Canadian income tax information for international students

Presented by: Richard Games, CPA, CA, MPAcc, BCom
Partner, Bradley Jacoby Games Chartered Professional Accountants
This presentation is for a general overview only.

Taxation of international students can be a complex area depending on each individual’s own circumstances.

Please consult a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) if further assistance is required for your own situation.
Objectives

• Provide an overview of the income tax system in Canada.

• Provide general tips for preparing and filing your Canadian income tax return.

• Provide information about tools and resources available to help you prepare and file your Canadian income tax return.

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Possible multiple country tax obligations

Research your tax obligations regarding your:

• Citizenship(s)
• Home(s) in year 2017 “residency”
• source(s) of income
• example: Eritrea, Finland, Sweden, UK, USA

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Residency based taxation in Canada

• Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) administers and enforces the Income Tax Act on behalf of the federal and provincial governments.

• Not to be confused with citizenship, which is administered by the federal government department entitled Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

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Residency status determines your tax obligations.

- Residency status determines your tax obligations.
- **T-4055 Newcomers to Canada** read this **
- Resident or deemed resident: taxed on worldwide income (183 or more partial or full days in Canada)
- Province of ordinary residence on December 31st
- Non-resident or deemed non-resident: taxed on Canadian source income
- If in doubt, ask CRA to determine your residency with the NR74 “Determination of residency status”

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Residency Status Definitions

• Resident: moved to Canada and intend to stay for the foreseeable future. i.e. established significant residential ties with Canada.

• Deemed resident: been in Canada for a total of 183 days or more in the calendar year. Does not have to be continuous and includes partial days. Example: arrive at 11:45pm in the evening on day one, + 108 days study + leave on day 110 at 12:30am + return to Canada on day 111 at 11:30pm + reside for a further 72 days

• Non-resident: A resident of another country who has not established significant residential ties with Canada. T4058 “Non-residents and income tax”
• Deemed non-resident: An individual who would be considered a resident or a deemed resident but who, under a tax treaty, is considered a resident of another country.

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Timeline – example - Brazilian

Jan 1: Move from Brazil to study in London England and worked in a restaurant part-time

August 25: moved to Halifax to study, tutored occasionally

December 18: return to Brazil to visit family and friends

December 31: moved to Victoria, to study at UVic.

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Taxable on Canadian income

Now what do you do?

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Step 1: apply for a Social Insurance Number (i.e. a SIN#)

• Apply for a SIN# in person at a Service Canada Centre:
  – The Service Canada Centre in Victoria is located at 1401 Douglas Street.
  – There is no fee to apply for a SIN.
  – If you have the correct documents, you will get a SIN during your visit to the Service Canada Centre.

• Your SIN# will be issued on a confirmation of Social Insurance Number letter.

• You can use an expired SIN# to file an income tax return.

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Step 1 cont: if you are NOT eligible for a SIN#, apply for an Individual Tax Number

• Under the new IRCC regulations, most international students are eligible for a SIN.

• T1261 Application for a Canada Revenue Agency Individual Tax Number (ITN)

• Continue to use your ITN until you are eligible for a SIN.

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Individual Tax Number cont.

• You must include certified copies of your passport and study permit with the T1261 form.

• Take your original documents to the Victoria Service Centre at 1401 Douglas Street to be certified.

Two ways to submit your application for an ITN:
1. Mail to the address on the back of the T1261 form. Processing time is approximately 4 - 6 weeks.
2. Include in the same envelope with your income tax return. Processing time is approximately 20 - 22 weeks.
What is taxable in Canada?

Tax based on consideration received in exchange for something.

Not gifts or inheritances.

income, even trading.

i.e. trading a cow for firewood (I’ve seen it in practice).

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Do not work for “cash” or “under the table”

• Tax evasion is not acceptable in Canada

• “Underground economy”

• Report your income whenever working for money or trading your time for something.

• Such as tips/gratuities, odd jobs, tutoring.

Note: If employer collects tips, CPP and EI might apply (i.e. credit card purchases)

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Progressive taxation

Increasing income causes the percentage of tax to increase, through “marginal tax rates”
Combined marginal tax rates in B.C. for employment income (residents)

Staircase effect

23.56% only for income from $19,300-32,220

15% on income from $11,635 – 19,300

ZERO tax on income up to $11,635

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Should I file an income tax return?

