



International Student Services



Dear Student,

Welcome to the University of Calgary! Our team at the [International Student Services](#) (ISS) office is here to answer your questions and support you as you prepare for the 2022 winter term.

Please review the important information below in preparation for your upcoming studies. We will also be sending you another email in December with more information and reminders for the upcoming term.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at iss@ucalgary.ca.

Kind regards,

International Student Services

COVID-19 frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Are you interested in learning more about the impact of COVID-19 on your studies this winter? Visit our [ISS COVID-19 FAQ](#) page and UCalgary's [COVIDSafe Campus](#) page for details and updates.

Prepare for your arrival in Calgary

Welcome webinars

Please note that it is your responsibility to stay informed before travelling. To help ease this transition, we recommend that you review the presentations and recordings on the [Webinars & Workshops](#) page to help you prepare your travel plans. A great example to start with is the **How to prepare for your arrival in Calgary during the COVID-19 pandemic**. Please ensure you review the most up-to-date version for some of those presentations as you are browsing around.

Other recordings and slides are also available, such as:



- Finding off-campus accommodation
- Finances and planning for the year ahead
- Healthcare and medical insurance in Alberta
- How to adjust to living in a new city
- Resources for students with families

Here are some upcoming webinars to attend:

- [Weather in Calgary](#) - Dec. 2
- [Discover Calgary](#) - Dec. 9



ISS web resources

Use our helpful resource guides as you prepare for life in Calgary. There are many topics to help with your non-academic questions, including a **new student checklist**.

[Learn more »](#)

Medical insurance

ISS encourages all students to purchase travel/emergency medical insurance for the duration of their travel and relocation to Alberta. Once you are in Alberta—and as long as you intend to live and study in Alberta for **12 months or more**—you may be eligible for the **free Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP)**. The free AHCIP plan covers basic services for eligible residents and works with your additional coverage through the Graduate Student Association (GSA) health and dental plan. Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure you have adequate insurance coverage before you travel.

Learn more:

- ISS website resource: [Medical insurance](#)
- Welcome webinar: [Healthcare and medical insurance in Alberta](#)



GPS Mentorship program

Do you have questions about life in Calgary and what to expect as a UCalgary student? Connect with a peer student volunteer (mentor) who can share advice, tips, and experiences as a UCalgary

student. Sign up by **Dec. 17** to access a student mentor.

[Learn more and sign up here »](#)

Proof of vaccination deadline: Jan. 1, 2022

Unless they have an approved accommodation under protected grounds, all students attending in-person courses in the 2022 winter term must be fully vaccinated and have uploaded their proof of vaccination to the [Thrive Health portal](#) by **Jan. 1, 2022**. (Note that you are not considered fully vaccinated until 14 days after you receive your second vaccination dose.)

If you are planning to travel to Canada but are unable to access a WHO-approved vaccine in your home country, you may be able to apply for [temporary accommodation](#) to meet *UCalgary's COVIDsafe policy* (application deadline **Dec. 1, 2021**).

IMMIGRATION AND TRAVEL INFORMATION

Travelling to Canada and quarantine requirements

Travel restrictions are still in place for unvaccinated travellers; however, unvaccinated international students who have a valid study permit or study permit approval letter are allowed to enter Canada. Once you have confirmed your travel plans, you will need to share your arrival information with UCalgary. Learn how to do this [here](#).

As an international student, ensure you:

- have all your **documents to travel**
- complete your **pre-arrival COVID test**
- register for your **arrival test**
- complete your 14-day **quarantine plan**
- submit travel plans on **ArriveCAN**
- share travel plans with UCalgary using the **arrival form**

Domestic and connecting flights

Students who do not qualify as fully vaccinated and are allowed entry into Canada can connect to flights inside Canada and continue to their final destination using their valid pre-entry molecular test if their connecting flight is within 24 hours of the departure time for their flight to Canada.

For information about travel restrictions and quarantine requirements in Canada, please be sure to review all the information in the links below prior to making any travel plans.

- [COVID-19: Travel, quarantine and borders](#)
 - [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): International students](#)
 - [ISS COVID-19 FAQ page](#)
 - [Alberta: Isolation and quarantine requirements](#)
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Fully vaccinated travellers

Starting Nov. 30, 2021, the Government of Canada is expanding the list of [approved vaccines](#) that allow travellers to qualify as fully vaccinated.

Fully vaccinated travellers must have digital or paper proof of an approved COVID-19 vaccination (in English, French, or certified translation); complete pre-departure testing; be asymptomatic while travelling; prepare and submit a quarantine plan; submit travel plans on [ArriveCAN](#), and follow all public health measures currently in place.

Please review all the Canada [travel requirements](#) and the [ISS COVID-19 FAQ](#) before you travel to ensure you have all the documents necessary.

Important Travel Update

The Government of Canada has recently announced that, as of Jan. 15, 2022, all international students who are 18 years old and older will be required to be [fully vaccinated by a Canada-approved vaccine](#) to enter Canada.

Immigration notice

Students outside of Canada can continue remote studies until **Aug. 31, 2022**. Studies conducted remotely, while outside of Canada, may still be eligible towards a post-graduate open work permit provided students have a valid study permit or have applied for a study permit and receive approval later on.

[Learn more about remote studies >>](#)

Questions

If you have questions, please review the [ISS COVID-19 FAQs](#) or [Immigration page](#) or email an ISS Immigration Advisor at issimmigration@ucalgary.ca.

Getting settled in Calgary

International Student Orientation

Learn more about Canadian immigration, UCalgary classroom culture, living in Calgary, on-campus resources, wellness supports, social events, and more by attending the **International Graduate Student Orientation** and the **Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) Graduate Student Orientation**.

[Learn more about all orientations »](#)



Graduate International Student Orientation

- **Date:** Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022
- **Time:** 9 - 10 a.m. MST

[Register here »](#)

Virtual Student Panel

- **Date:** Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022
- **Time:** 11 a.m. - noon MST

[Register here »](#)

Social events and campus tours

In-person and virtual events will be available throughout Block Week from **Jan. 3 to 7**, pending any current public health restrictions. Registration details will be available in our next email in December.

Finding a place to live

Whether you decide to live on or off-campus, it's essential that you research your options before you arrive. To learn more, here are some links below:

- ISS website resource: [Housing](#)
- Welcome webinar: [Choosing accommodation in Calgary](#)
- Welcome webinar: [Finding off-campus accommodation in Calgary](#)



Unicard

A Unicard is your university student ID, payment method for select campus vendors, and access card for the library and facilities on campus. You will need this card to attend any in-person classes or events on campus.

Visit the [Unicard website](#) to learn how to submit your photo before you arrive and pick up your Unicard once you're on campus.

Connect with us

Please like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Instagram](#) as we share information via social media.

We also encourage you to **sign up for the ISS Newsletter** to get important updates and learn about exciting webinars and opportunities for students.

ucalgary.ca

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