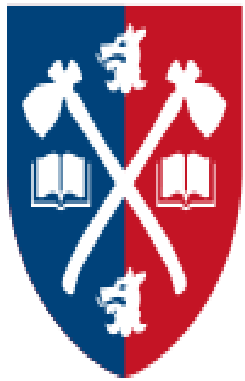


**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
ARRIVAL GUIDE**

Winter 2021



ACADIA
UNIVERSITY

International Student Arrival Guide Winter 2021

Everything you need to know

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Travel Restrictions

As of November 3, 2020, Acadia University is an [approved Designated Learning Institution](#) (DLI). This means that Acadia's COVID-19 readiness plan has been approved and international students will be able to enter and study in Canada provided:

- they have, or have been approved for a study permit, and
- are travelling to Canada for a non-discretionary or non-optional purpose

Information on arrival from outside of Canada, travel documents required, quarantine plan, FAQs, and more, can be found on the [Arrival and orientation page](#).

Before travelling to Canada, make sure you have what you need to show you are exempt from the travel restrictions, and evidence that you are travelling for an essential (non-discretionary) purpose. Check out the travel checklist on the Acadia website: [Travel Document Checklist](#)

Please note these recommendations are based on current restrictions, and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) officers have the final decision as to who may be permitted entry into Canada. We strongly encourage you to monitor the [IRCC](#) and [CBSA](#) websites for the most up-to-date information, as requirements may change.

Study Permit and Temporary Resident Visa (TRV)/Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)

Visit the International page for information on your personal [Study Permit](#) and [Temporary Resident Visa \(TRV\)](#) requirements. For more information, review the [Immigration and COVID-19 Guidelines](#) on the Acadia International website.

Please review the [Arrival and Orientation](#) page, and thoroughly look at the three different study options.

Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)

There is an entry requirement where visa-exempt foreign nationals are expected to have an eTA to fly to or transit through Canada.

Exceptions include:

- U.S. citizens
- Travelers with a valid Canadian visa
- Canadian citizens, including dual citizens, and Canadian permanent residents cannot apply for an eTA.

To find out if you need an eTA or a visitor visa to enter Canada, please follow this link: [Electronic Travel Authorization \(eTA\)](#)

Biometrics

The Government of Canada Immigration and Citizenship Office have expanded the biometrics requirement for visa on July 31st, 2018.

You might need one. Please check if you need one before you apply: [Do I need to give biometrics?](#)

Due to COVID-19 service disruptions, the following link will guide you about the current biometrics collection from within Canada as well as outside Canada: [COVID-19 Biometrics update](#)

Check the Citizenship and Immigration Canada's website for further information regarding your biometrics: [Biometrics FAQs](#)

Custodianship

If you are under 19, you may or may not require custodianship. Follow this link to determine your requirements: [Studying in Canada as a minor](#).

If you would like to arrange custodianship, please contact custodian@acadiau.ca and review the information pertaining to custodianship on the website: [Acadia Custodianship](#)

Exchange Student Study Permit

As per IRCC, ALL international students (including exchange students) require a study permit to enter and study in Canada. Exchange students must apply for a study permit [regardless of their length of stay](#).

Course Registration

To find out which courses you need to take, please refer to [Choosing First Year Courses](#)

If you still need assistance with choosing your courses, you should talk to your Academic Advisor. To find your Academic Advisor, please visit the website: [Academic Advising](#)

As the Winter 2021 term will use the hybrid approach to teaching and learning, courses will be offered in a new format. The different mode of course delivery definitions can be found at [Course Delivery Format](#)

If you are an exchange student, you do not register for your courses online. Consult the [Academic Timetable](#) and [Course description](#) to view course offering by Acadia University.

Under 'Main Search' select your desired 'Session', 'Faculty', and 'Discipline'. If you wish to search for courses in a specific semester, make your selection under "Semester" (i.e. 2020 Fall).

Email the 'Course', 'Section', and 'Title' information to the Registrar's Office at registrar@acadiau.ca. Please include your 9-digit Acadia Student ID number in all correspondence. Expect an email from the Registrar that will confirm that you are registered for your selected courses.

If you have any questions about course registration please contact registrar office by email: registrar@acadiau.ca

If you are a graduate student and need help with course registration, please contact Theresa Starratt, Graduate Studies Officer, by email at theresa.starratt@acadiau.ca or phone at (902) 585-1914.

Residence Life

Residence fills up quickly so make sure you reserve your spot by clicking on the following link: [Residence Life](#)

If you have any questions about residence, please contact Residence Life directly: residencelife@acadiau.ca.

Arriving at Halifax's Stanfield International Airport

- If you signed up for free airport pick up on January 1, 2021 (12:00 am) – January 3, 2021 (11:59 pm), we will have an Acadia representative greet you.
- If you have not signed up for the free airport pick up go to the staff at the Nova Scotia Welcome Booth and they will be able to provide information on how to get to Acadia via bus, taxi, limo, etc.

Emergency Contact Information

In case of an emergency contact Safety and Security at Acadia 902-585-1103 (24 hours a day).