• To file an income tax return means to submit income tax forms and related documents to CRA.

• You MUST file:
  – if you earn $3,500 or greater of employment income (minimum for CPP)
  – if you have taxes payable
  – if CRA sends you a request to file
  – to claim a refund of income tax
  – to claim tax credits and social benefits
  – to establish a history of filing income tax returns in Canada (RRSP and Education purposes)

• Only residents of Canada are eligible for certain tax credits and social benefits.

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What income tax forms do I need?

• Residents: T-1 General for BC

• CRA information if you are a newcomer to Canada (immigrant):

• Deemed residents: T1 General for Non-Residents and Deemed Residents
  https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/international-non-residents/individuals-leaving-entering-canada-non-residents/deemed-residents.html

• Non-residents and deemed non-residents follow the instructions at:
  https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/international-non-residents/individuals-leaving-entering-canada-non-residents/non-residents-canada.html

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### Income Tax and Benefit Return

Complete all the sections that apply to you. For more information, see the guide.

#### Identification

Print your name and address below.

- **First name and initial**
- **Last name**
- **Mailing address:** Apt No – Street No Street name
- **PO Box**
- **City**

#### Information about you

- **Enter your social insurance number (SIN):**
- **Year**
- **Month**
- **Day**
- **Enter your date of birth:**
- **Your language of correspondence:**
  - English
  - Français

#### Email address

I understand that by providing an email address, I am registering for online mail. I have read and I accept the terms and conditions on page 15 of the guide.

- **Enter an email address:**

#### Information about your residence

- **Enter your province or territory of residence on December 31, 2015:**
- **Enter the province or territory where you currently reside if it is not the same as your mailing address above:**
- **If you were self-employed in 2015, enter the province or territory of self-employment:**
- **If you became or ceased to be a resident of Canada for income tax purposes in 2015, enter the date of:**

#### Information about your spouse or common-law partner

- **Enter his or her SIN:**
- **Enter his or her first name:**
- **Enter his or her last name:**
- **Enter his or her net income for 2015 to claim certain credits:**
- **Enter the amount of universal child care benefit (UCCB) from line 117 of his or her return:**
- **Enter the amount of UCCB repayment from line 213 of his or her return:**

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What related documents do I need?

• Social Insurance Number (SIN) or Individual Tax Number (ITN)

• Income tax slips (such as T2202A from UVic, T4 for employment income)

• Receipts for donations, medical expenses, child care expenses, etc.

• Information about spouse/partner and children

• Passports and immigration documents

• Notice of assessment or reassessment
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Money received</th>
<th>Document required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>“T-4 slip” from employer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds from RESP</td>
<td>“T-4A slip” from RESP plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds from investments or a Trust (&amp; sales of investments)</td>
<td>“T-3 and/or T-5 slips” (buys &amp; sales T-5008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts from relatives</td>
<td>Not taxable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships, bursaries, grants, and research fellowships</td>
<td>“T-4A slip”, usually not taxable, must disclose on tax return. Check guidelines.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Money paid out</th>
<th>Documentation required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Childcare expenses</td>
<td>Receipt for each child, with provider's name and SIN or business number.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations to Canadian registered charities</td>
<td>Receipt with Canadian charity number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living expenses (groceries, rent etc.)</td>
<td>Not tax deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical expenses (prescription glasses, medical prescriptions, physio, chiro etc.)</td>
<td>Receipts from medical practitioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition (not books anymore)</td>
<td>UVic T2202A form (download from the UVic web site)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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How to get your income tax slips

• T4 slips for employment income:
  – You should receive a slip from each employer you worked for during the tax year.

• T4A slips for other income:
  – You should receive a slip from each funding organization who gave you a scholarship, bursary, research grant, etc. during the tax year.

• T3, T5, T5013 & T-5008 slips for investment and trust income and sales:
  – You must report all income, with or without a slip, investment slips are not always issued for under $50

• T2202A slips for tuition amounts:
  – You should receive a slip from each post-secondary institution you attended during the tax year. Must claim in the tax year for which it relates.

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Deadline is on or before April 30th, 2018

- Most tax slips should be ready by February 28 or March 31st for T-3 and T-5013 investment & trust income.

- If this is not your first time filing an income tax return in Canada, you can send it by mail to the Winnipeg tax centre, or file online.

