

**2020-  
2021**



# **INTERNATIONAL PRE- DEPARTURE GUIDE**

Disclaimer: Every attempt is made to verify the accuracy of the information contained in this handbook at the time of publication. However, it is impossible for the Wong International Centre to guarantee the accuracy beyond that time. Students are advised to check with the appropriate authorities to be certain that they have the most up-to-date information at their disposal

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## **WELCOME TO ACADIA!**

**Dear Student,**

Congratulations on your acceptance to Acadia University! [The Wong International Centre](#) is the main resource for international students at Acadia. It is our pleasure to provide support and assistance to international students. We work closely with other University staff, faculty, and community members to help you adjust to life in Canada and become an active member of our campus and local community

You should attend the New Student Orientation for new students (see page 15). Please read this guide thoroughly, and sign-up for the New Student Orientation by going to the [International Students website](#). If you have problems signing up, contact [international@acadiau.ca](mailto:international@acadiau.ca). Be sure to indicate your arrival details: flight number, arrival time & date, as well as your 9-digit student number and an email and/or telephone contact.

Acadia has approximately 600 international students from over 53 different countries. Our full-time enrolment is approximately 3500 students. Acadia offers a wide range of recreational, cultural, social, and educational activities in addition to the academic programs.

Acadia is in the beautiful town of Wolfville, Nova Scotia. It is 100 kilometers (about one-hour drive) from the provincial capital city of Halifax. The climate is moderate, and the landscape is scenic and beautiful. We are sure that you will consider Wolfville a very friendly and safe town.

We look forward to meeting you upon your arrival. Please let us know if we can assist you before your departure.

Sincerely,  
The Wong International Centre Team  
Acadia University



## SO, YOU'RE COMING TO CANADA

Congratulations! You have recently been accepted to Acadia University. We would like to welcome you, and to make your transition to our campus as smooth as possible. On behalf of the Wong International Centre and the Acadia community, we welcome you.

### **PREPARE FOR TAKE-OFF...**

Now that you know that you really are coming to study in Canada, you are probably already wondering what you must do next. Acadia has an on-campus International Centre with an International Student Advisor, who can answer your questions and offer you advice on a wide range of subjects. We are available to help you if you have questions about accommodations, health insurance, immigration, tax, study skills, courses, social activities, or if you just need someone to listen to a concern. We can direct any inquiries that you might have about course selection, registration, housing, laptop requirements, and finances. We have provided a list of relevant contact numbers and e-mail addresses pertaining to the University on page 16 of this booklet.

### **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

When you arrive at Acadia to start your studies, you will participate in a variety of orientation activities that will familiarize you with most aspects of campus life. Information on the New Student Orientation can be found on page 15 of this booklet. The purpose of this document is to provide you with a brief overview and a checklist of considerations to ensure a successful arrival.

## **IMMIGRATION/STUDENT AUTHORIZATION**

Once you have received your Confirmation of Acceptance letter from Acadia, you should immediately begin procedures to obtain your Canadian Student Study Permit. A Temporary Resident Visa may also be required depending on your citizenship. To check requirements for visa [click here](#). These documents are available from the nearest [Canadian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate](#); and you can obtain assistance in completing the forms at the [closest visa office](#). Additional information is available from Citizenship and Immigration Canada: [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)

The process of obtaining your required immigration documents will differ between offices abroad and in some cases can take up to six months to

complete. Depending on the visa office, you will receive your Student Study Permit before departing for Canada or you will receive a Letter of Introduction to present to Canadian Immigration when you arrive in Canada. If you have been issued a Letter of Introduction, the immigration officer at the port of entry (when you enter Canada) will issue your Student Study Permit. **Under no circumstances should you leave for Canada** until you have obtained either **your Student Study Permit or Letter of Introduction** from the Canadian visa office abroad (unless you satisfy Immigration Canada's requirements for students studying in Canada without a Study Permit). United States citizens: see below.

The application fee for a Student Study Permit is \$150.<sup>00</sup>CAN. This fee does not guarantee a Study Permit will be issued. Please note that the fee is charged when you apply for your Permit and whenever you need to extend it. You should request to have your initial Student Study Permit issued for the full term of your studies in Canada.

