

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
ARRIVAL GUIDE**

FALL 2020



ACADIA
UNIVERSITY

International Student Arrival Guide Fall 2020

Everything you need to know

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Travel Restrictions

As per the current travel restrictions at the Canadian border, anyone travelling for non-essential purposes are exempt from entering into Canada. However, some of you may meet the travel exemptions for international students.

Attached you will find a list of recommendations which may assist you in preparing to enter into Canada.

[International Students Travel Restrictions](#)

For further information regarding your Study Permit and travelling to Canada, please follow the link: [COVID-19 Study Permit Processing information](#)

Please note these recommendations are based on current restrictions, and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) officers have the final decision as to who may be permitted entry into Canada. We strongly encourage you to monitor the IRCC and CBSA websites throughout the summer for the most up-to-date information, as requirements may change.

Travel Restrictions

If you are travelling by air, you need to follow all airline requirements and pass a health check conducted by airlines before you're allowed to board your flight. Anyone who shows symptoms of COVID-19 will not be allowed to enter Canada by air. When you arrive in Canada, Canadian Border Services officers will assess your health before you leave the port of entry. You must have a plan to self-isolate for 14 days when you arrive in Canada. This is mandatory, even if you have no symptoms. If you don't have a plan, you cannot travel to Canada. The Acadia International page has a template you can fill out and carry a copy while travelling: [Self-Isolation Plan Template](#)

Before travelling to Canada, make sure you have what you need to show you are exempt from the travel restrictions, and evidence that you are travelling for an essential (non-discretionary) purpose. Check out the checklist on the website: [Travel Document Checklist](#)

Please monitor the IRCC website as listed above for the most up-to-date information, as requirements and documents are changing rapidly.

Study Permit and Temporary Resident Visa (TRV)/eTA

Please keep in mind that if your Study Permit was not approved on or before March 18, 2020, you will not be allowed entry into Canada; thus, you may have to consider studying virtually. Please review the [Arrival and Orientation](#) page, and thoroughly look at the three different study options.

You are eligible to register for classes entirely online for Fall 2020 but please be aware of the two-step visa process.

IRCC has introduced a temporary two-stage approval process for international students who cannot submit a completed study permit application. This temporary process is available to students who want to begin their fall studies online and who submit their study permit application by September 15, 2020. [Two-Stage Approval Process of Study Permit Applications](#)

Check the Citizenship and Immigration Canada's website for more information on your personal Study Permit and Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) requirements: [Study Permit process](#)

Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)

There is an entry requirement where visa-exempt foreign nationals are expected to have an eTA to fly to or transit through Canada.

Exceptions include:

- U.S. citizens
- Travelers with a valid Canadian visa
- Canadian citizens, including dual citizens, and Canadian permanent residents cannot apply for an eTA.

To find out if you need an eTA or a visitor visa to enter Canada, please follow this link: [Electronic Travel Authorization \(eTA\)](#)

Biometrics

The Government of Canada Immigration and Citizenship Office have expanded the biometrics requirement for visa on July 31st, 2018.

You might need one. Please check if you need one before you apply: [Do I need to give biometrics?](#)

Due to COVID-19 service disruptions, the following link will guide you about the current biometrics collection from within Canada as well as outside Canada: [COVID-19 Biometrics update](#)

Check the Citizenship and Immigration Canada's website for further information regarding your biometrics: [Biometrics FAQs](#)

Custodianship

If you are under 19, you may or may not require custodianship. Follow this link to determine your requirements: [Studying in Canada as a minor](#).

If you would like to arrange custodianship, please contact custodian@acadiau.ca and review the information pertaining to custodianship on the website: [Acadia Custodianship](#)

Exchange Student Study Permit

If you are an exchange student and will be studying in Canada less than six months, you may not need a study permit. See this link for more information: [Study Permit eligibility](#)

Course Registration

To find out which courses you need to take, please refer to [Choosing First Year Courses](#)

If you still need assistance with choosing your courses, you should talk to your Academic Advisor. To find your Academic Advisor, please visit the website: [Academic Advising](#)

As the Fall 2020 term will use the hybrid approach to teaching and learning, courses will be offered in a new format. The different mode of course delivery definitions can be found at [Course Delivery Format](#)

If you are an exchange student, you do not register for your courses online. Consult the [Academic Timetable](#) and [Course description](#) to view course offering by Acadia University.

Under 'Main Search' select your desired 'Session', 'Faculty', and 'Discipline'. If you wish to search for courses in a specific semester, make your selection under "Semester" (i.e. 2020 Fall).

Email the 'Course', 'Section', and 'Title' information to the Registrar's Office at registrar@acadiau.ca. Please include your 9-digit Acadia Student ID number in all correspondence. Expect an email from the Registrar that will confirm that you are registered for your selected courses.

If you have any questions about course registration please contact registrar office by email: registrar@acadiau.ca

If you are a graduate student and need help with course registration, please contact Theresa Starratt, Graduate Studies Officer, by email at theresa.starratt@acadiau.ca or phone at (902) 585-1914.

Residence Life

Residence fills up quickly so make sure you reserve your spot by clicking on the following link: [Residence Life](#)

If you have any questions about residence, please contact Residence Life directly: residencelife@acadiu.ca.

