



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HANDBOOK



**UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY**



BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Keep track of everything you'll need to do as you prepare to attend the University of Calgary.

- **Gather immigration documents**
Be aware of which immigration documents you require to study in Canada and apply for them at least four months prior to arriving. You may require both a Study Permit and an entrance document (visa or eTA). Applications can be made via canada.ca.
- **Make travel arrangements**
If your immigration document hasn't been processed, make sure to keep your travel plans flexible. You shouldn't travel to Canada unless your immigration document application has been approved.
- **Register for classes**
Check your Student Centre (my.ucalgary.ca) for dates.
- **Find a place to live**
Apply for on-campus housing or look into off-campus housing options.
- **Student orientation**
Register for both new student orientation and international student orientation. These events will help you get acquainted with UCalgary.
- **Get Canadian currency**
This will allow you to cover your initial expenses upon arrival.
- **Health care coverage**
If you'll be in Canada for less than 12 months, then you'll need to apply for private health insurance coverage. If you'll be in Alberta for more than 12 months, you can arrange for travel insurance for your transportation into Canada and arrange health care coverage once you arrive.

UNDERSTANDING THE LANGUAGE OF IMMIGRATION

As a temporary resident of Canada, it's important that you're aware of Canada's immigration regulations and the conditions of your stay.

You can access the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) website at canada.ca. To find the location of the Canadian Visa Office that serves the country you are in, please visit the **Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada website**.



Study Permits

A study permit is a Canadian immigration document that allows you to study in Canada for longer than six months. Depending on your program of study, your study permit will allow you to work on campus, off campus, or in either location, if you're a full-time student. Your application for an initial study permit is a process that begins at a Canadian visa office outside of Canada. You will not obtain your physical study permit until you enter Canada. To learn more about study permits, visit ucalgary.ca/iss/immigration/study-permits.

There are several specific documents you will need to provide with your study permit application. The documents you're required to submit may be different depending on your country of residence. For a full list of the generic documents, visit the **IRCC website**.



Temporary Resident Visa

A Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) is a document that allows you to enter Canada. It's a shiny counterfoil sticker that's glued into your passport. Typically, TRVs are issued for multiple entries. If you receive a single-entry TRV, you must apply for a new one if you want to leave and re-enter Canada. Not all countries require a TRV; find out more about TRVs on the **IRCC website**.

If you're from a country that requires a TRV, the Canadian Visa Office should automatically issue you one with your Study Permit application. When you enter into Canada, you will also receive a stamp in your passport. The date written under the stamp should be the same as your Study Permit validity. If you do not have a Study Permit, and no date is written under the stamp, you may remain in Canada for a maximum of 6 months.



Electronic Travel Authorization

An Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) is an electronic travel document that allows travelers with passports from eTA-required countries to enter into Canada by air. This electronic document will be linked to your passport and be valid for five years, or until your passport expires, whichever comes first. You must have a valid eTA before you're allowed to board your flight.

To discover whether you need a TRV or eTA to enter into Canada, please visit the **IRCC website**.

** U.S. citizens do not require a TRV or eTA to enter Canada.*

AVOID POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

- Ensure your study permit or other immigration document has been approved before attempting to enter Canada
- Have all of your immigration documents in your carry-on luggage when you fly into Canada
- Staple your study permit into your passport after it's printed by the Immigration Officer at the Canadian port of entry

For the list of documents you should keep with you when entering Canada, please visit the **IRCC website**

ACCOMMODATIONS



Living in Residence

Living in residence is a great way to meet new people and create a community for yourself here on campus. You'll be only minutes away from class and have access to many dining options on campus. If you ever need to talk with someone about anything, including the pressures of school work or being away from home, you can always turn to your **Community Advisors**. Find out more on ucalgary.ca/residence.



Living Off-Campus

In Calgary, it is common for students to rent an apartment or condominium, a bachelor suite, a duplex or townhouse, a basement suite or a room in a house. When considering these options, remember that you'll often have to pay for your share of the utilities (water, electricity, heat, internet) in addition to your rent. Rental rates in Calgary range from \$800- \$1500 per month depending on the location and size of the place you are renting. Living with roommates can bring the cost of rent down substantially. Learn more about renting in Calgary at ucalgary.ca/iss/resources/housing.