If you are a United States citizen, then you may be able to apply for your Student Study Permit when you are crossing the border into Canada. You will need to have proof of sufficient funds for studies at Acadia, the application fee, proof of acceptance at a Canadian university and proof of identification. ***Verify information with Canadian Border Services.***

### **Temporary Resident Visa or Electronic Travel Authorization(eTA)**

**eTA**: some countries require an eTA (electronic travel authorization) to fly into Canada. Please check if you require one here:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>

## PAYMENT OF FEES/TRANSFER FUNDS



You can pay your student fees via cheque, money order, bank transfer, bank draft, or traveler's cheques. We strongly suggest that you pay your fees before you arrive for New Student Orientation. You can contact Acadia University about fees at: (902) 585-1297 or email: [student.accounts@acadiu.ca](mailto:student.accounts@acadiu.ca)

For more up to date information please click here: [How to Pay](#)

If you want to transfer your fee payment directly to the university account, Acadia's bank details are as follows:

### **Bank of Montreal**

424 Main Street  
Wolfville, NS  
B4P 1C9

Please quote your **student number**  
on the transfer to ensure it goes to  
your account.

Bank ID # 001

Bank Transit # 02063

Bank Account # 1010-842

BMO International (for Canadian or other currencies) (BIC) = BOFMCAM2

BMO Routing # (for US funds) (ABA) = 026005092

BMO Routing # (for Europe funds) (IBAN) = 02061010842

Please ensure your student ID number is included on all wire transfers as a reference.

It may take several weeks for your funds to be transferred through regular banking channels. Your local bank should be able to tell you how long it will take to transfer funds to Canada. If you want to transfer funds by setting up a new account, banks in Wolfville include:

### **Royal Bank of Canada**

<http://www.rbc.com/canada/>

PO Box 640 Wolfville, Nova Scotia B4P 1E1 CANADA

Tel: (902) 542-2221 Fax: (902) 542-4639

### **Bank of Montreal**

<http://www4.bmo.com/>

PO Box 1000 Wolfville, Nova Scotia B4P 1C9 CANADA

Tel: (902) 542-2214 Fax: (902) 542-9293

# COURSE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

FOR STUDENTS STARTING DEGREE PROGRAMS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR  
2020/2021

## Registration

Once you have paid your \$150 (CDN) Confirmation Deposit and receive confirmation that you have been accepted into Acadia, you can then register for courses.

All undergraduate registration is through the [Acadia Central website](#). Use the Student ID and Username that you have been using to access the [Acadia Central portal](#). Look for the "login" button on the top right corner of the screen. To determine what courses you would like to register for, read [Choosing Courses in your First Year](#). When you have decided what courses you wish to take, check the schedule of classes. If a course is highlighted in blue, it means that it is full and you may not register for it.

If you have any questions about a particular course, feel free to contact [Academic Advisor](#) Meaghan Mousseau for your program of study by email at [studentsupport@acadiu.ca](mailto:studentsupport@acadiu.ca) or contact the International Student Advisor Carissa Campbell at [international@acadiu.ca](mailto:international@acadiu.ca).



## LAPTOP COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

All students who will be attending Acadia University are required to have a laptop. This will give students a technology rich educational experience and prepare them for the world at large with a familiarity of today's technology. Students are able to purchase Acadia-specific laptops directly from Apple Canada and Dell Canada.

The pricing, configurations, and warranty packages detailed in these web stores are specific to Acadia University and are designed to meet your academic needs.

You could bring your own computer, or you could order your new computer at [Acadia Technology Store](#).



## ACCOMMODATIONS

Your choice of accommodation will depend on personal preference, cost & availability. The options include living on-campus in university residences or off-campus in commercial housing.

**On-Campus Residences:** All residences have been wired for phone, computer, and cable access. There is an all-female residence (Whitman/Tully House) and mature student residences (Raymond House, Roy Jodrey House). There is the option of private or shared rooms for students.

Residences are not open during the winter break in December; however, if you know **for certain** that you will not be returning home, please indicate that on your accommodation application so that Acadia can assign you to the residence opening during winter break. You can contact the Residence Life office at Acadia for more details by phone: (902) 585-1417 or email: [residencelife@acadiu.ca](mailto:residencelife@acadiu.ca) or [click here](#) to visit the website.

**Off-Campus Apartments:** It is usually necessary to arrive a few days before classes begin to arrange off-campus housing, as the selection diminishes close the start of classes. You will have to arrange temporary accommodation while you are looking for housing. Prices for off-campus housing vary depending on size, facilities, and location. Some apartments include the cost of utilities (electricity, heat, water, etc.) in the monthly rent. Apartment rentals are in the range of \$350.00 to \$800.00 per unit monthly depends on the different apartments. Sharing accommodation reduces expenses. There is usually an 8 month or 12-month lease for rental units.

For other issues related to living off-campus, please pick up the "Living Off-campus Guide" from the Wong International Centre. This guide is available in both Chinese and English.

