



Incoming Exchange Handbook



Welcome

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Welcome to the University of Victoria, Faculty of Law Exchange Program

This handbook will provide you with important information about the faculty, UVic, Victoria, and your exchange experience. Please read this

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their studies at UVic. You will automatically be enrolled for the guard.me@UVicplan and will be assessed a Mandatory Temporary Medical Insurance (MTMI) fee of \$265 in your UVic student account. Please see the UVic International Office [website](#) for complete details on obtaining health insurance.

Students who are staying in BC for

Victoria (this may be a requirement for unvaccinated people).

What to Pack

- Canadian electricity is 110 volts, or 60 Hz. Bring a voltage converter and plug adapter if your appliances and electronic devices are not compatible.
- Sufficient supply of any medication in original packaging and accompanied by a prescription from your physician
- Enough Canadian currency to cover your immediate expenses in Canada such as airport fees, food and transportation. Major credit cards are also widely accepted. Please note that if you arrive in Canada with more than CAD\$10,000 in cash, stocks, bonds, banker's drafts, cheques, or money orders, you must declare this to the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) officer.
- Check the section on Climate and Clothing for tips on what to pack from your closet.

Please check the [Canada Border Services Agency \(CBSA\)](#) website for regulations on items you are allowed to bring into Canada.

Financial Matters

It is recommended that you open a bank account at a financial institution in Victoria. You will typically need a photo ID (e.g. passport), one other piece of ID, and your UVic ONECard (student card) to open an account. We have been told by previous exchange students that international students can open a bank account with [Scotiabank](#) at Uptown Shopping Centre.

There are Automated Teller Machines (ATM) on campus ([map](#)). Please note that if your account is with another institution, there may be a service fee to use these machines.

BC has sales tax of 7% PST (Provincial Sales Tax) and 5% GST (Goods and Services Tax).

As an exchange student, you do not pay tuition fees to UVic. However, there will be fees that you will have to pay. As well, you are responsible for purchasing textbooks and course packs. Please check section below on Transportation for more information on the Universal Bus Pass and the cost of opting into this service.

Financial Assistance

Check with your home institution and your government for scholarships and/or bursaries available to students studying abroad.

When You Arrive

Government of Canada announced that effective April 1, 2022 at 12:01 AM EDT, fully vaccinated travellers will no longer need to provide a pre-entry COVID-19 test result to enter Canada by air, land or water. Fully vaccinated travellers seeking to arrive in Canada before April 1, 2022, must still have a valid pre-entry test.

[Flying to Canada requirements checklist](#)

Proof of vaccination

Certain activities and services require proof of vaccination or proof of exemption to enter:

- f* Campus pubs/restaurants
- f* [CARSA/Vikes athletics and recreation](#)
- f* Cinecenta
- f* All events
- f* Student housing

Proof of vaccination is not required to access these UVic services and spaces:

- f* Bookstore
- f* Cafeterias
- f* Classrooms & labs
- f* Coffee shops
- f* Libraries
- f* Study spaces

This information is accurate as of March 28, 2022. It is expected that there will be changes to proof of vaccination requirements over the coming months.

Entering Canada

You will be asked to present the following documents at your Canadian port of entry:

- Valid passport or travel document (with a valid visa, if required)
- Valid study permit or letter of introduction from a Canadian visa office (if applicable)
- Admission letter from UVic
- Copy of all documents in your study permit application (if applicable)

- Proof of sufficient finances to support yourself during your stay in Canada
- Typed list of items you are bringing into Canada, including all items sent separately

Please allow plenty of time between your arrival at your first port of entry and any travel connections thereafter.

It is also a good idea to bring any of the following documents that apply to your situation.

- birth certificate or baptismal certificate
- driver's license
- immunization, vaccination, dental and health records
- health insurance documents
- marriage certificate or proof of common-law status
- separation or divorce papers
- adoption papers
- language proficiency scores
- official school records or academic transcripts
- medical or psychological documents if you plan to access services for students with a disability
- letters of reference from former employers
- documents required for entry into other countries you plan to visit

If necessary, you should have them translated to English by a qualified translator.

Arrival Times

It is recommended that you arrive in Victoria at least one week before the start of term so you have time to settle in and participate in University [orientation](#) activities. Note that you may be required to register for some orientation events.

If you are arriving for the spring term, please note that the university is closed between Christmas Day and New Year's Day. If you have confirmed accommodations on-campus, please check the Residence Services [website](#) for the official check-in date.

