Pre-Arrival Webinar Series:
Arriving at the Canadian Border
York University recognizes that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships with the territories upon which York University campuses are located that precede the establishment of York University.

York University acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations. The area known as Tkaronto has been care taken by the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat.

It is now home to many First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities. We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region.

Centre for Indigenous Student Services: https://aboriginal.info.yorku.ca/about-us/

Native Land Digital: https://native-land.ca/
By the end of this webinar, we hope that new incoming international students will have more knowledge about:

- What to expect when arriving at Canadian customs at the airport.
- Important documents to bring and present at Canadian customs.
- Questions that might be asked by Canadian customs officers.
The agenda for today’s webinar is:

- *International Student Advisors & Immigration Specialists*
- *Arriving to Canada*
- *Paying fees with CIBC*
- *Questions and Answers*
- *Upcoming Pre-Arrival Webinars and Events*
International Student Advisor & Immigration Specialist
The information in this presentation is legal information, not legal advice.
WHAT WE DO

• Study permit
• Temporary residence visa (TRV)
• Work on/off campus
• Co-op work permit
• Post-graduation work permit
• Permanent residency

HOW TO REACH US

➢ Email: iadvisor@yorku.ca

➢ Advising options:
   • Virtual drop-ins
   • In-person appointments at 200 York Lanes (for complex and/or urgent situations)
   • In-person group advising on focused topics
   • Immigration Workrooms

➢ Check the YI events calendar for times and dates: https://yorkinternational.yorku.ca/calendar/
Need immigration help?

Bookmark and check the [YI events calendar](https://yorkinternational.yorku.ca/international-event-calendar) regularly for specific workshops for new international students and virtual drop-in advising sessions where you can ask quick questions. **Virtual advising is the best and fastest way to get in touch with an International Student Advisor and Immigration Specialist.**

Visit York International’s [Immigration Application Resources](https://yorkinternational.yorku.ca/immigration-application-resources) webpage where you will find important information resources applicable to your status as an international student in Canada.

Meet with an advisor at our office at 200 York Lanes during advisor hours. You can join the advising queue via [QLess](https://yorkinternational.yorku.ca/international-student-advising/). Appointment is needed.

We encourage students to attend drop-in virtual advising so that we can speak with you directly to share information that you need. However, you may also reach us by email at iadvisor@yorku.ca.

Website: [https://yorkinternational.yorku.ca/international-student-advising/](https://yorkinternational.yorku.ca/international-student-advising/)
Important Concepts

**Letter of Introduction (LOI)**

- Check expiry date!
- Travel authorization only
- Does not confer status
- Expiry does not impact your ability to remain in Canada, but you cannot re-enter Canada with an expired visa.

**Temporary Resident Visa**

- Also called a port of entry letter, this is issued to applicants outside Canada once study permit is approved.

**Study Permit**

- Status document
- Authorizes you to study and remain in Canada
- Must remain valid
Documents to Carry With You

HAVE THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS READILY AVAILABLE. **DO NOT PLACE THEM IN YOUR CHECKED LUGGAGES:**

- Passport
- Letter of Introduction (AKA Port of Entry Letter)
- Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) or Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)
- York University **offer of acceptance letter** OR **proof of enrollment** if you have begun your program remotely
  - Your letter of Acceptance can be downloaded under “admission letter” on [MyFile](#)
  - Your proof of enrollment can be downloaded [here](#)
- **Proof that you have enough money to support yourself during your stay**
  - Clear and legible printouts of bank statements, GIC, etc.
  - Scholarship letters
  - If you have prepaid your tuition, you can download and print your [student account statement](#) online
- Valid immigration medical results (**if you need one**)
- Address where you will be staying and important phone numbers
- Travel and health insurance to cover your trip to Canada (optional)
- Medical and immunization records (optional)
- Some cash in Canadian Dollars (optional)

**Reminders**

1. Scan, take photos, or make photocopies of your important documents.
2. Be sure to have access to your Passport York and [MyFile](#).
Plan Your Luggage

- Know your baggage allowance.

- Some items are not allowed into Canada in your luggage. There are restrictions on alcohol, tobacco, guns, food as well as animal and plant products. Travellers cannot bring in prescription drugs that aren’t approved in Canada. (*See link in chat)

- Do not carry another person’s bags or their things in your luggage.

