

UVic Ready: Pre-Arrival Prep

International Student Orientation Program

July 29, 2026

ICS Settlement & Immigration Advising



University
of Victoria

International Centre
for Students



International Student Orientation Programs

- **Aug 24 -28:** online info sessions
- **Aug 31 – Sep 11:** in-person: tours, board game nights, lawn games on the quad!
- **Sep 3:** International Student Welcome

Register for ISOP



REMINDER

- Submit your OneCard photo by **Aug 25**
- You'll need it to check in at the ISW event!

Welcome notes

- This session provides information **for degree-seeking students**. It may not be applicable to Exchange or short-term students.
- Continuing Studies students: please contact sscoord@uvic.ca for information on your health insurance and contact uvcsimmigration@uvic.ca for immigration questions.
- Gustavson School of Business students are welcome to stay. Please contact gsbinternational@uvic.ca for settlement and gsbimmigration@uvic.ca for immigration support.
- This session will be recorded, and slides will be shared afterwards.
- Please feel free to share your questions in the chat and we will answer it during the Q&A period. Please turn off your audio and video during the session.



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Disclaimer

- This session is intended to provide general information, this is not legal advice
- The information in this session is up to date as of today, July 29, 2026. Information may change without notice
- If you have case-specific questions, please contact us at icsinfo@uvic.ca
- For immigration-related questions, please contact us at isaimmigration@uvic.ca



Territory Acknowledgment

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.

Learn more about why and how we acknowledge the Territories at UVic at [Territory acknowledgement](#)



International Student Advising

We do we do?

We provide non-academic advising on immigration and settlement information and resources, including:

- Canadian immigration docs, study permits
- On-/off-campus work eligibility
- Health insurance
- Housing
- SIN & income tax
- Connecting to community
- Support for families

How to contact us

SETTLEMENT ADVISERS

icsinfo@uvic.ca | 250-721-6361

IMMIGRATION SPECIALIST

isaimmigration@uvic.ca | 250-721-6361

Drop-in advising: M-F, 1:30 – 3:30pm

First-come, first served basis

In-person support at the ICS office JCC B202d

Virtual appts by calling: 250-721-6361

Agenda

- Travelling to Victoria
- Housing
- Health insurance
- Immigration documents & considerations
- Entering Canada
- Work authorization
- Q&A





TRAVELLING TO VICTORIA

Victoria 101

Geography

- On the West Coast of Canada
- Beaches, mountains, and forests
- About 440,000 people in Greater Victoria

Climate

- Mild weather year-round
- Dry summers, rainy winters, snow is rare

UVic

- 20 mins from downtown Victoria
- Over 22,000 students
- 4,000 international students from 110 countries



Packing and Prep

What to pack

- Medication: [3-month supply](#) (90 days)
- [Weather appropriate clothes](#)
- Special items from home
- Prescriptions, medical and vaccination records
- Payment methods
- Identification documents & driver's license

What *not* to pack

- [Large amounts of cash](#)
- Heavy winter gear may not be necessary
- Agricultural food items: [check CBSA guidelines](#)
- General housewares



TIP: translating important documents in your home country will save you money and time

Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL)

CAL promotes educational accessibility for students with disabilities and chronic health conditions, including:

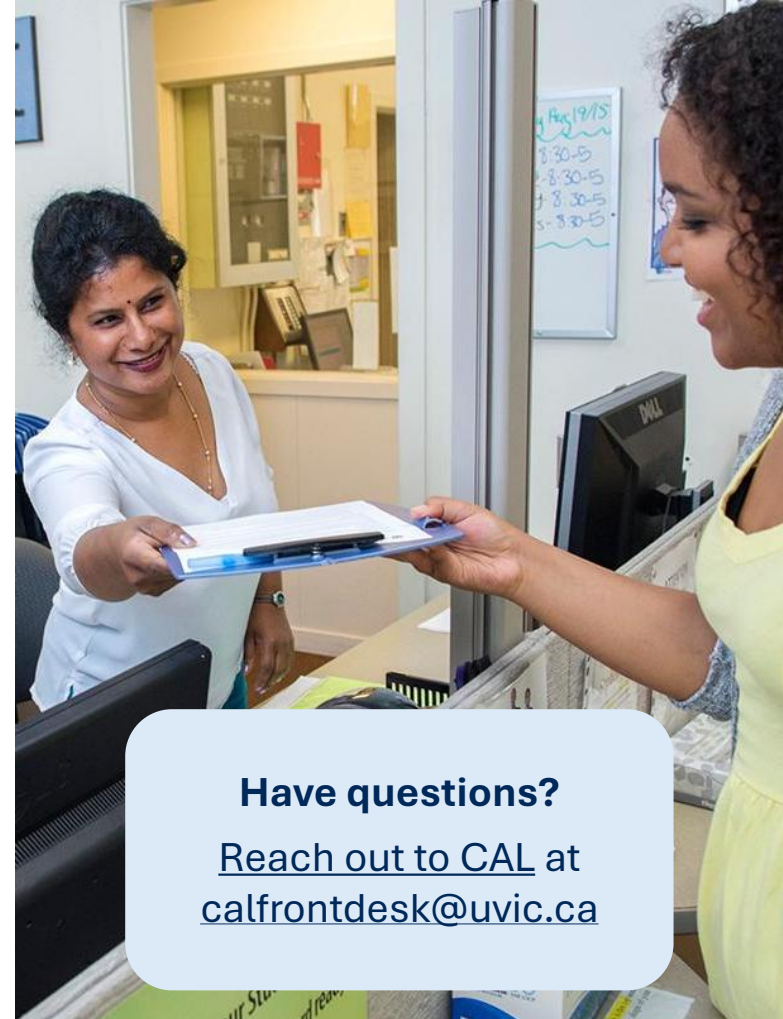
- a learning disability, ADHD, ASD or a mental health diagnosis
- a long-term physical or sensory disability
- chronic health condition

Submit your pre-intake form as early as possible:

- Pre-reg was May1-Jul1
- Fall term (September to December): October 31
- Spring term (January to April): February 28

Docs needed include:

- Relevant medical history
- Diagnoses (if applicable)
- Accommodation history at your home university



Have questions?