Arriving at Halifax's Stanfield International Airport

- When you get off the plane and collect your luggage, look for the Nova Scotia Welcome Booth in the arrivals area. They will have information for all international students coming to school here in Nova Scotia. They will also have specific information about Acadia, accommodations, etc. There is a phone available for you to use at the Nova Scotia Welcome Booth to call home and let family know you have arrived safely.
- If you signed up for free airport pick up on September 2nd, (12:00 am) -Sept 5th (11:59 pm), we will have an Acadia representative greet you. If you do not see one immediately, go to the Nova Scotia Welcome Booth and they can tell you when they will arrive.
- If you have not signed up for the free airport pick up go to the staff at the Nova Scotia Welcome Booth and they will be able to provide information on how to get to Acadia via bus, taxi, limo, etc.

Emergency Contact Information

In case of an emergency contact Safety and Security at Acadia 902-585-1103 (24 hours a day).

Arriving at Acadia

Whether you are travelling by bus, rental car or the Acadia shuttle.

When are you arriving?

- When you arrive, you will be directed to your residence.
- If you are going to be living off campus, be sure you arrange with your landlord to move in on your date of arrival as most lease agreements will not start until September 1st.
- You can view the [Campus Map](#) to navigate to your residence and/or classes.

Using your phone in your residence room

- If you want to make a long distance call you would need a long distance pre-paid phone card. This is available at Student Union Building Market, any of the pharmacies or Muddy's Convenience store downtown.

- For an emergency, fire, ambulance, etc. call 911.
- For Acadia assistance, call Safety and Security at 1103
- For further information on phoning within Canada, etc. visit this link <https://hub.acadiau.ca/TDClient/KB/ArticleDet?ID=68>

Residence assistants

- RAs are students who live and work in residence and are responsible for assisting and advising residence students, developing and encouraging residence activities and events, programming, discipline, and security. Your RA can answer any question you may have about Acadia and refer you to resources. Get to know your RA. Each floor has an RA and their room door will be clearly marked. Please introduce yourself to your RA and feel free to ask them for help when needed.

Wong International Centre



The Wong International Center is located at 27 Acadia Street on the corner of Acadia and Highland avenue. Acadia's campus map can be found here: [Campus Map](#)

The Wong International Centre Office hours are 8:30am to 4:30pm and house hours are 8:30am to 10:00pm during the academic year with reduced hours on holidays. This is a resource centre for international students.

Currently our offices are closed for the month of September; however, we can be contacted via email. Please review the [Wong Centre's Staff Contact Information](#).

International Student Advisor

The Coordinator of International Education and the advisor for all international students can help you. You can talk to the coordinator about transitioning to university from high school, living in a new country, culture shock, changing your major, adjusting to a new learning and teaching style, etc. Drop by the office in the Wong Centre. The Coordinator of International Education is a resource for you during your years at Acadia. You can email international@acadiau.ca or phone 902-585-1690. If you are on campus you just need to dial 1690.

Using the internet

- There is wireless everywhere on campus. You can log on as a guest when you first arrive if your account is not set up. Go to wifi and choose Acadia Guest. This will give you limited access of two hours.
- Students will be granted access to the Acadia network once they are registered and have paid tuition fees. There will be an in-depth information session on merging your email accounts, connecting with your professors, getting your assignments, etc.
- If you are having trouble with internet access, ask one of your Ambassadors or your RA for help via email. There is a help desk in Technology Services:
<https://ts.acadiau.ca/home.html>

When you have completed your self-isolation, please keep the following in mind:

Business Hours

- Acadia business hours are 8:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday.
- Banking hours are generally 10:00am-5:00pm
- Shopping in Wolfville or New Minas many stores are open until 9pm. You can purchase food and some pharmacy items at different grocery stores in the next town over, called New Minas. You can get there via taxi or bus.

Getting Around

- There is a bus service called [Kings Transit](#) that goes to New Minas. Although you can buy most things in Wolfville, New Minas is a bigger shopping area if you need something specific or you need to purchase cell phones, etc.
- There is also a bus company called Maritime Bus that does trips to Halifax.

- There are many taxi companies in the area. Ask in your residence if anyone would like to share a cab with you. Many students find this an economical way to get around. Within Wolfville most companies offer a flat rate of \$5.00.

Town of Wolfville

- If you are waiting for orientation activities to begin or you want to take a break from getting things organized, feel free to explore the town of Wolfville. People are friendly and there are several restaurants, cafes, and stores for you to discover. There is also a nice short walk along the waterfront park behind Tim Horton's coffee shop. The [Tourist Bureau](#) is located on Willow Avenue at the end of town. The tourist bureau will have lots of information about the area. They are open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00p.m. 7 days a week until October.

List of things to do before classes start

1. Attend International Student Orientation Activities' schedule:
<https://www2.acadiau.ca/international/arrival-orientation.html>
2. Your ambassadors will help you
 - a. Find your academic advisor
 - b. Find your classrooms
 - c. Finish registering for courses online
 - d. Pay your fees
 - e. Buy your textbooks
 - f. Go on a campus tour
 - g. Visit the gym
 - h. Learn about clubs and campus activities
 - i. Get your permanent ID card
 - j. Visit the health plan coordinators office if you want to opt out of the health plan
 - k. Find out where to buy bus tickets for Halifax, get dry cleaning done, buy Acadia T-shirts, etc. (SUB)
 - l. Sign up to get a Nova Scotia ID Card at the Access Nova Scotia Booth or the Wong International Centre.
 - m. Find out about laws, driving regulations, rules regarding alcohol and smoking, etc. Info session will be held during orientation (see orientation schedule in [here](#))
 - n. Connect your computer to the Acadia network and merge your email accounts.
 - o. Use your Student ID card to purchase items on campus and to do your laundry, etc. This is called Axe Cash and you can load money on your ID card. Ask your ambassador or go online ([Campus Card](#)) or contact Student Account Office.