Applying for an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)

What is an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)?
The Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) is an entry requirement for most Temporary Resident Visa (TRV)-exempt foreign nationals who plan to enter or transit Canada by air.

Who needs an eTA?
An eTA is required by individuals who:
- Do **not** require a TRV (exceptions include citizens of the United States)
- Plan to enter Canada by air (an eTA is not required if entering Canada by land or sea)

To see if you need an eTA please visit the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) website: [http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp)

How long will my eTA be valid?
If your application is approved, your eTA will be valid for up to 5 years or until the expiry date of your passport, whichever comes first. If you get a new passport, you will also need to get a new eTA.

What is the cost for an eTA?
It costs $7 CAD to get an eTA. You can pay for an eTA with a credit card (Visa, Mastercard, American Express), a pre-paid Visa, Mastercard or American Express card, a Visa Debit card, a JCB card, or INTERAC Online. Make sure to print your receipt right away after paying online. You won't be able to print a copy later or request a copy of your receipt from IRCC.

I currently hold a valid study permit. How can I apply for an eTA?
If you are applying for an initial study permit from outside of Canada on or after August 1, 2015 an eTA will be issued to you automatically. You do not need to submit a separate eTA application. Information about your eTA will be included in your port of entry introduction letter from IRCC when your study permit is approved. If you received your initial study permit before August 1, 2015, you will need to apply for an eTA if you have not already done so.

If you have a renewed study permit with an issue date on or after May 1, 2017, IRCC will automatically issue you an eTA as well. If IRCC issued your renewed study permit from inside Canada before May 1, 2017 and you do not already have an eTA linked to your passport, you will need to get one before you return to Canada by air.

If unsure, you can check your eTA status by visiting: [http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp)

You may apply for an eTA online at: [http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta-start.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta-start.asp) You will need a valid passport, a credit card (or pre-paid credit card), and an email address to apply.

What is the processing time for an eTA application?
Most eTA applications are approved within minutes of applying. However, depending on the circumstances, your application may take longer to process (ex. If you are asked to submit supporting documents). You should apply for an eTA well in advance if you plan to travel. The eTA is a mandatory requirement and if you do not have one you will be denied boarding your flight to Canada.

I have just submitted my eTA application – what happens next?
When your eTA is approved, you will receive email confirmation from IRCC including your eTA number, expiration date, and passport number. Your eTA is electronically linked to your passport so you do not need to print this email however you must travel with the passport you used to apply for the eTA.

If IRCC requires additional information to process your application, or your eTA application is refused, you will receive an email. If you do not receive an email confirmation with an application number within 72 hours of applying, please contact an International Student Advisor.

Does it matter if my eTA expires while I am in Canada?
No. Your study permit gives you legal status in Canada. The eTA only allows you to enter Canada. As long as your study permit remains valid, you can legally stay in Canada and study.

The information in this document has been reviewed and endorsed by a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC) pursuant to section 91 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. This is not a legal document and information may change without notice. Always refer to the IRCC website for updated information: [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca). This document was last updated on February 7, 2018.
Tips for completing the eTA application form

Visit [http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta-start-int.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta-start-int.asp) to begin your eTA application. **Please note:** Your information can’t be saved and you have limited time to complete the form.

**The eTA Application Form**

- The IRCC website has a detailed ‘help guide’ (available in several languages) that includes helpful tips and information to assist you in completing the form. Please visit [http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta-start-int.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta-start-int.asp) (scroll down to select a language).

- Be sure to enter your personal details **exactly as they appear on your passport**. Failure to do so could lead to your application being delayed or refused and/or prevent you from being allowed to board your flight to Canada.

- Review your application carefully for typos or mistakes. Ensure it is complete and accurate before submitting to IRCC.

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**Unique Client Identifier (also referred to as ‘Client ID Number’)**

This is an 8 or 10 digit number and it is located on your study permit.

**Occupation**

If you are a full-time student at SFU, select ‘Student’ from the drop down menu.

**Email Address**

Ensure that you enter a valid email address that you check regularly. All communication from IRCC regarding your eTA application will go to this email address. If you apply for an eTA and do not receive an email from IRCC, please check your junk mail folder as some spam filters may block automated emails from IRCC.

**Background Questions**

You must answer all background questions honestly. If you answer ‘yes’ to any of the background questions you will be required to provide additional details.

*If you have any questions, contact an International Student Advisor.*