

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Next Steps for New International Learners

→ **Instructions:** click on the links to access more information and guidelines ←

Stay in Touch with Us

All BVC students have access to [MyBVC student portal](#) and a [MyBVC email](#).

mybvc.ca On the student portal you can access your mybvc email, the D2L platform, update your contact information, review your balance, make online payments, review the college's policies, register for courses and more!

All communications from us will be sent to your designated MyBVC email. It is strongly recommended that you set up your student email account on your smart device (phone or tablet). It is important to check your MyBVC e-mail regularly.

Get Your Immigration Documents

Applying for a Study Permit for the First Time



◆ In most cases it is required to submit an application from outside of Canada. There are a **few** exceptions which would allow you to apply for a study permit if you are currently living in Canada. Information of who can apply from within Canada can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

◆ If you are not sure if you qualify to apply from within Canada, please inquire, otherwise it may delay your study permit application and your plans to study in Canada.

- ◆ When to apply for a study permit? Before you apply for your study permit check the application [processing times](#). Allow additional time for mail transit, delays or backlogs at the visa office, and sending additional documents if requested by the visa office. **Note:** Consider CIC's visa processing times, [International Learner Account Policy](#) and important dates **before submitting** your study permit application.
- ◆ Once you receive your **Study Permit Approval letter from the visa office, email it to us immediately!**

Extending a Study Permit

- ◆ If you currently have a valid study permit, you might need to request a [study permit extension](#).
- ◆ [Changing institutions](#): if you are changing institutions, you are required to notify Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

CO-OP Work Permit

- ◆ You need to hold a valid co-op work permit before starting any work experience or practicum that is an integral part of your program. Your Letter of Acceptance from Bow Valley College will indicate if there is a work experience component in your curriculum. If you need a co-op work permit, it is recommended that apply for it in advance. You can [request a co-op work permit](#) at the time you apply for your study permit for the first time.

Visa and eTAs

- ◆ Most people need a visa and eTA to enter Canada. [Find out](#) if you need one.

Now That You Have All Your Immigration Papers, What Should You Do?



◆ Learn more about the [International Student Program](#), the rules, benefits and responsibilities.

◆ Pack all the **important personal documents** and bring them with you, including but not limited to:

⇒ a valid passport or travel document

- ⇒ your Citizenship and Immigration Canada letter
- ⇒ if required, a Temporary Resident Visa and eTA
- ⇒ a copy of your letter of acceptance from Bow Valley College
- ⇒ evidence that you have adequate funds for your stay in Canada
- ⇒ any other documents recommended by the visa office that processed your study permit

Plan Your Arrival



Important Dates: when should you arrive to Calgary? Which events do you need to attend before the start of classes? When do you have to register your courses? Book these important dates into your agenda:

◆ Don't miss the online self-registration dates, fee deadlines, drop deadlines listed in the general calendar: bowvalleycollege.ca/ImportantDates

◆ Review the important events and deadlines for international students: [Important Dates for International Learners](#) (find it under the section "Before you apply / Check the deadlines").

Course Registration: All learners are required to enroll in the courses before the start of each term of classes. It is recommended to enroll as soon as the registration opens, before the courses get full. Before registering, please review the following:

- ◆ [Recommendations for International Learners](#)
- ◆ [Online Self-Registration Instructions](#)

Settling in Calgary

- ◆ Check our [Pre-Arrival Resources](#) for information on housing, life in Calgary and attractions and events in the area
- ◆ **Transportation:** our downtown campus is strategically located for the convenience of all learners who travel to and from the college. There are many bus stops close to the campus and a train station right at the entrance of our South Campus. Plan your trip and review the schedules and fares of the city's public transportation: calgarytransit.com - Calgary transit includes a route that you can take from the airport to your destination within the city's limits. BVC doesn't have discount card.

What to Do If the Study Permit Application Was Rejected?

REJECTED

- ◆ Immediately **inform** and send a copy of your rejection letter to the International Education Department at international@bowvalleycollege.ca
- ◆ Refer to the [International Student Tuition and Refund Policy](#).
- ◆ **Drop** your courses as soon as possible and before the drop deadline to avoid unwanted charges. To drop your courses please visit www.mybvc.ca

Once You Arrive In Calgary



- ◆ Email a copy of your study permit to the International Education Department if you haven't sent it yet: international@bowvalleycollege.ca
- ◆ Can you work before starting classes? No. Please read about the eligibility criteria to work off campus: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/work-offcampus.asp>

Apply for Health Insurance

- ◆ Apply as soon as you get to Calgary for basic health coverage. The plan is free of cost for those who qualify. Alberta Health Care Insurance is basic health care coverage that is administered and governed by the provincial Government of Alberta. All eligible recipients are required by law to be covered by this insurance plan.
 - ◇ [Eligibility criteria](#)
 - ◇ [Supporting documents](#)
 - ◇ [Application form](#)

Events to Support a Successful Academic Year

- ◆ [Learning Bootcamp](#)
- ◆ [Tech Bootcamp](#)
- ◆ [New Student Orientation](#) (NSO)
- ◆ [International Student Orientation](#) (ISO) – (mandatory)

Living in Canada



- ◆ Getting the right **health care**: The Canadian health care system may be different than the one back home. Learn more of the [different options to find health care](#) in the Province of Alberta.
- ◆ Read these [recommendations when dental care](#) is needed.
- ◆ Embrace the **Canadian winter**: Winter is a big part of living in Canada so be winter-smart: dress for the weather and always check the forecast. Check some [tips on cold weather safety](#).
- ◆ **Multiculturalism and diversity**: Canada is a very multicultural and diverse country. Once you get here you will hear many different languages spoken around you and people with different lifestyles from yours. Read an overview about [diversity in Canada](#).
- ◆ **Culture Shock**: Moving to a new country to live is really exciting! At some point you may feel symptoms of culture shock and start missing your life back home. Don't let that get in the way of reaching your goals and learn more about [culture shock](#) and how to cope and overcome it.

Post-Graduate Work Permit Program



- ◆ Although you are just planning to start your program it is also a good time to explore the eligibility criteria for the [Post-Graduate Work Permit Program](#) so you can take the right steps during your academic year(s) to meet the requirements and qualify for a work permit after graduating.

Resources for English as Second Language Learners



- ◆ [BVC Library - Resources for ELL Students](#)
- ◆ [Calgary Public Library - ESL Conversation Club](#)

BVC Resources for Learners

- ◆ [International Learner Advisor](#) in the International Education Department—your main contact in school.
- ◆ [Student Engagement Officers](#) and [Academic Advisors](#)—support with your academic planning
- ◆ [Learner Success Services](#)—a comprehensive list of services to support your well being and academic success
- ◆ Student Association—[SABVC](#)— Your student body that supports learners to enhance the experience on campus
- ◆ [Library and Learning Commons](#)—With a variety of services and academic resources
- ◆ [Intercultural Centre](#)—your go to place to build a campus life and do more than just study
- ◆ [Awards and Scholarships](#)—find out how you can win awards!
- ◆ [Other Campus Services](#)—looking for a specific service at the college? Find it here!