For off-campus options, check:

<https://www.places4students.com/Places/School?SchoolID=Drxd0BI1SPY%3d>

### **On-campus residence and meal plan options**

Prices vary by residence, room type and number of meals you choose.

For further price details, please see:

- [Residence Rooms](#)
- [Meal Plans](#)



**Off-Campus Housing: (These are average monthly costs)**

- Apartment (per month [12-month lease]) \$600.00 (1 person)
- Food (per month) \$450.00
- Other Expenses (per month) \$400.00

**\*Prices vary by apartment. The price may be less depending on your choice of apartment, location, expenses etc.**

**COST OF LIVING** 

Below is an estimate of what it might cost a single student to live in Wolfville from September - May. Please note that this is a minimal estimate (Canadian dollars):

Clothing (winter)	\$600.00-\$1000.00
Textbooks	\$1000.00- \$1800.00
Miscellaneous*	\$2000.00-\$3500.00
Rent	\$4200.00 - \$7200.00

\*postage, laundry, pharmacy, supplies, telephone, dental costs, recreation, entertainment, travel, etc.

The student lifestyle and desire to travel home will affect the cost of living.

**ACADEMIC FEES**

Below you will find a list of student costs for studying and living. All amounts are in Canadian dollars for the 2020/21 academic year. Please note the academic year starts in September and ends in April. This means that these fees represent a full year (two semesters) of classes.

**2020/21 Tuition fees**

**Full-time undergraduate tuition for international students (Fall-Winter term):**

\$17,884.00	Tuition
\$ 568.00	Technology Fee
\$ 247.00	Athletic and Health Services
\$ 310.86	Student Organization Fees
\$ 750.00	ASU Health Plan
\$ 165.00	ASU Dental Plan
\$ 10.00	Acadia Access Fee

**Graduate Programs (Master and PhD studies)** fees please [click here](#) to visit the Financial Services website for additional and up to date information.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The Scholarship and Financial Assistance office administers the University undergraduate financial assistance programs which include scholarships, prizes, awards, and bursary.

Acadia awards specific to a discipline are listed on our website. Recommendations for awards are received from departments each academic year. Contact your department to inquire whether you need to apply for consideration.

Information on undergraduate scholarships and awards outside of Acadia are maintained by the Scholarships and Financial Assistance office. Undergraduate scholarship, bursary, and award information is sent to all students via email. Information is also posted on our website and on the bulletin board across from the Registrar's Office in University Hall.

Immigration Canada will require proof that you have sufficient funds to cover all academic and living expenses for the duration of your degree program (approximately \$37,000 CDN/ year) without relying on assistance from the university before they will issue a student visa.

Scholarships and Financial Assistance  
University Hall-1st Floor  
8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Mon to Fri  
Phone: (902) 585-1574/ (902) 585-1543, Fax: (902) 585-1081  
Website: <http://www2.acadiu.ca/financial-aid.html>  
Email: [financial.aid@acadiu.ca](mailto:financial.aid@acadiu.ca)

## **EMPLOYMENT**

Students studying in Canada with a valid study permit issued after June 1, 2014 are permitted to work off campus. This allows international students to work up to 20 hours per week during the regular academic session and full time during scheduled breaks. Students with study permits are also allowed to work on-campus with the same restrictions.

If a student is going on a [Co-operative work placement](#) then the student has to apply for a Co-Op Work Permit once they are accepted to the Co-op

program. For more information contact the Co-op office or check out the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada website in [here](#).

Please check out the [Career Services website](#), or contact them at [career.services@acadiau.ca](mailto:career.services@acadiau.ca) for any questions concerning careers or jobs.



## HEALTH CARE

All full-time International students are automatically enrolled in the Acadia Students' Union (ASU) Health Plan. Those students who have comparable coverage (private insurance) may opt out (be removed) of the ASU Health Plan by showing proof of their alternative coverage to the ASU Health Plan Administrator by **September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020** for fall term students and **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021** for newly eligible winter term students. A waiver must be signed by the student and Health Plan Administrator. Prior to making your decision as to whether or not you want to opt out and use your own private insurance while in Nova Scotia attending Acadia University, please make sure that your plan will cover you for the following: licensed medical doctors' visits, ambulance, prescription drugs, hospital stay.

For more information as to what the plan covers, please visit the [Acadia Student Benefits](#) website for more information or call the Health Plan Administrator, Cindy MacDonald, at (902) 585-2167 or email [cindy.macdonald@acadiau.ca](mailto:cindy.macdonald@acadiau.ca).



