This checklist is for the general procedures and resources. For latest updates and specific information on COVID-19 including impacts on immigration applications (e.g. study permit, visa), travel restrictions, arriving in Canada, work eligibility, medical insurance, and additional resources for international students, click here.

**BEFORE YOU ARRIVE**

**STEP 1**

- Apply and receive approval for a study permit:
  - Apply and receive approval for a study permit
  - 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)
  - If your spouse or common-law partner and/or any dependent children would like to accompany you to Canada, they can apply for a work permit, study permit, or visitor visa at the same time that you apply for your study permit

- 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, and Jan 1). Your medical insurance coverage through SFU (Guard.me@SFU and GSS Studentcare) will start on the first day of the term.

- Purchase medical insurance coverage for your family members, if applicable

- 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

**STEP 2**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, upon arriving in Canada, most travelers are required to isolate for a period of 14 days. The Government of BC also requires that travelers complete a self isolation plan which includes arranging necessary supports (e.g. medication, food, etc.). Please be mindful of this when you are preparing to travel to Canada. To learn more click here.

- Check out the Vancouver International Airport website to get a detailed overview of the airport arrival process
- Plan your route and transportation form the airport to your destination
- Make electronic copies of important original documents and leave a copy with your family or friends, keep one with you

**STEP 3**

- 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
- Research child care options and/or the public education system, if you are bringing family with you

**STEP 4**

- Check out the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Virtual Orientation
- We are currently planning pre-arrival sessions for international students to address your questions and provide valuable information prior to the semester start. Stay tuned and look out for emails with details.
INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE CHECKLIST

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

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 BC Medical Services Plan (MSP) for yourself and any accompanying dependants as soon as you arrive. Your coverage will begin two to three months after your arrival date in BC:
  • For Teaching Assistants, Tutor Markers, and some Research Assistants, MSP and partial short-term medical insurance is part of your employee benefits. Contact SFU Human Resources for MSP application information
  • If you are already in BC and have valid MSP coverage, or you are outside of Canada during the Fall 2020 term, you can opt out of the Guard.Me@SFU plan online for a full refund before the opt-out deadline. To opt out of guard.me@SFU, visit their website after your first day of classes. Click the “Graduate Students” category and follow the opt-out instructions. 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.

☐ 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 medical insurance if necessary (i.e. opt out with equivalent coverage or add family members to the plan) during the opt-out period for Studentcare

STEP 8

☐ Maintain enrollment requirements as an international student
  • Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) requires you to actively pursue your studies while at SFU. SFU is required to report on the enrollment status of international students twice a year.
  • Your enrollment at SFU affects your ability to work, study, and stay in Canada. To help you comply with the conditions of your study permit, review the information in this section carefully and contact an International Student Advisor, Immigration Specialist if you have any questions.

☐ 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

☐ Learn about filing a Canadian Income Tax return

UPDATED JUNE 15, 2020
STEP 9

- During the Fall 2020 term, we will be offering a number of virtual events and where you can connect with other SFU students. Stay informed about ISS plans by watching our Events and Programs webpage.

- Read Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies monthly newsletter that you will receive via SFU Mail to stay up-to-date on programs, awards, events, deadlines, and more

- Read ISS Newsletter sent to your SFU Mail account to stay up-to-date on advising, immigration, medical, opportunities, and important reminders

- Check out the Bring your partner and family program offered by Graduate and Postdoctoral studies

- Follow ISS on Facebook and Instagram for the upcoming events, opportunities, and important reminders

STEP 10

- Adjusting to a new academic and social culture can be challenging. Read more about this topic

- 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.