

International Student Entry Guide Fall 2017

Everything you need to know

What you need to enter Canada

Canada Border Services Agency officer will ask to see your travel documents when you arrive in Canada. **Make sure they are not packed in your luggage**, and that you have them with you in your carry-on luggage. This will help speed up your entry to Canada.

You may be requested to show any of the following documents:

- **a valid passport or travel document**
- **Letter of Introduction** from the Canadian Consulate or High Commission:
This is the letter you receive from the visa office if you applied, and have been approved, for a study permit. It is sometimes called the letter of introduction or introductory letter. Officially, it is called the Port of Entry (POE) Introduction Letter.
- **a valid temporary resident visa (if required) or an ETA** ([Electronic Travel Authorization](#))
- **a copy of the letter of acceptance from Acadia**
- **Evidence of financial support** (proof of funds documents)
- **any other documents recommended by the visa office where you applied**
- **Record of Health Immunizations** (if required)

Respond to all questions the immigration officer asks you with clear, simple answers. Service is available in English and French. If you do not fully understand the questions, ask for an interpreter. They are available in many languages.

After the officer processes your information, they will give you a Study Permit (a piece of brown paper that is often stapled to your passport).

DO NOT leave the airport or border until you have a Study Permit issued by an immigration officer.

You should check your permit for errors before leaving the immigration officer. It is much easier to have the Officer fix them immediately, than to try to get them fixed later.

If you are a student who expects to work during your time in Canada, it is very important to check for conditions that include the words “may work” or “may accept employment.” If your study permit does not include those words, please tell the immigration officer who issued your permit, as all post-secondary students should include such conditions.

Arriving at Halifax's Stanfield International Airport

Nova Scotia Welcome Booth

- After you collect your luggage, look for the Nova Scotia Welcome Booth located in the arrivals area and is open between 9:00am – 3:00am. They will have information for all international students coming to school here in Nova Scotia. They will also have specific information about Acadia, accommodation in Halifax, purchasing a SIM card, etc. This booth will also have snacks and water available to you. There is a phone available for you to use at the Nova Scotia Welcome Booth to call home and let family know you have arrived safely. The ambassadors at the booth also have contact information for Acadia staff. Drop by and say hello even if you don't have a specific question.
- To follow Study Nova Scotia on social media click on the following links:

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)

WeChat (Coming Soon)

- If you signed up for free airport pick up on August 30th we will have orientation leaders there to greet you at the airport. Look for a welcome leader in a pink Acadia t-Shirt. If you do not see one immediately, go to the Nova Scotia Welcome Booth and they can tell you when they will arrive.
- If you have not signed up for the free airport pick up go to the staff at the Nova Scotia Welcome Booth and they will be able to provide information on how to get to Acadia via bus, taxi, limo, etc.

Arriving at Acadia

Whether you are travelling by bus, rental car or the Acadia shuttle:

- **12:01am August 30th – 8:30am August 30th:**
Go to Safety and Security Department located in the Student Union Building (30 Highland Avenue).
- **August 30th: 8:30am – 9:00pm:**
Go to Fountain Learning Commons, 26 Crowell Drive. Take Main Street through Wolfville, go up University Avenue and turn left on Crowell Drive. There is parking along Crowell Drive.

- **August 30th: 9:00pm or after**
Go to Safety and Security Department located in the Student Union Building (30 Highland Avenue).
- [A map of the Acadia Campus can be downloaded in PDF format here.](#)
- You will be able to pick up your Acadia Photo ID and get access to your residence room if staying on campus. You will then go to your room and get ready to [join in orientation activities scheduled.](#)
- If you are going to be living off campus, be sure you arrange with your landlord to move in on the 30th as most lease agreements will not start until September 1.

If you arrive at Acadia after September 2nd, go to the [Safety and Security Office](#). Feel free to drop by the [Wong International Centre](#) 27 Acadia Street Monday through Friday between 8:30am – 4:30pm with any questions. You can access the [Welcome Week Schedule here](#). Activities are arranged by date and you are welcome to join in whenever you arrive.