Reach out to CAL at
calfrontdesk@uvic.ca

Arriving in Victoria

Most students will arrive to Victoria by:

- [Plane](#): Victoria International Airport, YYJ
- [Ferry](#): Vancouver (Tsawwassen Terminal) to Victoria (Swartz Bay Terminal)

Services at the Victoria airport:

Currency exchange, Wi-Fi, visitor information

Transit options to where you are staying:

- [BC Transit Bus](#) (\$6 for day pass, cash)
- [BC Connector](#) (Vancouver airport to Victoria)
- Uber, Lyft (set up app before arriving)
- Taxi (~ \$75, cash/credit – airport or Ferry terminal)



Getting Around

Student Bus Pass - starts September 1

- [Set up UMO app](#) or physical card
- [Activate](#) your benefit code
- [BC Transit Trip Planner](#) or [Google maps](#)

Other types of transport

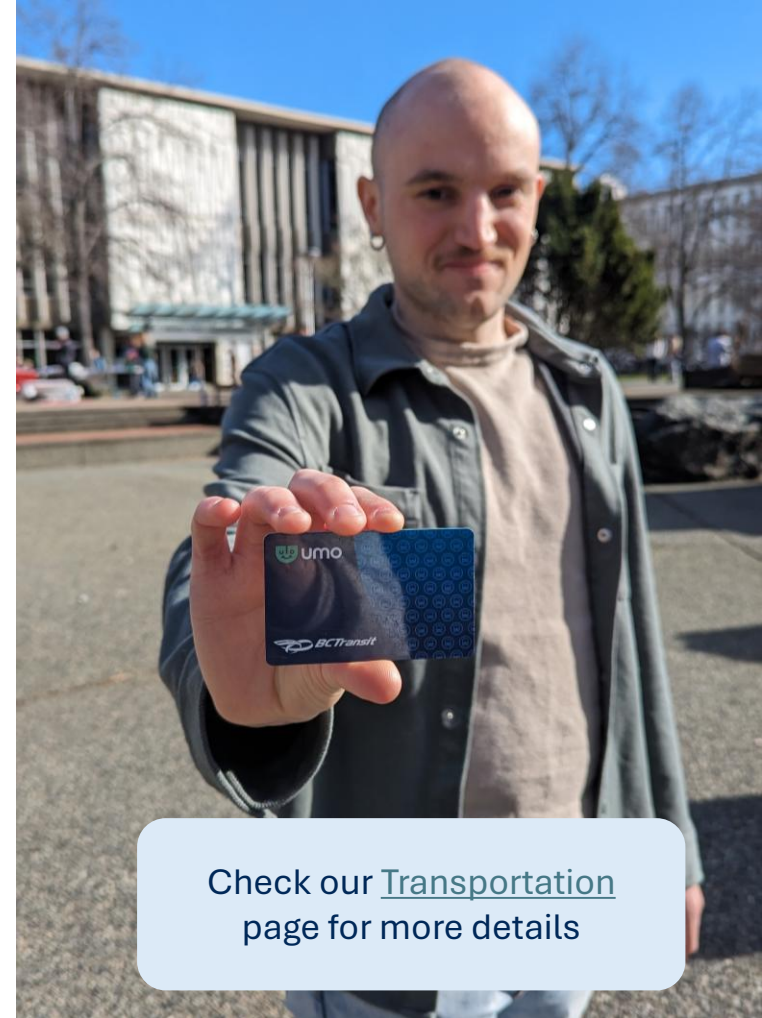
- [Biking](#): maps and bike loan program
- [Driving](#): check [car shares](#), [parking](#) information

Phones

- You can keep your phone and purchase an [eSIM](#)