Travelling to Victoria

Victoria is located on Vancouver Island, across the Juan de Fuca Sound from Canada's mainland. It is **NOT** in Vancouver. If your international flight is arriving at the Vancouver International Airport (YVR), you will need to take a plane or a ferry to Victoria. The flight is only 20 minutes but if travelling by ferry and transit, it could take more than four hours. If flying all the way to Victoria (YYJ), you should book your YVR-YYJ flight before coming to Canada.

Please consult the International Student Services webpage '[Travelling to Victoria](#)' prior to making travel plans.

From Victoria International Airport (YYJ)

Take the [airport shuttle bus](#) to downtown or to UVic. Look for the kiosk at the airport to buy a ticket.

Victoria might be in Canada but you don't need to bring your heaviest winter outfit with you.

We do, however, suggest bringing a rain jacket, waterproof shoes or boots, and an umbrella, as the west coast gets plenty of rain. In the winter (December to February), temperatures will range from -5C to 10C, so you will need a warm jacket, gloves, scarf and a hat from time to time. If you are from a warm climate and coming to Canada in the winter months, it may be easier and less expensive to purchase outerwear once you arrive in Canada. Spring (March to May) is very pleasant and in the summer (June to August), temperatures can go up to 30C. In the fall (September to November), it generally stays warm until mid-October and you can expect some rain showers.

Locals dress in layers as the weather can change quickly, and we encourage you to do the same. At UVic, students dress casually: jeans and sweatshirt or shorts and t-shirt are typical outfits during school. You are encouraged to bring at least one formal or traditional outfit for special occasions, and/or business attire in case you need to make a presentation for a course.

You may also want to bring clothing for outdoor sports or activities, such as hiking, skiing, kayaking, etc. or plan to purchase them here.

Starting on Campus

ONECard

The UVic [ONECards](#) the single official identification card for students. It is also your library card. Please make sure to obtain your ONECard as soon as you can. Their office is located in the lobby of the University Centre.

If you are staying in Canada for at least six months and qualify for BCMSP, you are also eligible to apply for a [Photo BC Services Card](#) instead of carrying your passport around with you.

You may also want to get an [International Student Identity Card](#) (ISIC) and enjoy discounts and offers on travel, shopping, and recreation worldwide.

Communication

The country code for Canada is 1 and the area code for Victoria is either 250 or 778.

To dial an international number from Canada: 011 + country code + city routing code +

local number. Emergency (fire, ambulance, police): 911

Directory assistance: 411 (there is a fee for this service)

Cell Phones

If you are bringing your cell phone from your home country, you must have a GSM tri-band phone. You will need to purchase a new SIM in Canada. You may also consider purchasing a cheap cell phone unit with prepaid service for use while you are in Canada. Major cell phone providers are Rogers, Bell, Fido, Koodo Mobile, Telus, and Virgin Mobile.

Online Messaging Apps

Online messaging applications are very popular among international students as a way of keeping in touch with family and friends back home. Several are free and only require an internet connection. Please note that they may not provide the ability to call emergency numbers.

Calling Cards

Phone cards can be purchased at most convenience and grocery stores. It is usually cheaper to use these cards for international calls.

Pay Phones

There are no pay phones on campus. However, there are some courtesy phones around the campus that allow you to make short local calls by dialing 9 and then the area code and telephone number.

Mail/Post

There is a post office inside Campus Pharmacy in the Student Union Building. Canada Post provides delivery service for letters and parcels within Canada and internationally.

Internet

The UVic Wi-Fi

Most public spaces in Victoria also offer free wireless internet.

Transportation

Bus

Buses to most areas of the city leave frequently from UVic. It costs CAD\$2.50 to take the bus anywhere one way or

- Exams are written on laptops, using either the Brightspace LMS or Exam4 software

Academic Terms

“Winter session” consists of the fall and spring terms. Fall term runs from September to December, and Spring term runs from January to April. Each term consists of 13 weeks of classes followed

ability to articulate their work both orally and in writing. If English is your second language, in exceptional circumstances, you may make a request for exam accommodation on the basis of language. Please complete the [application](#) for exam accommodation and submit it to the Office of the Associate Dean at least three weeks before the exam period starts. Your request will be confidential and the type of accommodation

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After Your

' Check that your email address is correct. We will communicate with you primarily by email so please ensure that the email address you provide to us is correct and that you check this account regularly.

' 8 Obtain necessary immigration documents. -

your UVic email

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