



Dear Student,

We are pleased to share the latest updates on Canadian travel restrictions from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

UBC is listed as one of the institutions with an approved COVID-19 readiness plan, so most UBC students can now travel to Canada starting **October 20, 2020**.

### What has changed?

- **Essential travel:** If you are a current enrolled UBC international student and are traveling for the purposes of studying in Canada, your travel will be considered 'essential' without needing to provide additional reasons or documentation besides [regular documents](#). You can travel to Canada even if all your courses have moved online.
- **Study permits approved after March 18, 2020 can be used for travel:** You can travel to Canada no matter when your study permit was approved. You will still need a valid Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) or Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA), if required.

See our updated [Travelling to Canada Guide](#) for details on who can travel, confirming your health insurance coverage, making self-isolation plans, and what documents to prepare for your arrival.

### How does this impact me?

- **If you applied for a study permit from outside of Canada**, you must wait until you have received your Letter of Introduction (study permit approval) before traveling to Canada. A study permit approval-in-principle is not sufficient to travel and you should not travel as a visitor. You will need to continue [waiting](#) for your final study permit approval before traveling.
- **If you are studying online outside of Canada**, you do not need to come to Canada at this time and can continue studying online outside of Canada and have your courses count towards the Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) until April 30, 2021. See our FAQ for [new students](#) or [current students](#) for details.
- **If you are in Canada with a valid study permit**, no action is necessary. Courses which have moved online due to COVID-19 will continue to [count towards the PGWP](#) until April 30, 2021 if you have a study permit or are on implied status. If you would like to make travel plans, you can leave and return to Canada so long as you are a current enrolled student with a valid study permit and TRV or eTA.

Make sure you follow quarantine requirements in other countries and make self-isolation plans for your return to Canada.  
See our [Travelling to Canada Guide](#) for more scenarios.

## Quarantine (Self-Isolation) Requirements and Resources

All travellers arriving in Canada are required by the Canadian Government to [quarantine \(self-isolate\)](#) for 14 days and to [self-monitor for symptoms](#). If you do not have an appropriate self-quarantine plan, or if you have COVID-19 symptoms while travelling, you will not be allowed to enter Canada. For more information, see the [Travelling to Canada Guide](#).

Students who are travelling to UBC from outside Canada and are unable to self-isolate in their own accommodations have access to complimentary on-campus self-isolation packages (14-days accommodation and food). Complimentary packages are available on a **one-time only basis** until further notice. [Learn more and make a reservation](#) as soon as possible.

For questions about UBC's self-isolation packages, contact [UBC Conferences and Accommodation](#).

## Applying to live in UBC Student Residence

UBC Student Housing continues to provide a wide variety of housing options. [Apply](#) as soon as you can. Term 2 housing offers will be based on availability in late November. Make sure you apply for 20W (not 21W). Student Housing residents cannot self-isolate in shared units in residence. Students moving into a shared unit (any space that shares a washroom and/or kitchen with another student) in a residence managed by UBC Student Housing, must self-isolate for 2 weeks in a different, private space before moving into their shared unit space. Contact [UBC Student Housing](#) for housing-related questions.

## If you have questions

Your go-to resource as a UBC international student is the updated [UBC International Student Guide](#).

You can find answers to many of your questions in our [COVID-19 FAQs for international students](#).

The situation regarding COVID-19 is rapidly changing. The guidance offered here is based on the information currently available. Please keep updated on the situation as it evolves by checking [IRCC's updates](#) and our [FAQs](#), which we will continue to keep up to date.

If you still have questions, you can connect with us directly:

- Email [isa@students.ubc.ca](mailto:isa@students.ubc.ca), and include your student number in the subject line, **or**
- Connect with us [on Zoom](#) from Monday to Friday, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm (PDT).

Warmly,

Michelle Suderman and the staff in International Student Advising (UBC  
Vancouver)  
The University of British Columbia