Health Insurance

If you intend to be in Calgary for longer than 12 months, you may register for the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP). There is no cost for this plan. The plan covers visits to the doctor and lab costs, as well as hospital costs, if you are ever admitted to a hospital. To be eligible for Alberta Health Care, you should provide a copy of your Study Permit that shows you're allowed to study for 12 months or more. You must register within three months of your arrival into Alberta. Your dependents residing in Canada may also be covered. If your spouse and family are in Alberta, their immigration documents must show that they are authorized to be in Canada for at least 12 months in order for them to receive Alberta Health Care. If you renew your Study Permit to continue your studies, you'll need to send a copy to Alberta Health Care to remain covered by this plan. Please note that you should have travel insurance for your trip (via plane, car, bus, etc.) into Canada.

If you intend to be in Calgary for less than 12 months, you're not eligible for AHCIP. You'll need to purchase health insurance through a private company (we recommend doing this before you arrive in Calgary). For more information, visit ucalgary.ca/iss/resources/medicalinsurance.



Register for International Orientation

Make sure you register to attend International Student Orientation to learn more about topics such as Government of Canada regulations, health care, insurance, and more. You'll also get details about programs and services that'll help you during your stay, and meet other international students. For more information, visit ucalgary.ca/iss/resources/orientation.

THE CALGARY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

When you arrive in Calgary, you'll see many "White Hat Volunteers" in the airport wearing white cowboy hats and red vests. If you need help or guidance, one of them will be there to assist you. If you arrive in Calgary late at night, you may choose to stay at one of the many hotels around the airport and then make your way to the university in the morning.

Getting to the University of Calgary Campus



A taxi stand can be found immediately outside of the arrivals area. Expect to spend between \$40-\$50 to get to the main campus. Typically, Canadians tip taxi drivers between 10-15% the total cost of a cab fare; however, this is up to you.



The Calgary airport is serviced by public buses that can connect you to the above ground rail service, known as the C-Train. The cost of the C-Train is \$3.30 per trip. If you're arriving late at night or have a lot of luggage, this option may not be available to you. In Calgary, buses and trains don't run 24 hours per day. The Calgary Transit website (calgarytransit.com) lists service hours and allows you to plan your trip by searching the addresses of your beginning and final destinations.



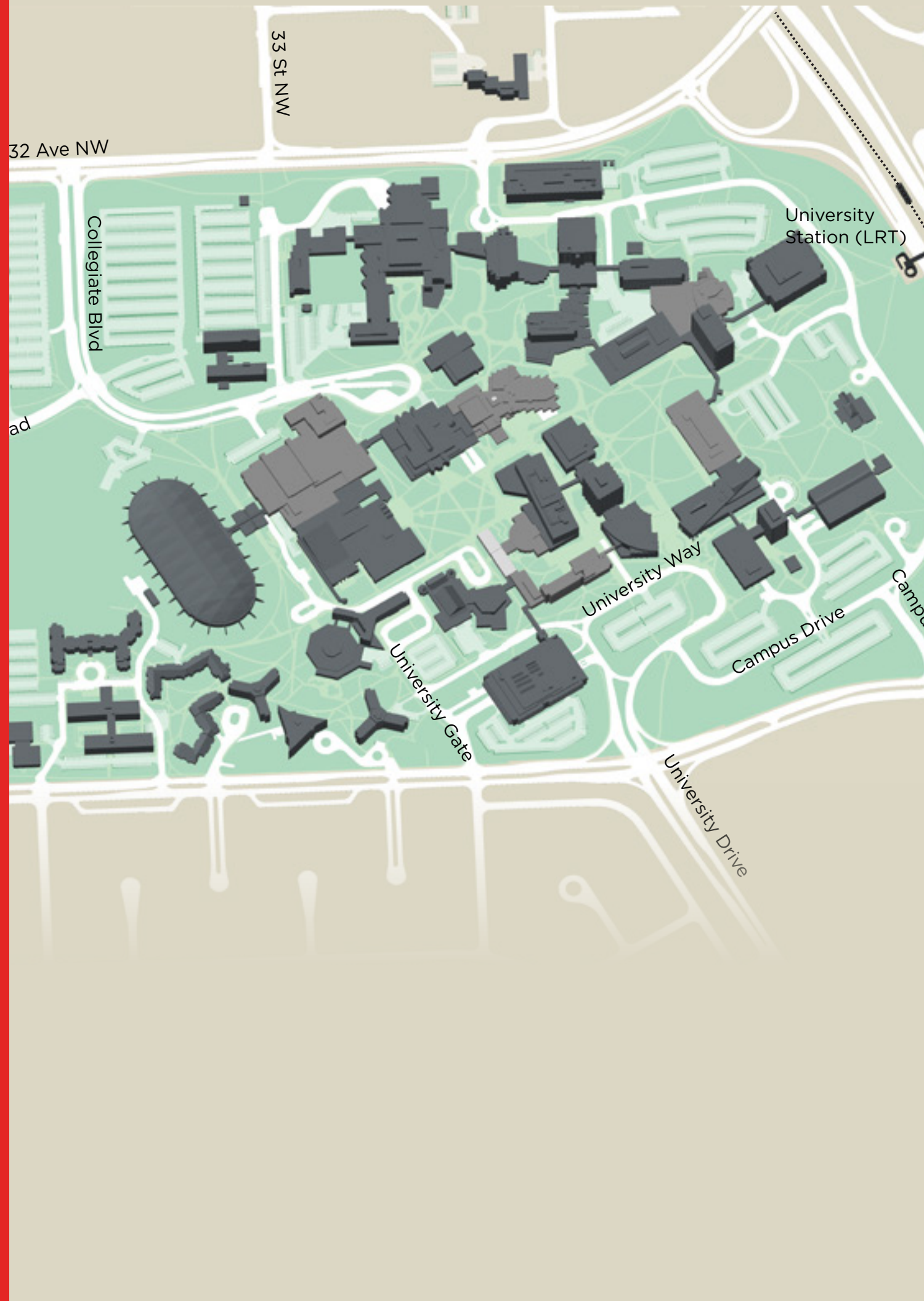
Car2go is a car-sharing program, and the university is located within the designated pick-up and drop-off zone. You can learn more at car2go.com.