- Winnipeg Tax Centre
  Post Office Box 14001, Station Main
  Winnipeg MB  R3C 3M3

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International students
where to send your first tax return

• **First time filers, MUST** send their tax returns by mail to the International Tax Services Office (ITSO). Post Office Box 20000, Station A, Sudbury ON P3A 5C1

• Include all income tax forms and related documents together in one envelope.

• Multiple years can be sent together in one envelope, include a covering letter outlining the situation and years involved.

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What happens next?

• Keep copies of everything for 6 years after each Notice of Assessment date (basically 7 years).

• Processing time:
  – 16 weeks for your first income tax return
  – 4 to 6 weeks for all subsequent years

• Notice of assessment or reassessment received by mail.

• Refund payments are by mail or direct deposit.

• Submit applications for credits and social benefits.

• **Keep CRA informed every time your marital status or mailing address changes.**

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**NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>$ Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>45,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deductions from total income</td>
<td>1,444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>236</td>
<td>Net income</td>
<td>44,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deductions from net income</td>
<td>34,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>260</td>
<td>Taxable income</td>
<td>10,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>350</td>
<td>Total federal non-refundable tax credits</td>
<td>2,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6150</td>
<td>Total Manitoba non-refundable tax credits</td>
<td>1,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>420</td>
<td>Net federal tax</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>421</td>
<td>CPP contributions payable</td>
<td>2,840.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>435</td>
<td>Total payable</td>
<td>2,840.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>437</td>
<td>Total income tax deducted</td>
<td>1,193.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>482</td>
<td>Total credits</td>
<td>1,193.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Total payable minus Total credits)</td>
<td>1,646.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Penalties</td>
<td>98.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrears interest</td>
<td>42.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Balance from this assessment</td>
<td>1,788.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance due</td>
<td>DR</td>
<td>1,788.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Please see the explanation page)

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**2006 RRSP Deduction Limit Statement**

The back of this notice contains important information. Amounts marked with an asterisk (*) cannot be less than zero.

RRSP deduction limit for 2005: $49,916

Minus: Allowable RRSP contributions deducted in 2005: $0

Unused RRSP deduction limit at the end of 2005: $49,916

Plus: 18% of 2005 earned income of $32,191 (max. $18,000): $5,794

Minus: 2005 pension adjustment: $0

$5,794

Minus: 2006 net past service pension adjustment: $0

Plus: 2006 pension adjustment reversal: $0

Your RRSP deduction limit for 2006: $55,710

You have $0 (B) of unused RRSP contributions available for 2006. If this amount is more than amount (A) above, you may have to pay a tax on the excess contributions.
Fraud/phishing

If you receive a call or email from CRA asking for personal information such as your social insurance number, credit card, bank account number, or even your accountants name, be suspicious. THESE COMMUNICATIONS CAN SOUND AND LOOK AUTHENTIC. CRA will never ask you to go to a link and disclose personal information. They do NOT accept gift cards.

CRA never uses email.

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Tax free cash

- Goods and Services Tax Credit – income tested
  - BC Low Income Climate Action Tax Credit (BCLICATC)

- Canada Child Tax Benefit (CTB) – income tested
  - BC Family Bonus (BCFB)
  - BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit (BCECTB)

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Applications for Credits and Social Benefits

• RC151 GST/HST Credit Application
• RC66 All Canada Child Benefits Application
• RC66SCH Status in Canada / Statement of Income for CTB purposes
• Send the completed application form(s) by mail to the Local Tax Centre.
• Response received by mail.
• Only submit once to establish your residency.

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CRA Resources

• Video series: International Students and Income Tax

• Certified software: 

• My Account, for individuals 
  https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/e-services/e-services-individuals/account-individuals.html

• 1-800-959-8281
  — Information about your income tax return

• 1-800-959-1953
  — Information about credits

• 1-800-387-1193
  — Information about social benefits

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Other Resources

• Get help with preparing and filing your first income tax return so you don’t miss out on refunds, credits and social benefits.

• Gustavson student tax clinics run until early April. Watch for signs on campus.

• Professional Chartered Accountants are recommended for complicated situations (such as: funds from Trusts especially foreign trusts; foreign property over $100,000 Canadian (watch foreign exchange); self-employment; USA tax returns; world income, etc.)

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Questions?

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