Applying for the British Columbia Medical Services Plan (BCMSP)

Step 1  Completing the BC MSP Application for Enrollment
Students staying in BC for 6 months or longer are required to enroll in the British Columbia Medical Services Plan (BCMSP). To apply for BC MSP, you will first need to complete the MSP Application for Enrolment form.

Please note: if you will be employed as a Teaching Assistant (TA) or Tutor Marker (TM) at SFU, you should enroll in SFU’s MSP Group Plan. Please see http://www.sfu.ca/human-resources/issu.html for more information. If you are a Research Assistant (RA) at SFU, please check with your grant holder to see if MSP is included in your benefits package.

You can download the application form at http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/msp/bc-residents/eligibility-and-enrolment or pick up a copy from the International Services for Students (ISS) office.

Be sure to follow instructions and answer all questions accurately.

Complete all sections of the application form. Incomplete applications will be returned to you.

Since you are currently in Canada as a temporary resident, you may select ‘NO’.

Enter the address where you reside and the address where you receive your mail if they are not the same.

If you hold a work or study permit you must include a copy of your permit in your MSP application.

If this is your first time applying for MSP, select ‘NO’.

Enter the date when you moved to BC.

This is not a legal document and information may change without notice. Always refer to http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/msp for the most updated information. This document was last updated on December 8, 2016.
Step 2  Make a copy of your study permit or your work permit to include in your application.

Please note that your study permit or work permit must be valid for a period of six months or more in order for you to be eligible for MSP. Tourists or visitors in BC do not qualify for MSP unless they are in Canada as the dependent of a study or work permit holder.

Step 3  Mail your application to BC MSP

Mail your completed BC MSP Application for Enrollment and a copy of your study or work permit to the following address:

Health Insurance BC
PO Box 9035 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E3

When will my MSP coverage become active?

New BC residents must complete a wait period consisting of the balance of the month in which they arrived in BC plus two additional months before their coverage will become active.

How long will my MSP be valid?

Your MSP coverage will be valid until the expiration date of your study permit or work permit.

What happens after I apply?

Once your application has been processed, MSP will send you a welcome letter at the mailing address indicated on your application for enrollment confirming your active coverage. Shortly thereafter you will be mailed an invoice. You will receive an invoice each month for the MSP premiums you owe for the next month. Following this, you will be mailed your BC Services Card which you will need to show when you visit a doctor.

Can I add my family members (spouse, common-law partner or dependent children) to my MSP plan?

If you and your family members arrive in BC together, you may include them in your initial MSP application by completing the second page of the MSP application for enrollment. If your family members arrive in BC at a later date, you may add them to your MSP account. You can find information about adding family members to your account by visiting http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/msp/bc-residents/managing-your-msp-account/adding-and-removing-dependents

Can I extend my MSP coverage?

After you have extended your study permit you should apply to extend your MSP coverage. To extend your MSP coverage, mail a copy of your new study permit and a short cover letter requesting an extension of your MSP coverage to Health Insurance BC. In your cover letter, be sure to include your full name, date of birth, and your Personal Health Number (PHN) as listed on your BC Services Card. You should apply to extend your MSP before it expires.

If you have implied status, you should provide MSP with proof of your implied status (e.g., proof you submitted an application to IRCC for extension) and a short letter requesting that your coverage be extended while you wait for your study or work permit application to be processed. If MSP approves your request, they will extend your coverage for a brief period while you wait for your study or work permit application to be approved. Upon receipt of your new study or work permit, please provide MSP with a copy of your new document and a short extension request letter to further extend your coverage. If you have questions, please contact an International Student Advisor.

What happens if my MSP expires and I did not extend it?

If your MSP coverage expired recently you should mail MSP a copy of your new study or work permit and a short letter requesting that your coverage be extended. The letter should include your full name, date of birth and your PHN. If your MSP coverage expired more than 5 months ago, you may need to submit a new MSP application. Please contact MSP if you are uncertain about whether or not you need to reapply.

How can I contact BC MSP?

If you have questions related to your MSP coverage, please contact BC MSP directly. Please visit http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/msp/bc-residents-contact-us for telephone and mail contact information.

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