- You are only allowed to liquids in clear containers less than 100ml in carry-ons.

- Attach an address tag to each piece of luggage with your name and the address of your destination in Canada.

- Keep all important documents, medications and expensive items such as cameras, jewellery, laptops, phones, credit cards and cash with you in your carry-on bag, rather than pack them in your checked luggage.

⚠️ Do not finalize your travel plans until you have received your Letter of Introduction and Temporary Resident Visa.
Roles of IRCC & CBSA

- **IRCC stands for **Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada**
- Responsible for developing immigration and refugee policies, processing of permanent and temporary residence applications, and issuance of visas and permits

- **CBSA stands for **Canada Border Services Agency**
- Responsible for carrying out enforcement functions conducting entry examinations, conducting investigations of those believed to be inadmissible to the country, preparing cases for presentation at the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB), and detaining and/or removing individuals from Canada

- **The CBSA officer will make the final decision about whether or not you qualify**
What to expect when you arrive in Canada

- Due to peak travel season, you may experience longer border processing wait times in order to complete all necessary paperwork.
- All passengers must complete entry examination at customs before proceeding to baggage claim area.
- A border services officer (BSO) will direct you to where you need to go to complete your study permit application. Some airports have a special processing area for international students arriving in Canada. Please watch for signage that may be directing you to this designated area.
- At entry examination, you may be asked basic questions about your identity, citizenship, residency, purpose of entry, length of stay, etc. and you could also be asked more in-depth questions about your eligibility and admissibility.
- Study permit is issued at the conclusion of entry examination.
Entry Examinations

PRIMARY EXAMINATION

› Identity - What is your name?
› Citizenship - What is your citizenship?
› Residency - Where do you reside?
› Intention - What is the purpose of your trip to Canada?
› Length of Stay - How long do you intend to stay in Canada?
› Employment - Do you intend to take or seek employment while in Canada?
  • Eligible international students are allowed to work on-campus and off-campus or participate in a co-op or internship while studying at the Designated Learning Institution (DLI).
  • You cannot work before your program begins

SECONDARY EXAMINATION

› International students entering for the first time are automatically referred for secondary examination.
› Officers at secondary examination can ask more in-depth questions that are not part of the primary examination to determine your eligibility.
› Officers will make an assessment on your admissibility to Canada on medical, criminal and security grounds.
› Your study permit is issued at the conclusion of the secondary examination.
Tips on Interaction with CBSA

- **Answers questions asked by the officer truthfully.**
  - Familiarize yourself with your own application.
  - Only answer what was asked and to the point.
  - If you do not know the answer or are unsure, say “I think...” or “I am not sure”.
- If you do not understand the question or did not hear the question properly, you can ask the officer to repeat or rephrase.
- Have your documents readily accessible to help streamline the examination.
- Be respectful and cordial.

Misrepresentation is a serious immigration offence.
Things to check for on study permit

- Check your study permit carefully and inform the CBSA Officers of any mistakes immediately.
- Your study permit is *usually* valid until the end of your program plus 90 days, or until your passport expires. **CBSA Officers have the discretion to determine the length of your authorized stay.**
- Have a reminder system for your study permit and visa expiry dates and be sure to extend them before they expire!
- If you need to make changes or corrections to your study permit after entry, you must apply to change or amend your study permit.

**Check your personal information carefully**

**Know your expiry date!**

**Check the conditions for work authorization**
Maintaining full-time status at York

As an international student, it is important to maintain full-time status if you wish to:

- Work on and/or off campus while you study
- Apply for a post-graduation work permit

While it is possible to be part-time and compliant with your study permit, please speak to an international student advisor before you drop to part-time so you can make an informed decision about whether this is best for you or not.

