



Incoming Student Exchange Canadian Immigration Advice

Winter 2022

This document will help guide you through the Canadian immigration requirements that need to be satisfied to allow your exchange to happen. **You should only start to satisfy any applicable Canadian immigration requirements once you have received your official letter of admission from the University of Alberta (UALberta).**

Also, please understand that **Canadian immigration requirements can change and are, in fact, changing frequently during the COVID-19 pandemic.** If we find out about changes that impact what is written in this document, we will endeavour to let you know about them as soon as possible. Whenever information in this document differs from that on [the relevant Government of Canada website](#), the relevant Government of Canada website will be understood to be correct and up-to-date.

Exchange students usually need to apply for one of the following:

- I. Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) or Temporary Resident Visa (TRV)
- II. Study Permit

I. Under normal circumstances, exchange students who will be studying in Canada for one term only (i.e., less than 6 months) are not required to apply for a study permit. Depending on your country of citizenship, however, you may have to apply for an [eTA](#) OR a [TRV \(Visitor Visa\)](#).

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Due to COVID-19, [non-fully vaccinated](#) exchange students wishing to come to Canada for their exchange and be exempt from the current travel restrictions will need to apply for a study permit even though you will be studying for less than 6 months.
- Fully vaccinated exchange students from visa-exempt countries or those with a valid visa coming for an exchange of **less than 6 months** are allowed to enter Canada with a valid travel document (valid visitor visa or electronic travel authorization [eTA]) and don't need to apply for a study permit. *However, exchange students who enter Canada without a study permit are **not eligible to work** during their studies in Canada.*
- When applying online, you are advised to select that you will be coming to study "temporarily, more than 6 months" otherwise the online system will not allow you to proceed with the study permit application.
- Include a letter to explain what the intended length of stay is and why you made this selection when answering the online assessment questions. Upload this letter in the Client Information section of your application.

II. Exchange students who will be studying in Canada for two consecutive terms (i.e., more than 6 months) OR who wish to have the option of working *on- or off-campus* during their exchange are required to apply for a [study permit](#).

Other Immigration Requirements:

Depending on your country of citizenship/residence and/or the length of time you will be staying in Canada, you may also be asked to provide [biometrics information](#) and/or the results of a [medical exam](#).

Travelling to Canada During COVID Requirements:

Before travelling to Canada students must:

1. have received admission to UAlberta (UAlberta is on the list of DLIs with approved COVID-19 readiness plans)
2. meet **one** of the following:
 - a. hold a Port of Entry Letter of Introduction approving you for a study permit OR
 - b. be [fully vaccinated](#) coming for **one term** and have a valid visitor visa or eTA
3. participate in the [Off-Campus Isolation and Travel Registry](#) which is the UAlberta-DLI approved COVID-19 readiness quarantine plan
4. have taken a COVID-19 Molecular Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test within 72 hours before scheduled departure to Canada
5. have reviewed the most [up-to-date travel information](#) to determine what quarantine requirements apply to you and prepare accordingly
6. submit specific travel-related information through the [ArriveCAN](#) app before boarding

To find out more about relevant immigration and travel information for international students, please visit the [International Student Services website](#)

Please connect with an international student advisor online for travel and/or study permit related inquiries by booking an appointment using our [I-Advise system](#).

Last updated on October 12, 2021