Bank

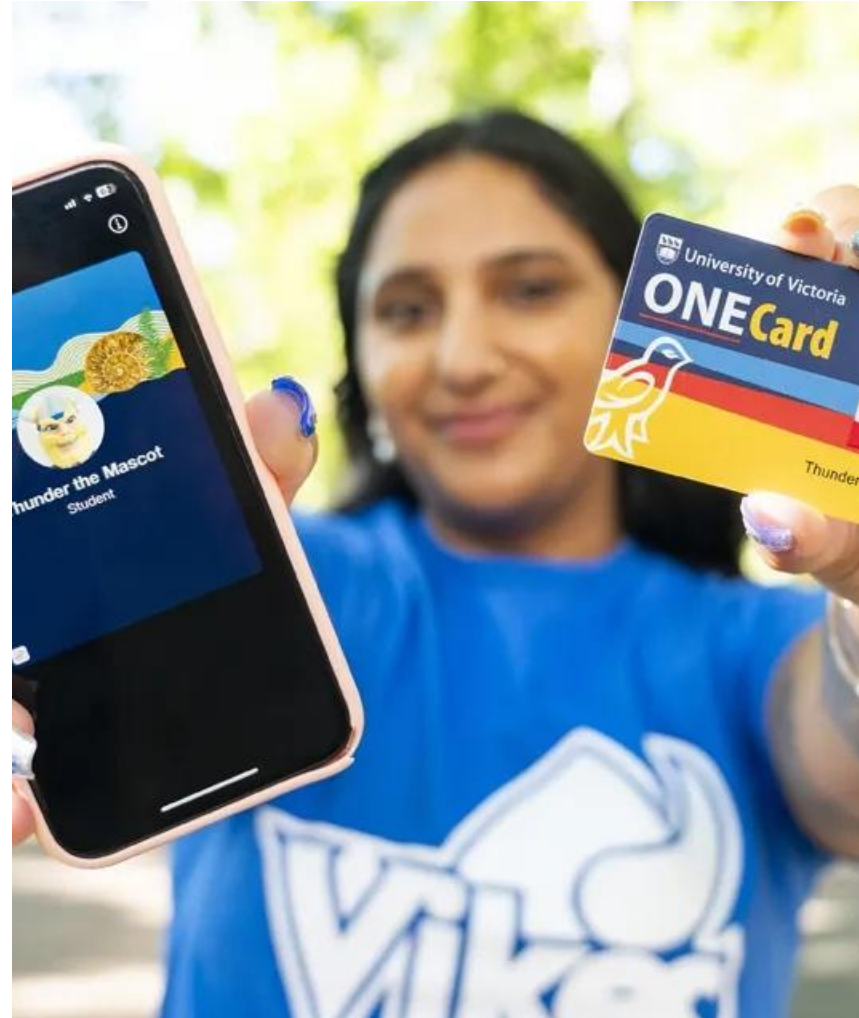
- To open [a bank account](#), contact banks directly



Check our [Transportation](#) page for more details

First days at UVic!

- Get your [ONECard](#)
- Check your [UVic Online Tools](#) for handy links and resources
- Check what's available at the [Student Union Building](#)
- Join [Clubs and Course Union days](#)
- Attend [International Student Orientation](#) events
- Join us for the [International Student Welcome](#) on Sep 3





HOUSING

On-Campus Housing

Move in

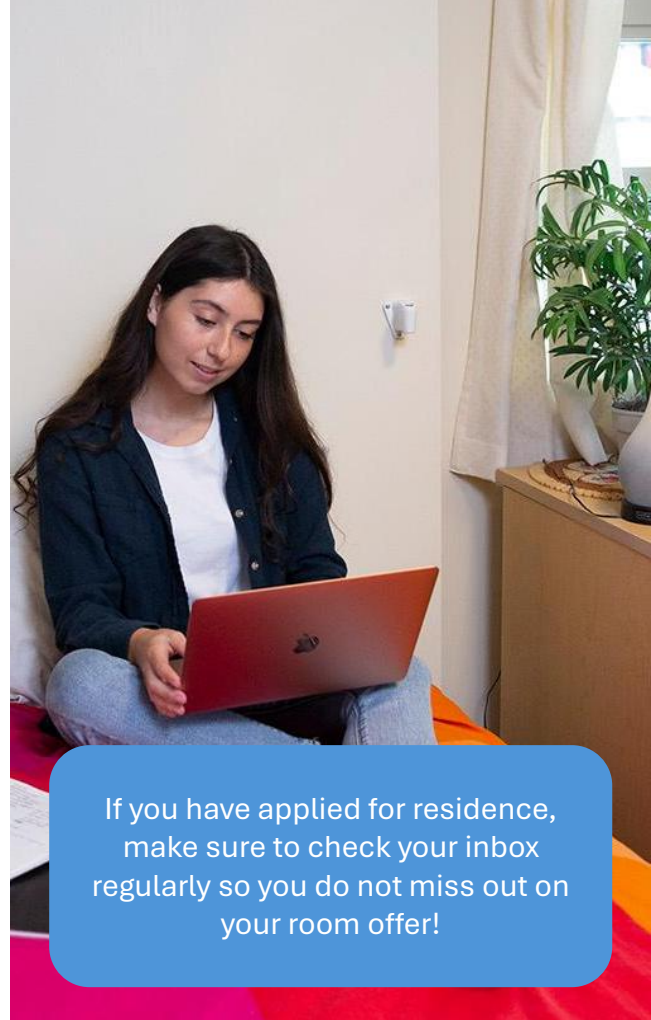
Sign up for a timeslot on your designated [move-in](#) day

Early-move in

- Apply for [early move-in](#) on your [housing portal](#) by **Aug 10**
- You must be registered for [International Student Welcome](#) on **Sep 3** to qualify

Fees and deadlines

- Check the [Important Dates Calendar](#) for fee deadlines.
- **Questions:** housing@uvic.ca | phone: 250-721-8395
- ✓ **Reminder:** your residence room will have no supplies or bed linens, so plan to go [shopping](#)!



If you have applied for residence, make sure to check your inbox regularly so you do not miss out on your room offer!

