

**2016-
2017**



[INTERNATIONAL PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE]

Disclaimer: Every attempt is made to verify the accuracy of the information contained in this handbook at the time of publication. However, it is impossible for the Wong International Centre to guarantee the accuracy beyond that time. Students are advised to check with the appropriate authorities to be certain that they have the most up-to-date information at their disposal.

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WELCOME TO ACADIA!

Dear Student,

Congratulations on your acceptance to Acadia University! My name is Julie Snair and I am the International Student Advisor for Acadia. It is my pleasure to provide support and assistance to international students. In my role, I work closely with other University staff, faculty, and community members.

You should definitely attend the New Student Orientation for new students (see page 15). Please read this guide thoroughly, and sign-up for the New Student Orientation by going to the [International Students website](#). If you have problems signing up, contact international@acadiau.ca. Be sure to indicate your arrival details: flight number, arrival time & date, as well as your 9-digit student number and an email and/or telephone contact.

Acadia has approximately 500 international students from over 53 different countries. Our full-time enrolment is approximately 3500 students. Acadia offers a wide range of recreational, cultural, social, and educational activities in addition to the academic programs.

Acadia is located in the small town of Wolfville, Nova Scotia. It is 100 kilometers (about one hour drive) from the provincial capital city of Halifax. The climate is moderate and the landscape is scenic and beautiful. I am sure that you will consider Wolfville a very friendly and safe town.

I look forward to meeting you upon your arrival. Please let me know if I can assist you before your departure.

Sincerely,

Julie Snair, Coordinator
International Education
Wong International Centre
Acadia University
international@acadiau.ca

SO YOU'RE COMING TO CANADA



Congratulations! You have recently been accepted to Acadia University. We would like to welcome you, and to make your transition to our campus as smooth as possible. On behalf of the Wong International Centre and the Acadia community, we welcome you.

PREPARE FOR TAKE-OFF...

Now that you know that you really are coming to study in Canada, you are probably already wondering what you have to do next. Acadia has an on-campus International Centre with an International Student Advisor, Julie Snair, who can answer your questions and offer you advice on a wide range of subjects. She is available to help you if you have questions about accommodations, health insurance, immigration, tax, study skills, courses, social activities, or if you just need someone to listen to a concern. We can direct any inquiries that you might have about course selection, registration, housing, laptop requirements, and finances. We have provided a list of relevant contact numbers and e-mail addresses pertaining to the University on page 16 of this booklet.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

When you arrive at Acadia to start your studies, you will participate in a variety of orientation activities that will familiarize you with most aspects of campus life. Information on the New Student Orientation can be found on page 15 of this booklet. The purpose of this document is to provide you with a brief overview and a checklist of considerations to ensure a successful arrival.

IMMIGRATION/STUDENT AUTHORIZATION

Once you have received your Confirmation of Acceptance letter from Acadia, you should immediately begin procedures to obtain your Canadian Student Study Permit. A Temporary Resident Visa may also be required depending on your citizenship. To check requirements for visa [click here](#). These documents are available from the nearest [Canadian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate](#); and you can obtain assistance in completing the forms at the [closest visa office](#). Additional information is available from Citizenship and Immigration Canada: www.cic.gc.ca

The process of obtaining your required immigration documents will differ between offices abroad and in some cases can take up to six months to complete. Depending on the visa office, you will receive your Student Study Permit before departing for Canada or you will receive a Letter of Introduction to present to Canadian Immigration when you arrive in Canada. If you have been issued a Letter of Introduction, the immigration officer at the port of entry (when you enter Canada) will issue your Student Study Permit. **Under no circumstances should you leave for Canada** until you have obtained either **your Student Study Permit or Letter of Introduction** from the Canadian visa office abroad (unless you satisfy Immigration Canada's requirements for students studying in Canada without a Study Permit). United States citizens: see below.

The application fee for a Student Study Permit is \$150.⁰⁰CAD. This fee does not guarantee a Study Permit will be issued. Please note that the fee is charged when you apply for your Permit and whenever you need to extend it. You should request to have your initial Student Study Permit issued for the full term of your studies in Canada.

