

Arrival and Orientation

[Explore our Winter 2021 orientation videos and presentations.](#)

Travelling to Canada

- The Canadian **border is currently closed** to non-essential travel. However, **some students** may meet [travel exemptions](#).
- We recommend students travel independently. Please review the [Government of Canada's Travel Restrictions, Exemptions and Advice](#) information.
- Learn more about considerations if you are [travelling from the United States](#).
- We recommend that you book flexible airline tickets.
- You will be required to [quarantine \(self-isolate\) for 14 days](#).
- Learn more about considerations if you are [traveling from within Canada](#).
- Learn more about considerations if you are [entering Canada](#)
- Learn more about considerations if you are [departing Canada](#)

Quarantine (Self-Isolation)

- For more information, please reference [Nova Scotia's Post-Secondary International students fact sheet](#).
- Whether you plan to live in residence or off-campus, all students arriving from outside of Canada are expected to [quarantine \(self-isolate\) for 14 days](#) through an Acadia approved quarantine plan.
- If you will be living in residence when you arrive, your quarantine plan will be managed by the Residence Life team and included in the cost of your residence fees.
- If you are living off-campus, you are required to participate in an Acadia approved quarantine plan and complete the [Quarantine \(Self Isolate\) Off-campus Request Form](#).

Travel Documents Checklist

- A valid passport
- A valid temporary resident visa (TRV) or electronic travel authorization (eTA)
- Valid study permit or a study permit approval letter
- Acceptance letter from Designated Learning Institution (DLI) with an approved COVID-19 readiness plan
 - *For returning students, please provide proof of registration (request Letter of Verification of Enrolment and unofficial transcript from the [Registrar's Office](#))
- 14-day quarantine (self-isolation) plan
- Complete confirmation of the [ArriveCAN app](#)

- Complete confirmation of the [Nova Scotia Safe Check-in](#)
- [Proof of financial support](#) for yourself
- Lease/rent agreement (if applicable)



Option 1: Join us on campus!



Option 2: Join us virtually!



Option 3: Defer your studies

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I don't meet the travel exemptions?

Consider joining us virtually from your home country until the border re-opens or you can choose to defer your studies. When the border does re-open, be sure to review your [pre-departure guide](#) and checklist.

What is Canada's new travel restriction and exemption for international students?

According to IRCC's new travel update, as of October 20, 2020, international students may be authorized to travel to Canada if the designated learning institution (DLI) they are attending is listed on IRCC's website with an approved [COVID-19 readiness plan](#). Please review the [Government of Canada's Travel Restrictions, Exemptions and Advice](#) for more information.

The Province of Nova Scotia is undergoing the proper process to qualify Designated Learning Institutions (DLI) in Nova Scotia that have submitted a COVID-19 readiness plan. Acadia University is expected to be on the updated DLI list by **November 3, 2020**. For more information when Acadia University will be on the updated DLI list, please review IRCC's [Designated learning institutions reopening to international students](#).

If I decide to study online from my home country, how will this affect my study permit and my eligibility for a post graduate work permit?

IRCC made temporary policy changes which allow students to begin the 2020 fall semester online and abroad, without it affecting their eligibility for a post-graduation work permit (PGWP); and neither will time be deducted from the length of their PGWP. You must, however, have a valid study permit, study permit approval or applied for a study permit prior to September 15, 2020 if you want the time you spend studying online to count towards your PGWP. The remaining 50% of your program must be completed in Canada (online or in-person) to be eligible to apply for the PGWP.

Learn more about your [study permit options](#) and [Covid-19 PGWP Eligibility](#).

Do I need a study permit to start my courses online?

As of right now, you do not need a study permit to study online. However, we strongly recommend that students apply for a study permit before beginning your online studies as there are some risks associated with beginning your studies without a study permit.

Please note:

- Choosing to join us virtually does not guarantee your ability to obtain a study permit. If you choose to move forward with your studies without a study permit in place, you are responsible for affiliated tuition fees. Please [review Acadia's financial policies](#) prior to making your decision.
- Students are required to have a valid study permit and temporary visitor visa before you can begin your in-person studies in Canada. Without it, you will not be able to join in-person classes at Acadia.
- For applicants currently outside Canada who are scheduled to begin studying in the spring, summer, or fall 2020 semester but who do not have either a study permit or approval on their study permit application prior to the beginning of their program of study, time spent pursuing their studies online will not count toward their [eligibility for a post-graduation work permit](#).

If you are willing to accept and acknowledge these risks, you are welcome to participate in online courses at Acadia.

How do I start my study permit application? Are they still processing applications?

You are required to apply online by creating an account with the Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada (IRCC). [Visit the IRCC website](#) to learn more and to start your study permit application.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) continues to accept applications, but applications are being processed at slower rates. Processing times posted on the IRCC website are based on the normal processing times for an application, and it does not take into account any delays caused by COVID-19. Currently, there are no options to expedite processing of study permit applications. However, IRCC recently announced [new measures to prioritize processing of study permit applications](#).

If my study permit gets approved before December 2020, will I be able to come to Canada?

As of right now, international students who have not received a study permit or letter of introduction on or before January, 2020, will not be allowed to enter Canada. For more information regarding entry into Canada, please [see the IRCC website](#).

