

PRE-ARRIVAL SETTLEMENT INFORMATION SESSION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

This presentation is current as of November 22, 2021

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Territory Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the ləkʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.



Learning Opportunities

- Register for the [Indigenous Cultural Acumen Training](#):
January 17th, 10am -12pm.
- Watch: [Every Child Matters: National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)



International Centre for Students (ICS)



Location: Jamie Cassels Centre B202
Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00am-4:30pm
Phone: +1 250 721 6361
Email: icsinfo@uvic.ca



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Disclaimers

- This session is for general information only and information shared in this session may be subject to change without notice. For the most up to date information about travelling always refer to: [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's \(IRCC\) website](#) and the [Canada Border Services Agency website](#).
- Off-campus housing resources mentioned during the session are not verified by UVic for legitimacy or quality. UVic is not responsible for the resources you use to find housing.
- This session is not intended for Gustavson School of Business or Continuing Studies students.
 - Gustavson School of Business students should contact GSB International team at gsbimmigration@uvic.ca.
 - Continuing Studies students must contact uvcsimmigration@uvic.ca for help.



Suggested Timeline

Before you arrive

- Plan your Trip
- Learn about Canadian health insurance
- Connect with the ICS Team
- Join the UVic Global Community
- Gather resources for long term housing
- Register for orientations and watch other pre-arrival videos

After you arrive

- Attend orientations
- Move into on campus housing or find off-campus housing
- Apply for BC MSP (if in Canada longer than 6 months)
- Start your studies at UVic!!



Before Travelling to Canada

- **Know what is in your luggage and carry-on luggage** - Review the [Canada Border Services Agency \(CBSA\) website](#).
- **Traveling with medication** - Visit the [Government of Canada website](#) for more information.



Short Term/Temporary Housing

You may need to stay in short-term accommodation while you look for a more permanent place to live. Some options include:

- **Hotel:** Minimum \$85 - \$149 per night
- **Airbnb/VRBO:** Minimum \$45 - \$240 per night
- **Hostel:** Minimum \$29 per night
- Review the [ICS website](#) for more information.



On Campus Residences

- Residence Services will send a room offer via email between late October and mid-December.
- If you receive a room offer, you have 72 hours to accept the offer by paying the acceptance fee, security deposit and signed Residence Contract.
- For more information and about when to move in please refer to the [UVic Residences Service](#) website.



Learn about Victoria

- Victoria Weather - Check out [The Weather Network](#) for typical temperatures throughout the year. Remember that it may not get super cold here but it sure can rain!!
- Check out the [Tourism Victoria](#) website to learn more about what our amazing city has to offer!!
- More resources available on the [ICS website](#) to guide you to local grocery stores and shopping centres as well.



Health Insurance

- Most international students in their first term, registered in credited courses are automatically enrolled in guard.me/uvic
- Refer to Health Insurance Pre-arrival Session



UVic Self-isolation Program

- If you are not fully vaccinated with a [Health Canada accepted vaccine](#) or have any questions pertaining to vaccination or self-isolation requirements, please contact the Self-isolation Program team for specific information:
 - **Email:** uvicsip@uvic.ca
 - **Phone:** +1 250 472 4984
 - **Webpage:**
<https://www.uvic.ca/international/inbound-students/self-isolation/index.php>



Research & Connect

- Learn about the [UVic Global Community](#)
- [Living in Canada](#) ICS Website
- [In the Know](#) articles
- Attend orientations in January



Housing Websites

- **Places4Students**
(places4students.com)
- **UVic Off-Campus Housing**
(Facebook)
- **Used Victoria**
(usedvictoria.com)



Important

- Please **be aware** that off-campus accommodation options are not verified by UVic for legitimacy or quality.
- Please **be aware** that there can be fake rental ads posted on Facebook, and Used Victoria and other similar sites.
- **Learn** about your rights and responsibilities. Visit the TRAC [Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre](#) website and read the “[Tenant Survival Guide](#)”
- TRAC also offers a **free online [Renting it Right](#) course** which is a great introduction to renting in BC.
- Consider arranging **private property insurance** to provide you coverage for theft and other unforeseen events.



HOUSING SCAMS: QUICK TIPS

Nice property for cheap

Owner is out of the country and can't meet you

Owner asks you for security deposit/rent without signing lease

Landlord does not provide you with a lease or a contract



Be Aware and Be Safe

- **Never give out your personal information to someone you do not know!**
- The **UVic Safety App** is a great resource to help keep you safe and in the know while studying at UVic!!
- Attend upcoming scam awareness event offered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) on December 9th – **[learn more and register](#)**
- Reach out to ICS if you have questions and need support!!



Suggested Timeline

After you arrive

- Attend orientations
- Move into on campus housing or find off-campus housing
- Apply for BC MSP (if in Canada longer than 6 months)
- Refer to [arrivals check-list](#)
- Start your studies at UVic!!



Orientations

- [UVic Orientations Events](#)
- [ICS January Orientations](#)



Find Long Term Housing

- Remember before you rent we recommend reviewing the [Renting it Right](#) free online Course from The Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre.
- Begin your search by reviewing the resources listed in this presentation and also on the [ICS website](#).
- Think about your needs and what type of accommodation you are looking for.



Apply for BC Medical Services Plan (MSP)

- Eligible for BC MSP if you are a resident of BC for longer than 6 months
- [Apply online](#) after you arrive in BC
- Refer to the Health Insurance Information Session in January



Important Take Aways

- Remember to refer the IRCC and CBSA website when planning your travel.
- Learn about Canadian Health Insurance.
- Remember to register for orientations and watch other pre-arrival videos.
- Register for the Indigenous Cultural Acumen Training in January.
- Protect yourself from housing scams by taking the Renting it Right Course.
- Refer to arrivals and pre-arrival checklist
- Reach out to the ICS Team if you have questions or need support!!



Contact Information

Jamie Cassels Building B202d

Hours: Monday-Friday

9:00am-4:30pm (PT)

[Time Zone Converter](#)

Phone: +1 250 721 6361

Email contact: ics@uvic.ca

Website: www.uvic.ca/ics



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