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

☐ Sign up and attend orientation and welcome events.

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) 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 workshops, programs, and events offered by International Services for Students: www.sfu.ca/students/isap/events
- Bookmark ISS News and Updates to get up-to-date information for international students: www.sfu.ca/students/isap/news
- Get involved in your SFU community!