According to IRCC's new travel update, as of October 20, 2020, international students may be authorized to travel to Canada if the designated learning institution (DLI) they are attending is listed on IRCC's website with an approved [COVID-19 readiness plan](#). Please review the [Government of Canada's Travel Restrictions, Exemptions and Advice](#) for more information.

The Province of Nova Scotia is undergoing the proper process to qualify Designated Learning Institutions (DLI) in Nova Scotia that have submitted a COVID-19 readiness plan. Acadia University is expected to be on the updated DLI list by **November 3, 2020**. For more information when Acadia University will be on the updated DLI list, please review IRCC's [Designated learning institutions reopening to international students](#).

I received the Biometrics Instruction Letter (BIL) as part of my study permit application. How can I complete this?

When Visa Application Centres (VAC's) re-open, you must make a new appointment and carry your original BIL with you at your designated Visa Application Centre to show proof of payment. You do not need to request a new BIL. Since most VAC's are presently closed, your application will remain open for 90 days or until you are able to provide the required biometrics- you do not need to request an extension. According to IRCC, no application will be refused or closed if you are not able to give your biometrics on the date indicated on your BIL.

For more information, please visit the Government of Canada's biometric [information page](#) and [procedures page](#).

If I defer my program to next term (Fall 2021), when should I apply for my study permit and temporary resident visa?

If you decide to defer your program to next term, you should start your study permit and temporary resident visa applications as soon as possible due to delays in processing. Please visit the [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada \(IRCC\) website](#) for more information.

If my (initial) study permit is refused do I get back my tuition money?

Choosing to join us virtually does not guarantee your ability to obtain a study permit. If you choose to move forward with your studies without a study permit in place, you are responsible for affiliated tuition fees. Please review [Acadia's financial policies](#) prior to making your decision.

How do I access the approved list of Designated Learning Institutions?

Please review IRCC's [Designated Learning Institutions with an approved COVID-19 readiness plan](#).

Is the two-stage process still applicable?

According to IRCC, the [two-stage process](#) expired September 15, 2020.

What to do if I can't provide the required documents for my application?

If you cannot provide all the documents required for your study permit application, you must provide a letter of explanation stating why you can't submit all the required documents. You must also provide a letter of acceptance from the DLI when you apply. For more information regarding this, please visit [letter of explanation for any documents that are missing](#).

What do I need to enter Canada as an international student?

As stated by IRCC, [International Student Entering Canada](#) must have:

- a valid study permit or a letter of introduction that shows you were approved for a study permit.
- You must be attend a [designated learning institution \(DLI\) with a COVID-19 readiness plan](#) approved by its province or territory.
- Proof of enough money to support yourself and any family members travelling with you to Canada

What are the requirements to enter Canada as a student?

Please review [IRCC's requirements for international students to enter Canada](#).

Can family members travel with me to Canada?

According to IRCC, [immediate family members](#) may be able to travel with you to Canada. They do not need a written authorization from IRCC to travel with you, but they must prove their reason for travel is non-discretionary/non-optional. All family members must quarantine. **Health requirements for travelers to Canada must:**

- [Follow all public health measures for travellers](#)
- [Have a plan to quarantine for 14 days](#)

Please review [IRCC's requirements for visitors to Canada](#).

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Winter 2021 Orientation

Welcome to Acadia!

[Meet The Wong International Centre Team \(PDF\)](#)

Access the Acadia Network

[Microsoft Teams Session](#)

[Effortless Transition to Nova Scotia](#)

[Academic Expectations](#)

[Acadia Resources](#)

[ASU Clubs](#)

[New Student Information Session](#)

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Option 1: Join us on campus!

To study on campus at Acadia, you must have a **valid study permit or letter of introduction**, and must be able to **travel to Nova Scotia by January 3rd, 2021**. International students need to arrive between January 1st-3rd, 2020.

Are you planning on living in residence? You can begin your application process by visiting the [Residence Life page](#).

Next Steps:

1. Please be sure to read the [International Arrival Guide](#) for more information.
2. New to Acadia? Review our Enrolment Checklist in your [status portal](#).
3. Sign up for our [Airport Shuttle service](#).

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Option 2: Join us virtually!

If you **have a valid study permit** or letter of introduction **but cannot travel to Nova Scotia by January 3, 2021:**

Next Steps:

1. Review [course formats](#) and your timetable.
 2. New to Acadia? Review our Enrolment Checklist in your [status portal](#).
 3. Plan to join us in September 2021? (Guaranteed Residence Accommodation).
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If you **do not have a valid study permit** and **cannot travel to Nova Scotia by January 3rd:**

Please note that:

- Immigration Canada has introduced a new two-step visa approval process that allows students to receive a conditional visa approval pending receipt of biometric and passport data. [Learn more about your study permit options.](#)
- Choosing to join Acadia virtually does not guarantee your ability to obtain a study permit. If you choose to move forward with your studies without a study permit in place, you are responsible for affiliated tuition fees. Please review Acadia's [financial policies](#) prior to making your decision.

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Option 3: Defer your studies

If you may or may not have a valid study permit and cannot travel to Nova Scotia by January 3rd:

Next Steps:

1. Confirm your deferral by contacting the admissions office at admissions@acadiu.ca.
2. Plan to join us in September 2021? (Guaranteed Residence Accommodation).

Select Your Language

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Important Links

[Off Campus Quarantine Request Form](#)

[International post-secondary students during COVID-19](#)

Contact

International Students

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