Off-Campus Housing

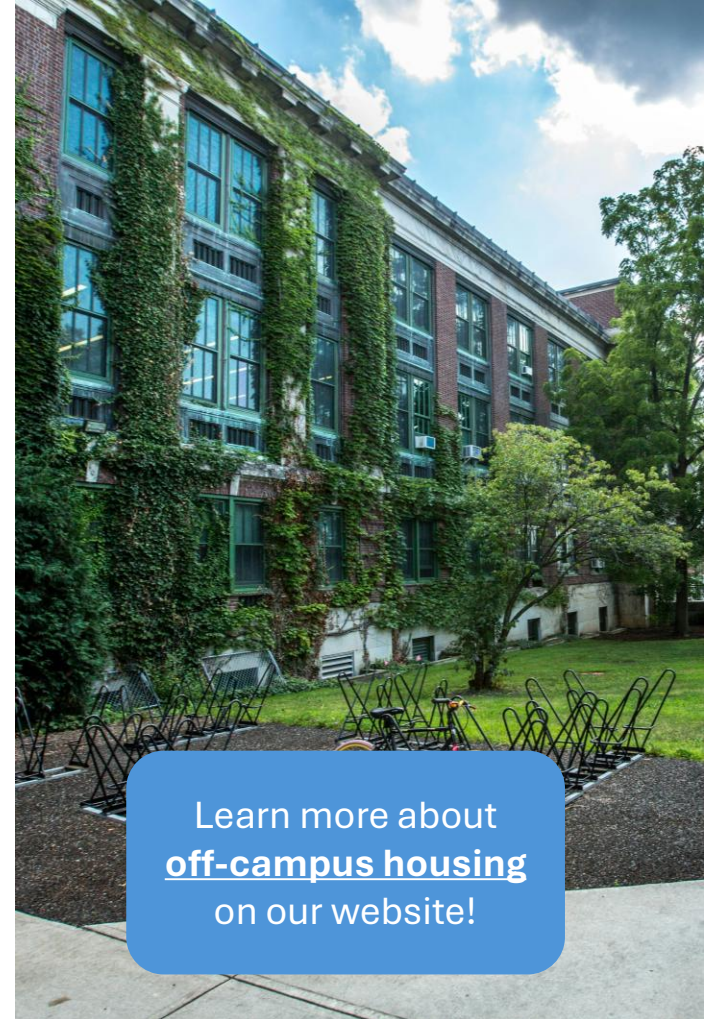
Living outside of the campus can be a great part of your experience!

Things to consider

- Location/commute to UVic
- Rental prices
- Grocery stores, amenities, bills
- Access to bus routes

Types of housing

- Rent an apartment or house (tenant)
- Share with roommates (occupant)
- Rent a room in landlord's home (boarder)



Learn more about
off-campus housing
on our website!

Short-term Accommodation

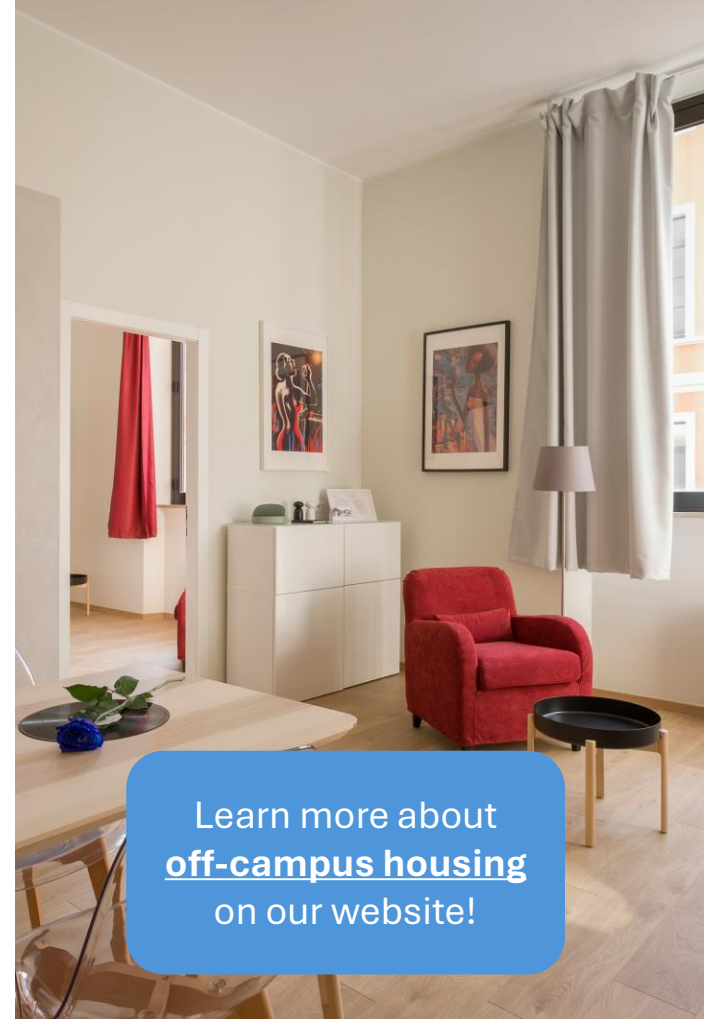
Consider securing short-term accommodations for your first few days in Victoria to leave time to find a place.

Options include: [hotels](#), [Airbnb](#), [VRBO](#) and [hostels](#).

Costs vary depending on location, room type and length of stay. Food is usually not included.

Subleasing

Some students may prefer subleasing a unit, which is temporarily renting from someone who has a lease on a dwelling.

