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 the first day of the term (e.g. May 1, Sept 1, or Jan 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 desination.

☐ 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. You will receive an email invitation once you accept your offer of admission.

☐ Sign up and attend Welcome Day

☐ Sign up for the Global Connections Program

▶ When you join the Global Connections Program, you can request to be matched with a Community Leader to support you and answer your questions one-on-one about all aspects of life at SFU. You will also be meeting other SFU students through various events, activities, and trips over the course of one term. See photos of our past events on our Facebook and Instagram.

MEMBER TESTIMONIALS:
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 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
- As a new international student at SFU, you will be automatically enrolled in a 4-month primary medical insurance plan with guard.me@SFU for your first term of studies. This is to ensure you have valid coverage during the waiting period for public health insurance under the BC Medical Services Plan (BC MSP).
- 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. If you will be residing in BC for six months or longer, it is mandatory for you to enroll yourself and any accompanying family members in BC MSP.
- 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) during the opt-out period for Studentcare.

STEP 8
- Learn and maintain 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.

STEP 9
- Complete SFU 101 to help you transition to SFU and prepare for academic success.
- The transition to life in a new country can be exciting, but isn’t always easy. SFU has a number of supports available to you if you are struggling. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you are having a difficult time at any stage of your SFU degree -- we’re here to help. Contact us at intl_advising@sfu.ca
- Sign up for Events and Programs offered by International Services for Students.
- Read ISS Newsletter sent to your SFU Mail account to stay up-to-date on advising, immigration, medical, opportunities, and important reminders.
- Get involved early in your SFU community!