## TRAVEL TIPS

When you are traveling to Acadia, be sure to carry all the following documents/information with you. You should also have photocopies of these important documents. DO NOT pack it in your baggage:

- Valid passport, Student Study Permit *or* Letter of Introduction, Temporary Resident Visa (required by some countries)
- Proof of funds available (i.e.: Bank statement, draft, transfer, letter of credit, scholarship letter, etc.), and have at least \$100.00 (CAD or USD) in cash

- Carry a change of clothes, any medication, toothbrush and tooth paste, soap, deodorant, shampoo (travel size) or other important items in your carry-on bag, in case your luggage is lost or delayed, this is common in international travel!

## **CANADIAN CUSTOMS REGULATIONS**

Detailed information about Canada's customs regulations is available from the Canadian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate in your home country [click here](#). The Canadian Government allows you to bring into the country a reasonable quantity of clothing, books, and other things for your personal use. However, only limited amounts of liquor and tobacco are permitted (if applicable). If you plan to bring electrical equipment, you should note that Canadian voltage is 110 volts, 60 Hertz.

## **TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT TO ACADIA**

Transportation from the [Halifax Stanfield International Airport](#) (YHZ) to Acadia University, Wolfville.

The traveling time from the Halifax Airport to Wolfville is approximately 1.5 hours by car or taxi; however, it takes 2 or 3 hours by bus (Maritime Bus Company). As means of transportation from the Halifax Airport to Wolfville, there are four different options.

### **1. Maritime Bus Company:**

Maritime Bus Company has buses leaving Halifax going through Wolfville daily. The cost is approximately \$29.50 including tax for a one-way ticket (From Halifax Airport to Wolfville, Acadia University). Make sure you arrive at least 30 minutes before the scheduled departure time. Customers are allowed a maximum of 5 bags: 1 carry-on bag and 2 free checked bags, the following two checked bags each cost an extra \$5.00.

The website for the Maritime Bus Company is:

<http://www.maritimebus.com/en/>

The bus stops at the parking lot of Wheelock Dining Hall [#44 on campus map], on the Acadia's campus. Once you get off the bus, keep walking down the hill along Horton Avenue and stop at the Acadia Students' Union Building [#30 on campus map]. You need to acquire your Acadia ID card and room key from the Safety and Security Department which is located at the second floor of the Acadia Students' Union Building.

*Please refer to [Acadia Campus map](#).*

## 2. Taxi/Limousine Service:

**Woods Limousine** service provides transportation service from Halifax Airport to Wolfville at reasonable rates. This will be a good option if you have guests and a lot of luggage and demand flexibility with your travel schedule; however, it is not as cheap as the Maritime Bus. Woods Limousine service is available curbside in the Arrivals area at the airport. You must make a reservation in advance. A reservation can be made [online](#) or via phone at 1(888)720-5466 or 1(902)864-8283.

Approx. cost is: **\$130** [Ensure you ask for the "Student Economy Service", and "Share a Ride" for a cheaper price].

**A World Class Limousine** service also provides transportation from the Halifax airport to Wolfville (Acadia University). If you choose to hire "a World Class Limousine" you should reserve [online](#)  
Approx. cost is: **\$130**

**Please Note:** If you have flight delays, please contact the Limousine company with your updated arrival time in Halifax. This will ensure that you will have a car waiting when you arrive in Halifax.

## 3. Car Rental:

This is an economical option if you or any of your guests hold a valid driver's license. There are seven car rental companies which offer a wide selection of vehicles at affordable rates. Based on the size of the vehicle, cost may range from \$75 to \$150 per day.

*Avis, Budget, Dollar, Enterprise, Hertz, National and Thrifty* are all represented at the airport. Their desks are located in the Domestic Arrivals hall. **Note:** Most car rental agencies do not rent to individuals younger than 21 years of age; certain companies will charge extra if you are between the ages of 21 and 24.

### **Driving direction from the Halifax Airport to Wolfville:**

Take exit 6 (Halifax/Dartmouth exit) to get onto Highway 102  
Take exit 5 on Highway 102, so that you don't miss the Annapolis Valley merge, then  
Take exit 4B to get onto Highway 101  
Take exit 10 to arrive in Wolfville

## Hotels:

There are 4 hotels close to the Halifax airport. They all offer shuttle service to and from the airport. Cost ranges from \$100 to \$250 per night, based on the room types and rankings of the hotels. Reservations are recommended and please call in advance to get a quote for a specific rate.

The **alt Hotel** (tel: 1-855-258-5775; <http://halifax.althotels.ca/en>) is situated in the Halifax Airport.