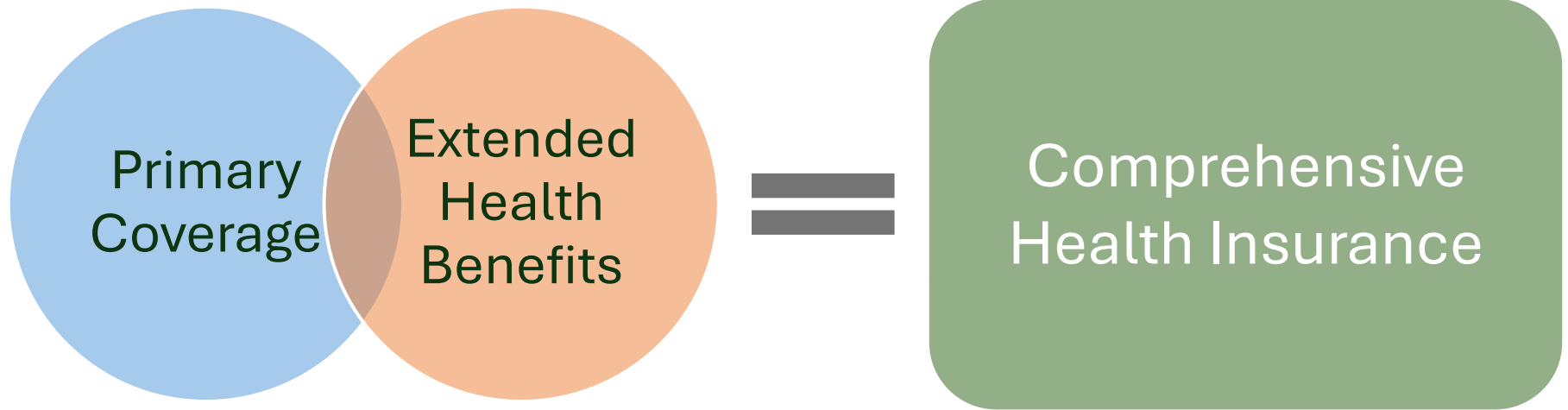


Learn more about
off-campus housing
on our website!



HEALTH INSURANCE

Health Insurance Overview



Health Insurance Levels

	All students First 4 months	2-term students Rest of studies in BC
Primary (mandatory)	GuardMe@UVic /Mandatory Temporary Medical Insurance Basic medical and emergency coverage during first term at UVic CAD\$ 265/term	BC Medical Services Plan (MSP) Basic medical and emergency coverage for people living in BC for more than 6 months CAD\$ 75/month
Extended (opt-in option)	<u>UVSS</u> AND <u>GSS</u> EXTENDED HEALTH AND DENTAL BENEFIT PLANS Dental, vision, and additional coverage to members of the students' society (via Alumo). Students can opt-in. Fees vary. Find it on your student account	

Coverage timeline overview

Before term starts

August 18-31

- GuardMe grace period
- Apply for BC MSP

Start of 1st term

Sep 1- Dec 31

- GuardMe coverage
- Processing of BC MSP until coverage starts
- Extended H&D is active

End of 1st term

By Dec 31

- BC MSP should be active
- GuardMe coverage ends

Remaining time at UVic

Until you graduate

- MSP expires with permit
- Inform MSP if extending study permit
- Graduate/apply for PGWP

Vaccinations

Are there certain vaccination requirements at UVic?

Students are not required to provide vaccination records to register or start classes at UVic.

Before you arrive

- Learn about [immunization recommendations in BC](#)
- Compile your vaccination records
- Consult a health practitioner if you have questions about getting vaccinated

When in Canada

- Learn about and take measures to prevent the spread of any contagious virus (e.g. measles) go to [Immunize BC](#)
- Visit our [Public health & immunization](#) page
- See a health practitioner or pharmacist if you have questions about immunization
- If you're worried about transmission, call **811** to get free medical guidance from a nurse or health practitioner





Health Insurance Information Session

International Student Orientation Programs

August 25 – 9:00 am PT - Register [HERE](#)

- Visit [ISOP](#) for a full calendar of the **International Student Orientation Program**, including the **International Student Welcome**
- For all the upcoming events and sessions, please visit uvic.ca/ics