If you are a United States citizen, then you may be able to apply for your Student Study Permit when you are crossing the border into Canada. You will need to have proof of sufficient funds for studies at Acadia, the application fee, proof of acceptance at a Canadian university and proof of identification. ***Verify information with Canadian Border Services.***

PAYMENT OF FEES/TRANSFER FUNDS



You can pay your student fees via cheque, money order, bank transfer, bank draft, traveler's cheques, or credit card. We strongly suggest that you pay your fees before you arrive for New Student Orientation. You can contact Acadia University about fees at: (902) 585-2201 or email: student.accounts@acadiu.ca

If you want to transfer your fee payment directly to the university account, Acadia's bank details are as follows:

Bank of Montreal

424 Main Street
Wolfville, NS
B4P 1C9

Please quote your **student number**
on the transfer to ensure it goes to
your account.

Bank Id# 001

Bank Transit # 02063

Bank Account # 1010-842

BMO International (for Canadian or other currencies) (BIC) = BOFMCAM2

BMO Routing # (for US funds) (IBAN) = 026005092

RBC# AbA021000021

It may take several weeks for your funds to be transferred through regular banking channels. Your local bank should be able to tell you how long it will take to transfer funds to Canada. If you want to transfer funds by setting up a new account, banks in Wolfville include:

Royal Bank of Canada

<http://www.rbc.com/canada/>

PO Box 640 Wolfville, Nova Scotia B4P 1E1 CANADA

Tel: (902) 542-2221 Fax: (902) 542-4639

Bank of Montreal

<http://www4.bmo.com/>

PO Box 1000 Wolfville, Nova Scotia B4P 1C9 CANADA

Tel: (902) 542-2214 Fax: (902) 542-9293

COURSE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

FOR STUDENTS STARTING DEGREE PROGRAMS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR
2016/2017

Registration

Once you have paid your \$150.00 Confirmation Deposit and receive confirmation that you have been accepted into Acadia, you can then register for courses.

All undergraduate registration is through the [Acadia Central website](#). Use the PIN/password that you have been using to access the Acadia 4U portal and your Acadia account number (last six digits of your student number, first letter of your last name). [Click here](#) to visit the Acadia Central website. Look for the "login" button on the top right corner of the screen. To determine what courses you would like to register for, read [Choosing Courses in your First Year](#). When you have decided what courses you wish to take, check the schedule of classes. If a course is highlighted in red, it means that it is full and you may not register for it.

If you have any questions about a particular course, feel free to contact an "Academic Advisor" for your program of study by email or contact Julie Snair at international@acadiu.ca . To find your Academic Advisor [click here](#).



LAPTOP COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

All students who will be attending Acadia University are required to have a laptop. This will give students a technology rich educational experience, and prepare them for the world at large with a familiarity of today's technology. Students are able to purchase Acadia-specific laptops directly from Apple Canada and Dell Canada.

The pricing, configurations, and warranty packages detailed in these web stores are specific to Acadia University and are designed to meet your academic needs. Remember, only Acadia-specific laptops will be eligible for our exceptional hardware and software support on campus.

Visit the [Acadia Technology Store](#) for more information and to order your new laptop for September 2016.



ACCOMMODATIONS

Your choice of accommodation will depend on personal preference, cost & availability. The options include living on-campus in university residences or off-campus in commercial housing.

On-Campus Residences: All residences have been wired for phone, computer, and cable access. There is an all-female residence (Whitman/Tully House) and mature student residences (Raymond House, Roy Jodrey House). There is the option of private or shared rooms for students.

Residences are not open during the winter break in December; however, if you know **for certain** that you will not be returning home, please indicate that on your accommodation application so that Acadia can assign you to the residence opening during winter break. You can contact the Residence Life office at Acadia for more details by phone: (902) 585-1417 or email: residencelife@acadiu.ca or [click here](#) to visit the website.

Off-Campus Apartments: It is usually necessary to arrive a few days before classes begin to arrange off-campus housing, as the selection diminishes close the start of classes. You will have to arrange temporary accommodation while you are looking for housing. Prices for off-campus housing vary depending on size, facilities, and location. Some apartments include the cost of utilities (electricity, heat, water, etc.) in the monthly rent. Apartment rentals are in the range of \$350.00 to \$600.00 per unit monthly. Sharing accommodation reduces expenses. There is usually an 8 month or 12-month lease for rental units.

For other issues related to living off-campus, please pick up the "Living Off-campus Guide" from the Wong International Centre. This guide is available in both Chinese and English.

For off-campus options, check: www.places4students.com

On-campus residence and meal plan options

Prices vary by residence, room type and number of meals you choose.