The **Quality Inn Halifax Airport** (tel: (902) 873 3000; [www.airporthotelhalifax.com](http://www.airporthotelhalifax.com)) is situated 1km (0.6 miles) from the airport and runs a free shuttle service from the airport.

The **Hilton Garden Inn Halifax Airport** (tel: (902) 873 1400; [hiltongardeninn.hilton.com](http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com)) is 3 km (2 miles) away, and also offers a free shuttle service from the airport.

The **Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Halifax Airport** (tel: (902) 576-7600; <http://www.hiexpress.com/hotels/us/en/enfield/yhznt/hoteldetail>) is 4 km (2.2 miles) away, and also offers a free shuttle service from the airport.



## TOWN OF WOLFVILLE

If you are planning to visit the Town of Wolfville with your family, either before you start your studies or for the New Student Orientation, you will need to arrange accommodations.

For a list of local accommodations in the Wolfville area, please visit <https://www.wolfville.ca/accommodations.html>

There is a complete visitor's guide to Wolfville available online at: <https://www.wolfville.ca/>

You can also find out information about Nova Scotia at: <http://www.explorenovascotia.com/> or call: 902-425-5781/1-800-565-0000.

## WEATHER



Acadia's fall/winter session covers the seasons of autumn, winter and spring. Temperatures range from the mid 20-degree Celsius range to -25 degrees Celsius. Winter extends from November to March. This is when snow accumulates and you will need warm clothing: a heavy coat, warm hat, warm gloves, and water-proof boots for the cold season.

# WELCOME WEEK & NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

The following information is **ONLY** for Undergraduate students

## **New International Student Orientation – Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**

This important program is designed to familiarize you with Acadia University, Wolfville & life in Canada. Orientation is devoted to International student concerns such as the Canadian Education System, Culture Shock, Immigration, Health Insurance, taxes, etc.

### **Included in the Welcome Week Activities:**

- Shopping trip for necessities
- Important Tips & Information on residences, health plan, etc.
- Services, immigration, & academic assistance
- Academic Expectations Sessions
- Discussions with senior international & Canadian students

# Important Contacts

## **Acadia University**

Registrar	(902) 585-1222; Fax: (902) 585-1081 Email: <a href="mailto:registrar@acadiau.ca">registrar@acadiau.ca</a>
Student Accounts/Fees	(902) 585-1297 Email: <a href="mailto:student.accounts@acadiau.ca">student.accounts@acadiau.ca</a>
International Student Advisor	(902) 585-1690; Fax: (902) 585-1038 Email: <a href="mailto:international@acadiau.ca">international@acadiau.ca</a>
Career Services	Email: <a href="mailto:career.services@acadiau.ca">career.services@acadiau.ca</a>
Residence Life	(902) 585-1417; Fax: (902) 585-1093 Email: <a href="mailto:residencelife@acadiau.ca">residencelife@acadiau.ca</a>
Safety & Security	(902) 585-1103; <b>always open</b> Email: <a href="mailto:security@acadiau.ca">security@acadiau.ca</a>
Off-Campus Accommodations	<a href="http://theasu.ca/campus-life/off-campus-housing/">http://theasu.ca/campus-life/off-campus-housing/</a>

**Feel free to contact the Wong International Centre Team  
if you have further questions or concerns at:**

(902) 585-1690; Fax: (902) 585-1038  
Email: [international@acadiau.ca](mailto:international@acadiau.ca)

**Acadia University, Wong International Centre**

<https://www2.acadiau.ca/international.html>

27 Acadia Street, Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia  
B4P 2R6 Canada

(902) 585-1865; Fax: (902) 585-1038





## CHECKLIST

### **Important Things to do/have before coming to Acadia**

- Valid Passport
- Study Permit or Student Authorization Letter
- Temporary Resident Visa or eTA (Electronic Travel Authorization)
- Tuition Fees
- Course Registration
- Accommodation
- Acceptance Letter from Acadia
- Transportation from Airport to Acadia
- Orientation Registration

### **Recommended Packing List\***

- Clothes
- Towels
- Bed Sheets and Pillow covers
- Alarm Clock
- Winter Jacket, Boots and Gloves
- Sweaters
- Rain Jacket and Umbrella
- Backpack
- Camera
- Music/MP3 player
- Medicine & Prescriptions
- Dictionary
- Contact List
- Costumes/Traditional Dress from your Country
- Traditional Music or instrument that you play
- Items from your Country that can be used in displays and presentations
- Your Country's Flag

\*You may buy items that you need after you arrive at Acadia. We will take you shopping during the New International Student Orientation. Casual clothes are appropriate for the classroom.