your study permit (IRCC)
• be eligible for a PGWP
• have your spouse/common-law partner on a spousal work permit
How does IRCC know your enrollment status?

• DLI compliance reporting to IRCC

• If you have a valid study permit and you are transferring to UVic from another post-secondary institution, you must notify IRCC.

• If you change your school or program start date while your study permit is under process, you should use an IRCC Web Form to update this information with IRCC.
Study Permit Processing

• If IRCC receives your **complete study permit application** by May 15, 2021, you’ll get a decision by August 6, 2021, in time to attend the fall semester.

• If you submit a complete application **after May 15, 2021**, IRCC will process it as quickly as possible, but you may not get a final decision before the fall semester begins.

**IRCC COVID-19: International Students**
PGWP Eligibility

If your program is moved online due to COVID-19, you’re still eligible for a PGWP if you can’t travel to Canada at this time **and you remain full-time during regular terms and**

- you have a study permit **or**
- you’ve been approved for a study permit **or**
- you will apply for a study permit before starting your study program in the Summer 2021 semester
PGWP Length

• All of your time studying online outside Canada between **spring 2020, and December 31, 2021**, may count towards your PGWP length if your study permit application is received before you start your program

• Your study permit must eventually be approved

[IRCC PGWP special measures]
PGWP length

The following time won’t count toward the length of a PGWP:

• Any time spent studying outside Canada after December 31, 2021
• Any time spent studying before you apply for a study permit
Can I travel to Canada?

To enter Canada, you must:

- Have a valid study permit or a valid letter of introduction that shows you are approved for a study permit.
- Be attending a designated learning institution (DLI) with a COVID-19 readiness plan approved by its province or territory. UVic is on the list.
How to prove my essential travel

• A valid UVic study permit information letter. (Note: It may take a few days to get the letter, you should request for it at least 7 days before you travel.) and

• A verification of enrollment (UVic Online Tools)

• Do not arrive too early

Contact the Border Information Service before you travel if you have doubts about travelling to Canada.
Other required documents for arrival

• Your valid medical exam results (e-medical confirmation) if applicable.
• Proof that you have sufficient funding for your studies and living expenses
• A self-isolation plan
• A negative COVID-19 test result
• An ArriveCAN receipt

IRCC COVID-19 website
Resources

Study permit processing

- IRCC’s website
- Help Centre
- IRCC Web Form
Stay informed with travel updates

- [Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Visitors, temporary workers and students](#)
- [Temporary residence: COVID-19 program delivery](#)
- [The Government of BC website](#)
- [The Government of Canada website](#)
HEALTH INSURANCE
Health Insurance

• Primary Health Insurance
  - guard.me@uvic Plan
  - BC Medical Services Plan (MSP)

• Extended Health Insurance
  - UVSS Health and Dental Plan
  - GSS Health and Dental Plan
Health Insurance Plan

Comprehensive Health Insurance

Primary Health Insurance
- Guard.me (MTMI)
- BC Medical Services Plan (BC MSP)

Extended Health Insurance
- UVSS Extended Health Benefits
- GSS Extended Health Benefits
Health Insurance: Opt Out

• Primary Health Insurance
  ❖ guard.me/uvic
    ❖ Opt-out deadline: May 22, 2021
    ❖ Contact: admindept@guard.me

• Extended Health Insurance
  ❖ UVSS Health and Dental Plan
    ❖ Contact: uvssinfo@uvss.ca
  ❖ GSS Health and Dental Plan
    ❖ Opt out deadline: May 30, 2021
    ❖ Contact: gssoffice@uvic.ca

When you do arrive in Canada, make sure you have health insurance while you wait for MSP.
FAQs

• If I meet the travel exemption, can I travel to Canada in the middle of the term?

• How can I prove my travel is essential?

• Do I need a support letter from the University to travel to Canada?

• Do I need a study permit to study online from abroad?
FAQs

• When should I apply for a study permit?

• Should I register for the UVic Self-isolation program?

• What are the requirements for the 14-day self-isolation?

• I have not received any updates on my application status from IRCC and it’s exceeded the suggested processing times, what can I do?
International Student Services

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