To be considered full-time, you must be enrolled in a minimum of 9 credits every Fall and 9 credits every Winter. Any Year credits should be divided in 2 to calculate your credits per term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario A</th>
<th>Scenario B</th>
<th>Scenario C</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have 6 credits in Fall and 12 credits in Winter.</td>
<td>I have 9 Year credits, 6 Fall credits and 3 Winter credits.</td>
<td>I have 9 Fall credits, 9 Winter credits and 3 Summer credits.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

QUIZ: Which scenario is considered full-time?
Working on/off campus

ON CAMPUS WORK

› Have a valid study permit
› Have a valid social insurance number (SIN)
› Study permit conditions allow
› **Full-time student (except in final semester)**
› No limit on number of hours
› Work authorization ends once you complete your program (once you receive your final grades), regardless of the expiry date on your study permit

OFF CAMPUS WORK

› **Same as on campus plus:**
› Enrolled in a post-secondary program that is at least 6 months long and leads to a degree, diploma or certificate
› Must not work more than the authorized hours:
  • Permitted up to 20 hours/week* in a regular academic session
  • May work full-time during an academic break (e.g. reading week, Winter closure) IF you were a full-time student before and after the break
Post Graduation Work Permit

What is it?
• Helps you gain Canadian work experience
• An open work permit
• Can help you support your PR application in the future

Eligibility:
› Your program must be at least 8 months long.
› You must maintain full-time student status throughout your program.
› You must have completed your program and have a final transcript and graduation letter.

Length of PGWP:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Length</th>
<th>PGWP Length</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 months – 2 years</td>
<td>Up to program length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 years or more</td>
<td>Up to 3 years</td>
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</table>

ONLINE STUDIES

Studies Outside Canada
The following time won’t count toward the length of a PGWP:
• Time spent studying outside of Canada after December 31, 2023
• Time spent studying before you applied for a study permit

Studies in Canada
• Until December 31, 2023, you must complete at least 50% of your program online or in class in Canada.
• Starting January 1, 2024, you must complete at least 50% of your program in class in Canada.
Paying for Tuition and Fees with CIBC
International Student Pay provides an interactive platform for students to pay their fees to York University in their preferred currency using our competitive FX rates from anywhere in the world, at any time.

Enhanced Student Experience
Pay your fees to York University in your preferred currency using our quick and easy portal.

Competitive Foreign Exchange Rates
With CIBC International Student Pay, you have access to competitive foreign exchange rates offered exclusively to York University students.

Trusted Partner
Strong partnership between York University and CIBC for processing your payments and refunds.

End-to-End Support
CIBC International Student Pay provides payment status updates and reminders to facilitate timely payment. We offer 24/7 support via studenthelp@cibc.com.

Methods of Payment Available
CIBC offers 8 different payment methods to students and payers:

1. Bank Wire
2. VISA Card
3. Mastercard
4. EFT
5. ACH
6. China Union Pay
7. WeChat
8. AliPay
How to Pay Your Fees

1. Go to https://students.yorku.ca/sfs/paying-my-account to learn about payment options.

2. Easily make a payment through CIBC International Student Pay to start your school year on the right foot!
Q & A
Upcoming Webinars and Events
Join the York International Slack Channel!

Are you an incoming international student looking for answers to your questions, ways to connect with peers, and to boost your academic journey?

Look no further! Join our exclusive Slack channel tailored for incoming students! Whether you’re seeking advice or simply wanting to connect with other international and domestic students before stepping foot on campus, our community is here for you.

Scan the QR code to join!
Virtual Q&A for New International Students

Are you a new international student looking to ask last minute questions after attending or watching the recordings of our pre-arrival webinars? If so, join us for a chance to ask your questions on topics like housing, immigration, and many more! **Attend any of our two Q&A sessions by scanning the QR codes below!**

- **Date:** Wed, August 07th, 2024  
  **Time:** 9:00AM to 10:00AM EST

- **Date:** Wed, August 14th, 2024  
  **Time:** 9:00AM to 10:00AM EST
Global Peer Program Drop-In

August Drop-in

Global Peer Program

Join the monthly drop-in for one-on-one time with a mentor (upper-year York student)! You will have the opportunity to connect with a mentor and ask questions. Stop by any time between 9:00am – 10:30am!

› **Day/Date:** Thursday, August 08th, 2024

› **Time:** 9:00AM to 10:30AM EST

› **Registration:** [https://yorku.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpdOyrrjItG9AJ0AmzDCb9i0v7ep2Ka5je#/registration](https://yorku.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpdOyrrjItG9AJ0AmzDCb9i0v7ep2Ka5je#/registration)
York International Event Calendar
Thank you!