For further price details, please see:

- [Residence Rooms](#)
- [Meal Plans](#)

Off-Campus Housing: (These are average monthly costs)

Apartment (per month [12-month lease]) \$600.00 (1 person)
Food (per month) \$350.00
Other Expenses (per month) \$300.00

***Prices vary by apartment. The price may be less depending on your choice of apartment, location, etc.**

COST OF LIVING 

Below is an estimate of what it might cost a single student to live in Wolfville from Sept - May. Please note that this is a minimal estimate (Canadian dollars):

Clothing (winter)	\$500.00
Textbooks	\$1000.00
Miscellaneous*	\$2000.00
Rent	\$4200.00 - \$7200.00

*postage, laundry, pharmacy, supplies, telephone, dental costs, recreation, entertainment, travel, etc.

The student lifestyle and desire to travel home will affect the cost of living.

ACADEMIC FEES

Below you will find a list of student costs for studying and living. All amounts are in Canadian dollars for the 2016/2017 academic year. Please note the academic year starts in September and ends in April. This means that these fees represent a full year (two semesters) of classes.

2016/2017 Fees

Full-time undergraduate tuition for international students (Fall-Winter term):

\$15,903.00	Tuition
\$ 568.00	Technology Fee
\$ 247.00	Athletic and Health Services
\$ 289.90	Student Organization Fees
\$ 744.00	ASU Health Plan
\$ 155.00	ASU Dental Plan
\$ 10.00	Acadia Access Fee

[Click here](#) to visit the Financial Services website for additional fees.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Scholarship and Financial Assistance office administers the University undergraduate financial assistance programs which include scholarships, prizes, awards, and bursary.

Acadia awards specific to a particular discipline are listed on our website. Recommendations for awards are received from departments each academic year. Contact your department to inquire whether or not you need to apply for consideration.

Information on undergraduate scholarships and awards outside of Acadia are maintained by the Scholarships and Financial Assistance office. Undergraduate scholarship, bursary, and award information is sent to all students via email. Information is also posted on our website and on the bulletin board across from the Registrar's Office in University Hall.

Immigration Canada will require proof that you have sufficient funds to cover all academic and living expenses for the duration of your degree program (approximately \$26,000 CDN/ year) without relying on assistance from the university before they will issue a student visa.

Scholarships and Financial Assistance
University Hall-1st Floor

8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Mon to Fri

Phone : (902) 585-1574/ (902) 585-1543 Fax : (902) 585-1081

Website: <http://www2.acadiu.ca/financial-aid>

Email: financial.aid@acadiu.ca

EMPLOYMENT

Students studying in Canada with a valid study permit issued after June 1, 2014 are permitted to work off campus. This allows international students to work up to 20 hours per week during the regular academic session and full time during scheduled breaks. Students with study permits are also allowed to work on-campus with the same restrictions.

If a student is going on a [Co-operative work placement](#) then the student has to apply for a Co-Op Work Permit once they are accepted to the Co-op program. For more information contact the Co-op office or check out the website: www.cic.gc.ca.

Please contact Michelle Johnson, Career Services Officer, for any questions concerning careers or jobs at michelle.johnson@acadiau.ca or (902) 585-1233.



HEALTH CARE

All full-time International students are automatically enrolled in the Acadia Students' Union (ASU) Health Plan. Those students who have comparable coverage (private insurance) may opt out (be removed) of the ASU Health Plan by showing proof of their alternative coverage to the ASU Health Plan Administrator by **September 30th, 2016**. A waiver must be signed by the student and Health Plan Administrator. Prior to making your decision as to whether or not you want to opt out and use your own private insurance while in Nova Scotia attending Acadia University, please make sure that your plan will cover you for the following: licensed medical doctors' visits, ambulance, prescription drugs, hospital stay.

For more information as to what the plan covers, please visit the [Acadia Student's Union](#) website for more information or call the Health Plan Administrator, Cindy MacDonald, at (902) 585-2167 or email asuhealthplan@acadiau.ca.



TRAVEL TIPS

When you are traveling to Acadia, be sure to carry all of the following information with you. You should also have photocopies of these important documents. Do not pack it in your baggage:

- Valid passport, Student Study Permit *or* Letter of Introduction, Temporary Resident Visa (required by some countries)
- Proof of funds available (i.e.: Bank statement, draft, transfer, letter of credit, scholarship letter, etc.), and have at least \$100.00 (CAD or USD) in cash
- Carry a change of clothes, any medication, toothbrush and tooth paste, soap, deodorant, shampoo or other important items in your carry-on bag, in case your luggage is lost or delayed, this is common in international travel!