Using your phone in your residence room

- If you want to make a long distance call you should purchase a long distance pre-paid phone card. You can buy this in the Student Union Building Market during the day or at any of the pharmacies or Muddy's Convenience store downtown. The staff can help you choose the best card depending on what country you need to call.
- For an emergency, fire, ambulance, etc. call 911.
- For Acadia assistance, call Safety and Security at 1103
- [For further information on phoning within Canada, etc. visit this link.](#)

Residence assistants

- RAs are students who live and work in residence and are responsible for assisting and advising residence students, developing and encouraging residence activities and events, programming, discipline, and security. Your RA can answer any question you may have about Acadia and refer you to resources. Get to know your RA. Each floor has an RA and their room door will be clearly marked. Please introduce yourself to your RA and feel free to ask them for help when needed.

Wong International Centre



[The Wong International Center](#) is located at 27 Acadia street on the corner of Acadia and Highland avenue. [Acadia's campus map can be found here](#). The Wong International Centre Office hours are 8:30am to 4:30pm, house hours are 8:30am to 10:00pm during the academic year with reduced hours on holidays. This is a resource centre for international students. So drop by and say hello to our staff and ask any questions you may have.

International Student Advisor

- [Julie Snair is the Coordinator of International Education](#) and the advisor for all international students regardless of what you need help with. You can talk to Julie about transitioning to university from high school, living in a new country, culture shock, changing your major, adjusting to a new learning and teaching style, etc. Julie has worked with international students for many years and is very knowledgeable about the concerns and challenges of international students. Drop by her office in the Wong Centre (upstairs) and introduce yourself. She will be a resource for you during your years at Acadia. You can email her at international@acadiau.ca or phone 902-585-1690. If you are on campus you just need to dial 1690.

Using the internet

- There is wireless everywhere on campus. You can log on as a guest when you first arrive if your account is not set up. Go to Wi-Fi and choose Acadia Guest. This will give you limited access of two hours.

- Students will be granted access to the Acadia network once they are registered and have paid tuition fees. On September 1st, there will be an in depth information session on merging your email accounts, connecting with your professors, getting your assignments, etc.
- If you are having trouble with internet access, ask one of your team leaders or your RA for help. There is a help desk in [Technology Services](#) located in Room 112 of the [Beveridge Arts Centre](#)

Business Hours

- Acadia business hours are 8:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday.
- Banking hours are generally 10:00am-5:00pm
- Shopping in Wolfville or New Minas many stores are open until 9pm. You can purchase food and some pharmacy items at a shop in New Minas called Sobeys which is open 24-hours. Taxi drivers will know where this is.

Getting Around

- There is a bus service called [Kings Transit](#) that goes to New Minas. Although you can buy most things in Wolfville, New Minas is a bigger shopping area if you need something specific or you need to purchase cell phones, etc.
- There is also a bus company called [Maritime Bus](#) that does trips to Halifax.
- There are many taxi companies in the area. Ask in your residence if anyone would like to share a cab with you. Many students find this an economical way to get around. Within Wolfville most companies offer a flat rate of \$5.00.

Town of Wolfville

- If you are waiting for orientation activities to begin or you want to take a break from getting things organized, feel free to explore the town of Wolfville. People are friendly and there are several restaurants, cafes, and stores for you to discover. There is also a nice short walk along the waterfront park behind Tim Horton's coffee shop. The [tourist bureau is located on Willow Avenue at the end of town](#). The tourist bureau will have lots of information about the area. They are open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00p.m. 7 days a week until October.

List of things to do before classes start

1. Attend [International Student Orientation Activities](#)
2. Your leaders will help you
 - a. Find your academic advisor
 - b. Find your classrooms
 - c. Finish registering for courses
 - d. Pay your fees
 - e. Buy your textbooks
 - f. Go on a campus tour
 - g. Visit the gym
 - h. Learn about clubs and campus activities
 - i. Get your permanent ID card
 - j. Visit the health plan coordinators office if you want to opt out of the health plan
 - k. Buy blankets, clothing, things for your room, etc. in New Minas on August 31st
 - l. Find out where to buy bus tickets for Halifax, get dry cleaning done, buy Acadia T-shirts, etc. (SUB)
 - m. Open a bank account. Visit Welcome Centre on August 31st or visit local banks after August 31st (bring your passport and your student ID card)
 - n. Sign up to get a Nova Scotia ID Card at the Access Nova Scotia Booth or the Wong International Centre.
 - o. Find out about laws, driving regulations, rules regarding alcohol and smoking, etc. Info session September 1st (see orientation schedule)
 - p. Connect your computer to the Acadia network and merge your email accounts.
 - q. Use your Student ID card to purchase items on campus and to do your laundry, etc. This is called Axe Cash and you can load money on your ID card. Ask your leader or [go online](#) or contact Student Account Office.