Apply and receive approval for a study permit
- Apply early - you must wait for your application to be approved before travelling to Canada
- If you are a citizen or permanent resident of the USA, you have the option of submitting your application upon your arrival at a Canadian Port of Entry (e.g. your airport of arrival or land crossing into Canada)

Before travelling to Canada, ensure you have the following:
- a valid passport or travel document,
- a valid Temporary Resident Visa/TRV or Electronic Travel Authorization/eTA (if required),
- your SFU letter of acceptance,
- proof of funds, and
- your IRCC letter of introduction

Purchase early arrival medical insurance coverage, if you will arrive in Canada before January 1

CHECKLIST

INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE CHECKLIST

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

STEP 1
- Apply and receive approval for a study permit
  - Apply early - you must wait for your application to be approved before travelling to Canada
  - If you are a citizen or permanent resident of the USA, you have the option of submitting your application upon your arrival at a Canadian Port of Entry (e.g. your airport of arrival or land crossing into Canada)
- Before travelling to Canada, ensure you have the following:
  - a valid passport or travel document,
  - a valid Temporary Resident Visa/TRV or Electronic Travel Authorization/eTA (if required),
  - your SFU letter of acceptance,
  - proof of funds, and
  - your IRCC letter of introduction
- Purchase early arrival medical insurance coverage, if you will arrive in Canada before January 1

STEP 2
- Check out the Vancouver International Airport website to get a detailed overview of the airport arrival process
- Plan your route and transportation from the airport to your destination
- Make electronic copies of important original documents. Leave a copy with family or friends as well

STEP 3
- Research housing options
- Decide where to live: on campus or off campus, consider making an advance appointment and discuss with International Student Advisors before making a decision on off-campus housing to avoid housing scams
- If applicable, apply for on-campus housing as soon as possible, spaces are limited

STEP 4
- Complete the University Prep online transition course
- Mark your calendar for Welcome Day and sign up for the ISS Welcome Reception
- Sign up for the Global Community Mentorship Program

UPON YOUR ARRIVAL

STEP 5
- Review your immigration documents, such as your study permit, carefully upon receiving them at the airport or land border
  - If you notice any errors on your or your family’s immigration documents (e.g. name, personal information) request changes before you leave immigration
  - Check the conditions placed on your study permit. Ensure the details under the client information section are correct on the study permit issued to you
- If you are a citizen or permanent resident of the USA, you have the option of submitting your study permit application upon your arrival at a Canadian Port of Entry (e.g. your airport of arrival or land crossing into Canada)
AFTER YOUR ARRIVAL

STEP 6
- Open a bank account
- Check your financial aid options

STEP 7
- Apply for the BC Medical Services Plan (MSP) as soon as you arrive. Your coverage will begin two to three months after your arrival date in BC.
- Opt out of the Guard.me@SFU plan when your BC MSP takes effect (after the waiting period). You may be eligible for a partial refund of the guard.me@SFU fee if there is more than one month remaining in the term, and you have not used the plan.
- Make changes to your secondary insurance if necessary (i.e. opt down to the basic plan, opt out with equivalent coverage, add family members) between Jan 2-16, 2019

STEP 8
- Learn SFU’s enrollment requirements for international students
  - This will affect your ability to work, study, and stay in Canada
- Determine your eligibility to work on campus or off campus
- Apply for a Social Insurance Number (SIN) if you are eligible and planning to work in Canada.
  - You must provide your SIN to your employer within three days of starting work.
  - Sign up for one of our SIN clinics to get your SIN on campus

STEP 9
- Adjusting to a new academic and social culture can be challenging. Read more about this topic
- Sign up for workshops and events offered by International Services for Students
- Bookmark ISS News and Updates to get up-to-date information for international students
- Get involved in your SFU community!