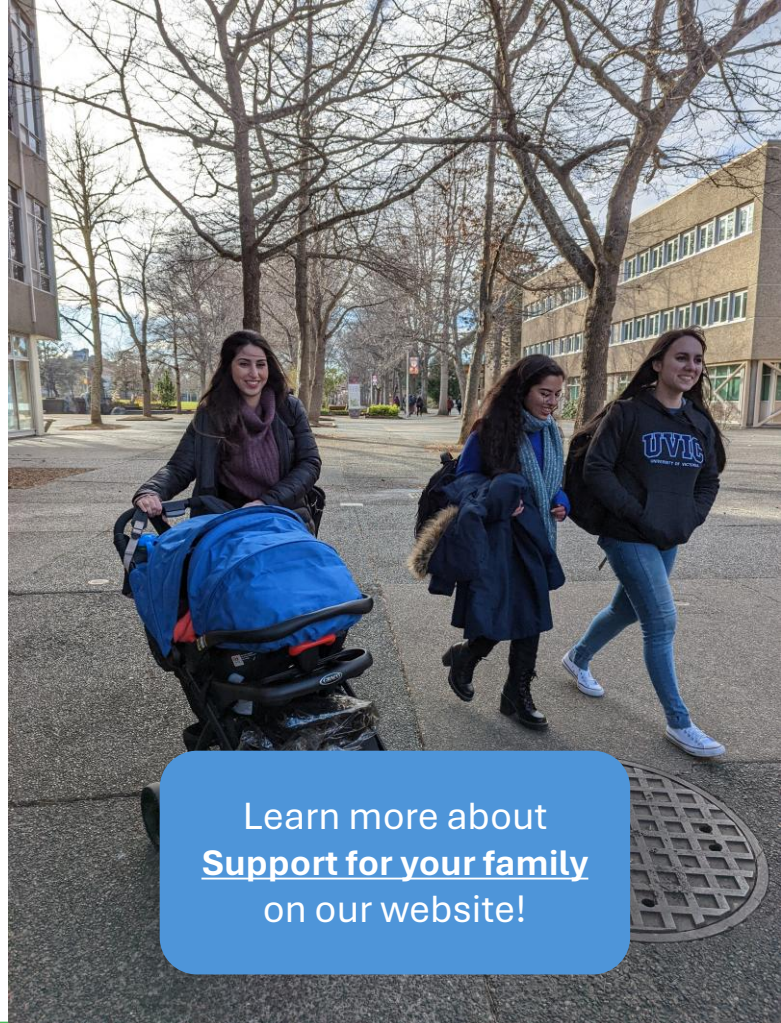
Students with Dependents

Health insurance:

- Apply for [BC MSP](#) as a family
- Option to enroll you family members in [GuardMe](#) and [extended health benefits](#)

For more information:

- Visit our [Support for your family](#) page
- [Register](#) for our info session on **Aug 28**
- Connect with the ICS advising team for immigration or settlement questions
- Join our [Family Social](#) event on **Sep 19**



Learn more about
[Support for your family](#)
on our website!

The background image is a composite of travel-related items. It features a passport with a red circular stamp, a small white airplane model, a red-handled stamp, and a black rectangular object. The items are arranged on a light-colored surface. The word "IMMIGRATION" is overlaid in large white letters.

IMMIGRATION

Information in this presentation is current as of July 29, 2026

Your Immigration Documents

While you study at UVic

- *Study permit (status document)*
- *Temporary resident visa (TRV) or Electronic travel authorization (eTA) (entry document)*

After graduation

- *Post-graduation work permit (PGWP)*



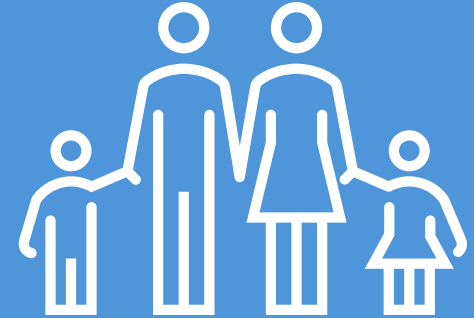
Immigration Documents for Accompanying Family Members

Spouse/common law partner

- Spousal Open Work Permit (SOWP) or Visitor Status
 - SOWP only available to spouses/partners of students in
 - in a **master's degree** program of 16 months or longer
 - in a **doctoral degree** program
 - certain professional degree programs at the undergrad level
 - *eTA or TRV*

Dependent children

- *Study permit or Visitor Status*
- *eTA or TRV*



Definition of accompanying family: [IRCC website](#)

Travelling to Canada

- Valid passport or other accepted travel document
- Valid temporary resident visa or eTA (if required)
- Letter of Acceptance from UVic
- Letter of introduction/port of entry letter or valid study permit
- UVic Verification of Enrolment ([Online tools](#))
- [Proof of funds](#)
- Proof of a valid [immigration medical examination](#) (if required)

Visit [Travelling to Canada](#) webpage



Letter of Introduction / Port of Entry Letter

- Be sure to review all conditions carefully
- Review information and arrival deadline
- Follow the instructions to prepare your arrival
- Consult with us if you have questions

Date: September 22, 2023

UCI: [REDACTED]



Application: [REDACTED]



Bring this **letter of introduction** with you to Canada. It has information that may be used by the Canada Border Services Agency to issue your study permit.

Dear [REDACTED]

Your application to study in Canada has been **provisionally** approved by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. The **final decision to issue you a study permit and allow you to enter Canada** is made after an examination by an officer in Canada. At that time, an officer will assess if you still meet the requirements of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, its Regulations and any other Canadian legislation.

Type of permit: WP / Permis - PT

Document number: [REDACTED]



Letter of Introduction validity (YYYY/MM/DD): [REDACTED]

Medical Examination validity (YYYY/MM/DD): [REDACTED]

Documents you must bring with you to get your study permit:

- a valid passport or travel document.
 - Your study permit won't be valid beyond your passport's expiry date.
- a valid temporary resident (visitor) visa (TRV) or Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA), if required.
 - Your eTA is valid for multiple visits to Canada, until [REDACTED]. Your eTA number is [REDACTED] and is linked to the passport you used when you applied to study in Canada. If you obtain a new passport before [REDACTED], you will need to apply for a new eTA by visiting www.canada.ca/eTA.

