



International Students Services (ISS)

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Dear Student,

As this will be our last newsletter for 2021, we want to take a moment to wish you and your families a happy, healthy and restful holiday break.

Please note that our office will be closed from **Friday, Dec. 24, 2021**, to **Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022**. Our team will not monitor emails or provide advising services during this time. If you are a UCalgary international student requiring immediate emergency assistance during that holiday closure, please contact **Campus Security** at +1.403.220.5333 or campus.security@ucalgary.ca.

Happy holidays! See you in the new year.

International Student Services

Important dates and information

- **Dec. 22:** Final exams end
- **Dec. 24:** End of term
- **Dec. 24 – Jan. 2:** University closed for the holidays
- **Jan. 3:** Start of term
- **Jan. 3 – Jan. 7:** Block week
- **Jan. 10:** Start of classes

Effective Dec. 15, 2021, the Government of Canada is urging everyone to avoid non-essential travel outside Canada due to the risk of the new COVID-19 Omicron variant.

Important websites:

- [Government of Canada announces additional measures to contain the spread of the Omicron variant - Canada.ca](#)
 - [Government of Canada travel advisories](#)
 - [Omicron health travel notice](#)
 - [Canadian travel and entry requirements](#)
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Lifting of travel suspensions

Effective as of Dec. 18, at 11:59 p.m. EST, the Government of Canada decided to lift [travel suspension](#) for foreign nationals who may have been in Botswana, Egypt, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa and Zimbabwe within the previous 14 days before arriving in Canada.

Biometric appointment bookings: India

Effective as of Dec.17, 2021, at 4 p.m. EST, the Canada Visa Application Centres (CVAC) in India will only schedule biometric appointments for IRCC applicants by completing the [appointment booking form](#).

A biometric letter once used to book an appointment cannot be reused.

[Learn more about Biometric appointment bookings in India.](#)

Information and opportunities

Winter 2022 USpeak applications open

USpeak Global is a language-sharing program that is open to all students, international and Canadian, at UCalgary. USpeak Global allows students to improve and expand their language skills, meet new people and learn together in an informal setting.

[Learn more »](#) and [Sign up here »](#)

Events and workshops

Online Unwind: speed friend-making

Join us and the Leadership and Student Engagement (LSE) Office to kick off the new year with this exciting session of speed friend-making!



Play some fun icebreaker games and make new friends from the comforts of your home.

Date: Thursday, Jan. 6, 5 – 7 p.m. MST



Permanent residence information session

Are you interested in staying and working in Canada after you graduate? A Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC) will present basic information on permanent residence (PR) pathways that may be available to you.

Date: Tuesday, Jan. 11, 9 – 11 a.m. MST

Do you want more events?

Check out our **ISS Events calendar** for a list of events and workshops for international students.

Are you interested in events hosted by other offices? Visit the following:

- **Career Services**
- **Faith and Spirituality Centre**
- **Leadership and Student Engagement**
- **Money Smart**
- **Student Success Centre**
- **Student Wellness**
- **Women's Resource Centre**

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