Uber, the popular ride-sharing app, is available in Calgary. You can learn more at uber.com.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

ON-ARRIVAL CHECKLIST



The basics

- Call your family to let them know that you've arrived safely
- Withdraw or convert some of your money to Canadian funds in case you have problems with your credit or debit card
- Make a note of the expiry date of your study permit

When you arrive in Canada

- Make a digital copy of your documents (passport, study permit, etc.), and keep them in a safe place
- Choose a mobile provider and cell phone plan
- Go to a bank and open a **Canadian bank account**
- Provide your family and friends with your new contact information
- Set up your home utilities (water, electricity, internet, etc.) if needed
- Apply for a Social Insurance Number (SIN) if you'll be working on campus
- Apply for **Alberta Health Care Insurance**
- Update your Student Centre (my.ucalgary.ca) with an emergency contact number

When you arrive on campus

- If you are arriving at the start of the Fall semester, visit the **Welcome Centre** on the fourth floor of the MacEwan Student Centre (**MSC 450**) to pick up your welcome bag
- Pick up your UCalgary ID card (UNICARD) in the basement of the Dining Centre (**DC 018**)
- If you are a full-time student, pick up your transit pass (UPASS) sticker at the **UPASS Office**
- Finalize your class schedule: add or drop classes (if necessary), and pay any remaining tuition
- Update your address and telephone number in your Student Centre (my.ucalgary.ca)



International Student Services

International Student Services provides support services and customized advising for all international students studying at the University of Calgary.

We provide:

- Immigration advice on study and work permits, visas and more
- Resources about living in Canada
- Volunteer and leadership opportunities

QUESTIONS? STOP BY FOR FREE DROP-IN ADVISING

Monday to Friday

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

1 – 4 p.m.

MacEwan Student Centre 275

Contact information

📄 ucalgary.ca/iss

✉ international.advice@ucalgary.ca

📘 UCalgaryISS

Check out one of our international student programs



Global Friendship Program

Connects international and Canadian students from all over the world while participating in low-cost social activities in Calgary and the surrounding area.



Mentorship Program

Matches new international students with mentors who will help them with their transition to Canada and the University of Calgary.



Global Families Program

Assists the spouses and children of international students by providing them with resources and programming to help them adjust to life in Canada.



USpeak Global Program

Provides an opportunity for language sharing and learning where you improve or practice a new language while teaching your own at the same time.



Visit **International Student Services** to speak to an international student advisor, or to find out about the many events and programs run for international students.

ISS is located on the second floor of the MacEwan Student Centre (MSC 275).

 ucalgary.ca/iss

 international.advice@ucalgary.ca

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