CANADIAN CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

Detailed information about Canada's customs regulations is available from the Canadian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate in your home country [click here](#). The Canadian Government allows you to bring into the country a reasonable quantity of clothing, books, and other things for your personal use. However, only limited amounts of liquor and tobacco are permitted (if applicable). If you plan to bring electrical equipment, you should note that Canadian voltage is 110 volts, 60 Hertz.

TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT TO ACADIA

Transportation from the [Halifax Stanfield International Airport](#) (YHZ) to Acadia University, Wolfville.

The traveling time from the Halifax Airport to Wolfville is approximately 1.5 hours by car or taxi; however, it takes 2 or 3 hours by bus (Maritime Bus Company). As means of transportation from the Halifax Airport to Wolfville, there are four different options.

1. Free transportation on Wednesday, August 31st 2016 ONLY:

If you are travelling by yourself, there will be airport pickup service provided by Acadia, free of charge. You must sign up for this on the [Acadia International Students website](#) starting June 2016. This free transportation service is ONLY available on **Wednesday, August 31st 2016**. We will inform you of your pick-up time closer to your arrival.

This shuttle bus will depart from the airport at various times throughout the day. Acadia's shuttle bus strives to be precise about the schedule and depart on time; however, it may be possible that the departure times will change slightly.

2. Maritime Bus Company:

This is a good alternative option if your flights schedule does not work with the free transportation on August 31st, 2016. Maritime Bus Company has buses leaving Halifax going through Wolfville daily. The cost is approximately \$26.00 including tax for a one-way ticket. Make sure you arrive at least 30 minutes before the scheduled departure time. Customers are allowed a maximum of 5 bags: 1 carry-on bag and 2 free checked bags, the following two checked bags each cost an extra \$5.00. The website for the Maritime Bus Company is:

<http://www.maritimebus.com/en/>

The bus stops at the parking lot of Wheelock Dining Hall [#44 on campus map], on the Acadia's campus. Once you get off the bus, keep walking down the hill along Horton Avenue and stop at the Acadia Students' Union Building [#30 on campus map]. You need to acquire your Acadia ID card and room key from the Safety and Security Department which is located at the second floor of the Acadia Students' Union Building.

Please refer to [Acadia Campus map](#).

3. Taxi/Limousine Service:

Woods Limousine service provides transportation service from Halifax Airport to Wolfville at reasonable rates. This will be a good option if you have guests and a lot of luggage and demand flexibility with your travel schedule; however, it is not as cheap as the Maritime Bus. Woods Limousine service is available curbside in the Arrivals area at the airport. You must make a reservation in advance. A reservation can be made [online](#) or via phone at 1(888)720-5466 or 1(902)864-8283.

Approx. cost is: **\$110** [Ensure you ask for the "Student Economy Service"].

A World Class Limousine service also provides transportation from the Halifax airport to Wolfville (Acadia University). If you choose to hire "a World Class Limousine" you should reserve [online](#)

Approx. cost is: **\$130**

Please Note: If you have flight delays, please contact the Limousine company with your updated arrival time in Halifax. This will ensure that you will have a car waiting when you arrive in Halifax.

4. Car Rental:

This is an economical option if you or any of your guests hold a valid driver's license. There are seven car rental companies which offer a wide selection of vehicles at affordable rates. Based on the size of the vehicle, cost may range from \$75 to \$100 per day.

Avis, Budget, Dollar, Enterprise, Hertz, National and Thrifty are all represented at the airport. Their desks are located in the Domestic Arrivals hall. **Note:** Most car rental agencies do not rent to individuals younger than 21 years of age; certain companies will charge extra if you are between the ages of 21 and 24.

Driving direction from the Halifax Airport to Wolfville:

Take exit 6 (Halifax/Dartmouth exit) to get onto Highway 102
Take exit 5 on Highway 102, so that you don't miss the Annapolis Valley merge, then
Take Exit 4B to get onto Highway 101
Take exit 10 to arrive in Wolfville

Hotels:

There are 4 hotels close to the Halifax airport. They all offer shuttle service to and from the airport. Cost ranges from \$100 to \$190 per night, based on the room types and rankings of the hotels. Reservations are definitely recommended and please call in advance to get a quote for a specific rate.

The **alt Hotel** (tel: 1-855-258-5775; <http://halifax.althotels.ca/en>) is situated in the Halifax Airport.

The **Quality Inn Halifax Airport** (tel: (902) 873 3000; www.airporthotelhalifax.com) is situated 1km (0.6 miles) from the airport and runs a free shuttle service from the airport.