Study Permit

Be sure to:

- Review all conditions (including work conditions and institution name) carefully
- If there is an error, request corrections before leaving the POE
- Consult with an Immigration Specialist if needed
- Apply to extend your document 4-6 months before it expires

Citizenship and Immigration Canada / Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada

CANADA

PROTECTED WHEN COMPLETED - PROTÉGÉ UNE FOIS REMPLI - B

CANADA

TORONTO ON CANADA

Application/Demande:

UCI/IUC:

STUDY PERMIT/PERMIS D'ÉTUDES

CLIENT INFORMATION/INFORMATION DU CLIENT

Family Name/Nom de Famille:
Given Name(s)/Prénom(s):
Date of Birth/Date de naissance: (yyyy/mm/dd - aaaa/mm/jj)
Sex/Sexe: MALE
Country of Birth/Pays de naissance: RUSSIA
Country of Citizenship/Citoyen de: RUSSIA
Travel Doc No./N° du document de voyage: 1551011

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/INFORMATION SUPPLÉMENTAIRE

Date Issued/Délivré le: 2014/ (dd/mm/ aaaa/mm/jj)
Expiry Date/Date d'expiration: 2015/ (dd/mm/ aaaa/mm/jj)
Case Type/Genre de cas:
Institution Name/Nom de l'institution: CHIEF SECONDARY
Field of Study/Domaine d'étude: AN SECONDARY
In Force From/En vigueur le: 2014/ (yyyy/mm/dd - aaaa/mm/jj)

Conditions:
1. UNLESS AUTHORIZED, PROHIBITED FROM ENGAGING IN EMPLOYMENT IN CANADA.
2. MUST LEAVE CANADA BY 2015/

Remarks/Observations:

THIS DOES NOT AUTHORIZE RE-ENTRY/CECI N'AUTORISE PAS LA RÉ-ENTRÉE

THIS FORM HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE MINISTER OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION - THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA
FORMULAIRE ÉTABLI PAR LE MINISTRE DE LA CITOYENNETÉ ET DE L'IMMIGRATION - LE PRÉSENT DOCUMENT EST LA PROPRIÉTÉ DU GOUVERNEMENT DU CANADA

MI 1445B (06-2012)

Canada

Study Permit Conditions

As a study permit holder, you must:

- Be enrolled at the designated learning institution (DLI) named on your study permit, unless you're exempt
- Apply for a new study permit to change post-secondary schools
- End your studies if you no longer meet the requirements of being a student, **and**
- Leave Canada when your permit expires
- Show you're actively pursuing your studies, unless you're exempt, by
 - Being enrolled full-time or part-time during each academic semester (excluding scheduled breaks)
 - Making progress towards completing your program's courses, **and**
 - Not taking an authorized leaves longer than 150 days from your study program

Visit [IRCC website](#)

Changing Designated Learning Institutions (DLIs)

As of November 8, 2024, you must be enrolled at the DLI named on your study permit.

If you applied for your current study permit with a Letter of Acceptance from another institution, you will need to apply for a new study permit to attend UVic.

As part of the application, you must include a letter explaining why you're changing schools. You should submit this application as soon as possible.

- If you do not receive your new study permit in time to start studies in September, you will need to change your entry point. Contact your Admission Officer (UG) or graduate secretary (GR) to discuss your options.
- If you are currently holding a study permit to attend secondary school in Canada, you need to get a new study permit by [applying to extend](#) your current one to attend a post-secondary school. You can continue your studies at the post-secondary level while waiting for a decision on your new study permit application. If your study permit application is refused, you must stop studying immediately.

Reach out to our team if you have questions regarding your study permit/your immigration status in Canada.

Visit [IRCC website](#)

Full-Time Definition

Considerations:

- Work eligibility
- PGWP eligibility

[Undergraduate Calendar](#)

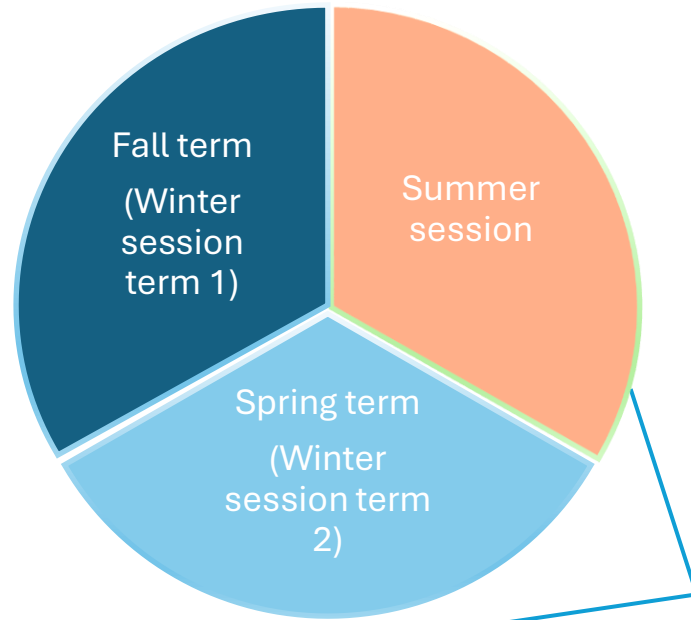
[Graduate Calendar](#)

If you are registered with the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL), consult with your CAL Adviser