Quarantine (Self Isolation)

According to the [NS Government guidelines](#) for international students coming to Canada, quarantine **must** be arranged by the university, **regardless of you living in residence or off campus**.

In order to complete your 14-day quarantine period before the start of classes, you must arrive between **January 1, 2021 – January 3, 2021**.

Arriving at Acadia after self-isolation

When are you arriving?

- When you arrive, you will be directed to your residence.
- If you are going to be living off campus, be sure you arrange with your landlord to move in on your date of arrival as most lease agreements will not start until September 1st.
- You can view the [Campus Map](#) to navigate to your residence and/or classes.

Using your phone in your residence room

- If you want to make a long distance call you would need a long distance pre-paid phone card. This is available at Student Union Building Market, any of the pharmacies or Muddy's Convenience store downtown.
- For an emergency, fire, ambulance, etc. call 911.
- For Acadia assistance, call Safety and Security at 1103
- For further information on phoning within Canada, etc. visit this link <https://hub.acadiau.ca/TDClient/KB/ArticleDet?ID=68>

Residence assistants

- RAs are students who live and work in residence and are responsible for assisting and advising residence students, developing and encouraging residence activities and events, programming, discipline, and security. Your RA can answer any question you may have about Acadia and refer you to resources. Get to know your RA. Each floor has an RA and their room door will be clearly marked. Please introduce yourself to your RA and feel free to ask them for help when needed.

Wong International Centre



The Wong International Center is located at 27 Acadia Street on the corner of Acadia and Highland avenue. Acadia's campus map can be found here: [Campus Map](#)

The Wong International Centre Office hours are 8:30am to 4:30pm and house hours are 8:30am to 10:00pm during the academic year with reduced hours on holidays. This is a resource centre for international students.

Currently our offices are closed for the month of September; however, we can be contacted via email. Please review the [Wong Centre's Staff Contact Information](#).

International Student Advisor

The Coordinator of International Education and the advisor for all international students can help you. You can talk to the coordinator about transitioning to university from high school, living in a new country, culture shock, changing your major, adjusting to a new learning and teaching style, etc. Drop by the office in the Wong Centre. The Coordinator of International Education is a resource for you during your years at Acadia. You can email international@acadiu.ca or phone 902-585-1690. If you are on campus you just need to dial 1690.

Using the internet

- There is wireless everywhere on campus. You can log on as a guest when you first arrive if your account is not set up. Go to wifi and choose Acadia Guest. This will give you limited access of two hours.
- Students will be granted access to the Acadia network once they are registered and have paid tuition fees. There will be an in-depth information session on merging your email accounts, connecting with your professors, getting your assignments, etc.
- If you are having trouble with internet access, ask one of your Ambassadors or your RA for help via email. There is a help desk in Technology Services:
<https://ts.acadiau.ca/home.html>

When you have completed your self-isolation, please keep the following in mind:

Business Hours

- Acadia business hours are 8:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday.
- Banking hours are generally 10:00am-5:00pm
- Shopping in Wolfville or New Minas many stores are open until 9pm. You can purchase food and some pharmacy items at different grocery stores in the next town over, called New Minas. You can get there via taxi or bus.

Getting Around

- There is a bus service called [Kings Transit](#) that goes to New Minas. Although you can buy most things in Wolfville, New Minas is a bigger shopping area if you need something specific or you need to purchase cell phones, etc.
- There is also a bus company called Maritime Bus that does trips to Halifax.
- There are many taxi companies in the area. Ask in your residence if anyone would like to share a cab with you. Many students find this an economical way to get around. Within Wolfville most companies offer a flat rate of \$5.00.

Town of Wolfville

- If you are waiting for orientation activities to begin or you want to take a break from getting things organized, feel free to explore the town of Wolfville. People are friendly and there are several restaurants, cafes, and stores for you to discover. There is also a nice short walk along the waterfront park behind Tim Horton's coffee shop. The [Tourist Bureau](#) is located on Willow Avenue at the end of town. The tourist bureau will have lots of information about the area. They are open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00p.m. 7 days a week until October.

List of things to do before classes start

1. Your ambassadors will help you
 - a. Find your academic advisor
 - b. Find your classrooms
 - c. Finish registering for courses online
 - d. Pay your fees
 - e. Buy your textbooks
 - f. Go on a campus tour
 - g. Visit the gym
 - h. Learn about clubs and campus activities
 - i. Get your Nova Scotia ID card
 - j. Visit the health plan coordinators office if you want to opt out of the health plan
 - k. Find out where to buy bus tickets for Halifax, get dry cleaning done, buy Acadia T-shirts, etc. (SUB)
 - l. Sign up to get a Nova Scotia ID Card at the Access Nova Scotia Booth or the Wong International Centre.
 - m. Find out about laws, driving regulations, rules regarding alcohol and smoking, etc. Info session will be held during orientation (see orientation schedule in [here](#))
 - n. Connect your computer to the Acadia network and merge your email accounts.
 - o. Use your Student ID card to purchase items on campus and to do your laundry, etc. This is called Axe Cash and you can load money on your ID card. Ask your ambassador or go online ([Campus Card](#)) or contact Student Account Office.