The **Hilton Garden Inn Halifax Airport** (tel: (902) 873 1400; hiltongardeninn.hilton.com) is 3 km (2 miles) away, and also offers a free shuttle service from the airport.

The **Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Halifax Airport** (tel: (902) 576-7600; <http://www.hiexpress.com/hotels/us/en/enfield/yhznt/hoteldetail> is 4 km (2.2 miles) away, and also offers a free shuttle service from the airport.



TOWN OF WOLFVILLE

If you are planning to visit the Town of Wolfville with your family, either before you start your studies or for the New Student Orientation, you will need to arrange accommodations.

For a list of local accommodations in the Wolfville area, please visit <http://www.wolfville.ca/accommodations.html>

There is a complete visitor's guide to Wolfville available online at: <http://www.wolfville.ca/>

You can also find out information about Nova Scotia at: <http://www.explorenovascotia.com/> or call: 902-425-5781/1-800-565-0000.



WEATHER

Acadia's fall/winter session covers the seasons of autumn, winter and spring. Temperatures range from the mid-20 degree Celsius range to -25 degrees Celsius. Winter extends from November to March. This is when snow accumulates and you will need warm clothing: a heavy coat, warm hat, warm gloves, and water-proof boots for the cold season.

WELCOME WEEK & NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

The following information is **ONLY** for Undergraduate and Graduate students

New International Student Orientation – September 1st, 2016

This important program is designed to familiarize you with Acadia University, Wolfville & life in Canada. Orientation is devoted to International student concerns such as the Canadian Education System, Culture Shock, Immigration, Health Insurance, taxes, etc.

Free transportation will be provided for you on Wednesday, August 31st, 2016 if you are registered for the ISO and travelling by yourself. If you do not require the free airport pickup [you must still register for International Student Orientation.](#)

Parents & guests are welcome to accompany you. However, they will need to arrange their own transportation and off-campus accommodation. I recommend they book their accommodation in the Wolfville area well in advance. There are some suggestions on page 14 of this guide for temporary accommodation. There will be an information session for parents during orientation.

Included in the Welcome Week Activities:

- Shopping trip for necessities
- Important Tips & Information on residences, health plan, etc.
- Services, immigration, & academic assistance
- Academic Expectations Sessions
- Discussions with senior international & Canadian students

WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE HALIFAX AIRPORT

For those registered for airport pick-up on **Wednesday, August 31st 2016** you will be transported directly to Acadia University from the airport.

The driver will take you to the Safety and Security office at Acadia Students' Union Building. There you will pick up your room key (if you are staying on campus), a campus map, a copy of the new student orientation schedule and welcome information from the Wong International Centre. Safety and Security will then take you directly to your residence building.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Acadia University

Registrar	(902) 585-1222; Fax: (902) 585-1081 Email: registrar@acadiau.ca
Student Accounts/Fees	(902) 585-1297 Email: student.accounts@acadiau.ca
International Student Advisor	(902) 585-1690; Fax: (902) 585-1038 Email: international@acadiau.ca
Career Services Officer	(902) 585-1233 Email: michelle.johnson@acadiau.ca
Residence	(902) 585-1417; Fax: (902) 585-1093 Email: residencelife@acadiau.ca
Safety & Security	(902) 585-1103; always open Email: security@acadiau.ca
Off-Campus Accommodations	www.places4students.com



CHECKLIST

Important Things to do/have before coming to Acadia

- Valid Passport
- Student Authorization
- Tuition Fees
- Course Registration
- Accommodation
- Acceptance Letter from Acadia
- Transportation from Airport to Acadia
- Orientation Registration

Recommended Packing List*

- Clothes
- Towels
- Bed Sheets and Pillow covers
- Alarm Clock
- Winter Jacket, Boots and Gloves
- Sweaters
- Rain Jacket and Umbrella
- Backpack
- Camera
- Music/MP3 player
- Medicine & Prescriptions
- Dictionary
- Contact List
- Costumes/Traditional Dress from your Country
- Traditional Music or instrument that you play
- Items from your Country that can be used in displays and presentations
- Your Country's Flag

*You may buy items that you need after you arrive at Acadia. We will take you shopping during the New International Student Orientation. Casual clothes are appropriate for the classroom.

Feel free to contact Julie Snair if you have further questions or concerns at:

(902) 585-1690; Fax: (902) 585-1038

Email: international@acadiu.ca

Acadia University, Wong International Centre

27 Acadia Street, Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia
B4P 2R6 Canada

(902) 585-1865; Fax: (902) 585-1038