Full-Time Definition for Undergraduate Students

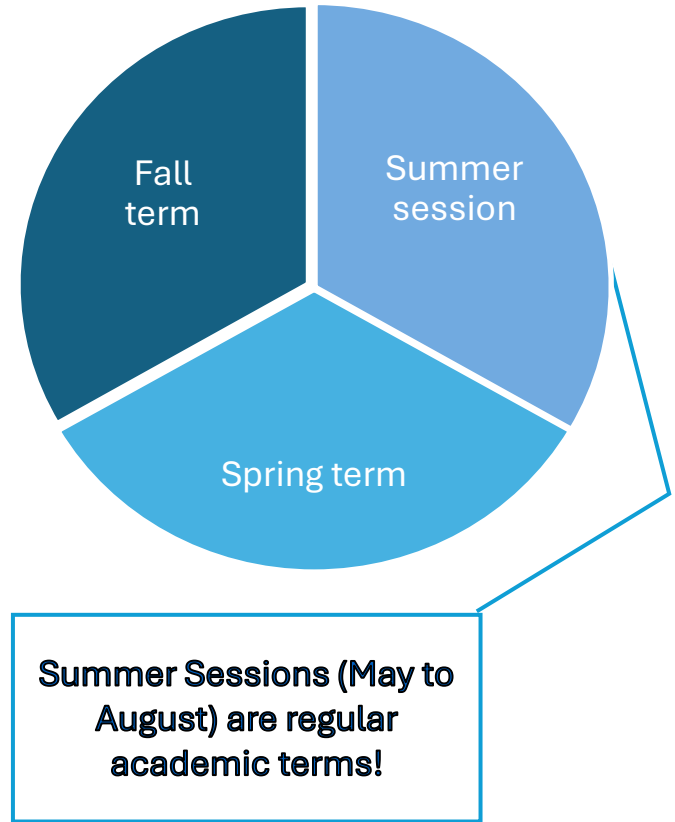
- Minimum 6 units in a 4-month term
- Minimum 12 units in fall term and spring term combined (Winter Session)
- Enrolment in a full-time Co-op term



Summer sessions are considered scheduled breaks for many (but not all) UG programs. Consult with your Academic Adviser if not sure.

Full-Time Definition for Graduate Students

- Continuous enrolment required
- Minimum 3 units in a single term
- Enrolment in a Co-op term



Study Permit Work Authorization

- Have a valid study permit with on-/off-campus work remarks
- Have a Social Insurance Number (SIN)
- Be registered in full-time studies at UVic during regular academic sessions except for final term
- Have started your program



Visit [IRCC website](#)

If your program includes a work component...

- As of April 1, 2026, as a post-secondary international student, you don't need a co-op work permit for student work placements, such as co-ops or internships.
- To undertake a student work placement your study permit **must include on-campus work authorization remarks** when it is issued

Visit [IRCC website](#)

Social Insurance Number (SIN)

What is a SIN? How do I apply?

- Used for tax purposes, and required in order to be paid for work you do in Canada
- [Register](#) for the SIN Application Drop-in on September 4, 2026

Visit [Employment and Social Development Canada \(ESDC\)](#) website



Considerations – Outside Canada

- Study permit processing timelines and options
- Online studies and post-graduation work permit (PGWP)

Deadlines:

- Last day for 100% reduction of first term fees – September 22, 2026
 - Last day for adding courses that begin in the first term (except for Faculty of Law) – September 25, 2026
 - Last day for 50% reduction of tuition fees – October 13, 2026
- 

Arrival Tips

- Be patient
- Answer questions honestly, consistently and briefly
- Review your study permit before leaving the border or airport



Contact Information

Admission (including entry point change / deferral)

- Undergraduate students: [Admission Assistant](#)
- Graduate students: Supervisor or Graduate Secretary

Academic and program planning

- Undergraduate students: [Academic Adviser](#)
- Graduate students: [Graduate Adviser / Graduate Secretary](#)

Scholarships

- [Student Awards and Financial Aid](#)
- Graduate students: Department or [Faculty of Graduate Studies](#)

Accessibility

- Educational support: [Centre for Accessible Learning \(CAL\)](#)

Residence

- On-campus housing: [Residence Services](#)

Have questions? Reach out!

SETTLEMENT ADVISERS

icsinfo@uvic.ca | 250-721-6361

IMMIGRATION SPECIALIST

isaimmigration@uvic.ca | 250-721-6361

Drop-in advising: M-F, 1:30 – 3:30pm

In-person support at the ICS office Jamie
Cassels Centre - room B202d

Stay Connected

Follow us on Instagram [@uvicinternational](https://www.instagram.com/uvicinternational)

Subscribe to our [newsletter](#)

And join our [upcoming events!](#)

Website resources

- ✓ [International Centre for Students](#)
 - ✓ Immigration: [ICS – Travelling to Canada](#)
 - ✓ Settlement: [ICS – Getting Settled](#)
 - ✓ Housing: [Off-campus housing](#)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISING

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Study permit
Work eligibility & PGWP
Health insurance
Housing
Family supports
Community connections

GET SUPPORT

Drop-in advising

In-person | Phone | Virtual
M-F 1:30-3:30 pm



 uvic.ca/ics
 [uvicinternational](#)
 [Global Community](#)



**University
of Victoria**

International Centre
for Students

A large group of young people, likely students, are gathered on the deck of a boat. They are all smiling and waving their hands towards the camera. The background shows the dark, choppy water of the sea under a dim, overcast sky. The text "SAFE TRAVELS!" is superimposed in the center of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font. The entire image is framed by a white border, and there is a colorful geometric bar at the bottom consisting of blue, green, and yellow sections.

SAFE TRAVELS!



QUESTIONS?