



Victoria International Education
Uplands Campus
3461 Henderson Rd, Victoria, BC
Canada

Pre-arrival Information

Message from the Director

Dear Students,

All of us at the Victoria International Education Program would like to extend a warm welcome to you. We are very pleased that you chose to come and study with us. In order to help you get ready to study in Victoria, we have prepared the following information for you.

We hope your experience in Victoria will be a positive and rewarding one.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Jeff Davis

Director

Victoria International Education
Greater Victoria School District #61

Important Dates

Mid-July: Homestay Coordinators will begin sending out homestay information

August 5: Trips & Excursions calendar will be available.

August 25: Earliest arrival date for new students

August 28-30: New Student Orientation. Schedule will be sent out at the beginning of August



VIE Emergency Phone Number

+1 778-676-3781

Please carry this number with you when you travel
and contact us if you need help.

What Should I Bring to Canada?

Important Documents

- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Visa or Entry Permit
- ✓ Letter of Acceptance
- ✓ Study Permit Acceptance Letter
(if applicable)
- ✓ Custodian Letter
- ✓ Homestay or Accommodation Information
- ✓ Travel insurance (if desired)

Be sure to have two photocopies of your passport and other documents (one copy to stay home and one copy to pack safely in your hand luggage.)

Any Special Medications

If you require special medications, be sure to bring them with you along with a copy of the doctor's prescription.

If you have allergies, be sure to bring the medication that you use or prefer. **Please ensure that all important medical information has been shared with the program.**

If you wear eyeglasses or contact lenses, be sure to bring an extra set with you in case something happens to your first set. Also, bring a copy of the prescription.

Clothing

Students are not required to wear uniforms. Weather in Victoria is generally mild, but it is usually cool with rain in the winter months. It is a good idea to bring a mix of casual clothes for school and suitable clothing to participate in physical education activities; like running shoes, shorts or sweat pants.

Money

While you are able to pay with credit cards almost everywhere, it's a good idea to always carry a little cash with you for the trip.

Electronics

Canada's electrical supply and electrical outlets are 120 Volts and 60 Hertz (sockets, wall plugs.) Plug converters can be purchased at the airport or at various local stores.

Many students find it useful to have an electronic language translator to assist them with English words. A laptop will be useful to complete school work.

SIM cards are readily available. One option for SIM cards can be found online at www.gophonebox.com. Representatives from Phone Box will be at orientation if students wish to ask questions or purchase SIM cards.



Arrivals

Please book your flights through to Victoria International Airport (YYJ) and forward the flight itinerary to isp_arrivals@sd61.bc.ca. Host Families will pick students up from the Victoria International Airport (YYJ.) Please let host families know if there are any changes to your flight plans.

Arrivals with Natural Parents

Host families will pick students up from the airport, ferry terminal or the hotel where their parents are staying. All visits to host family homes must be coordinated through the Homestay Department. Visits may be scheduled a few days after the student has settled into their new living environment.

Please know that we are here to support you and will do everything we can to ensure your safety and well-being. If you are having any difficulties, please reach out to your host family or any member of the Victoria International Education team.

Wishing you safe and happy travels!

Your VIE Team



Medical Insurance

Victoria International Education will arrange medical insurance coverage for you. Depending on the length of your program, you will either be given temporary medical insurance followed by BC medical insurance or just temporary medical insurance.

Students Staying for Less Than 6 Months

Students enrolled for less than 6 months will be covered by Guard.me medical insurance. They will need to pay up front for services (doctor, bloodwork, etc.) Students will need to log on to www.guard.me to complete the steps for reimbursement.



Students Staying for Longer Than 6 Months

Longer term students will be covered by Guard.me until their MSP coverage starts in the third month after arrival. Once students have MSP coverage, they can access doctor's offices, clinics and labs free of charge. Long-term students on MSP will continue to have extended health type benefits through Guard.me. For more information on coverage: jbettauer@sd61.bc.ca

Bus Travel

Students are responsible for buying their own bus tickets/passes or paying by coin. A list of vendors that sell bus passes and tickets can be found at: www.bctransit.com/victoria/fares/where-to-buy

Students typically use the following two apps for bus route information:

 Google Maps  Transit App

For more information: www.bctransit.com/victoria/

New Student Orientation

All new students should arrive in Victoria in time to attend new student orientation at Uplands Campus.

During the orientation you will have the opportunity to meet other International Students as well as the International Staff Members that will be supporting you.

You will learn useful information for your everyday life in Canada as well as detailed information on school classes and extracurricular activities. You will also get a tour of your new school.

Living in Homestay

Please communicate with your host family before travelling. Get to know each other. Some host families have house rules that they might like to share with you. If you have any questions about the rules, talk to the host family about them.

You may find your living environment and the food very different than you are used to. Please keep an open mind and ask questions if you are not sure about something.

Spend time with your host family to get to know them especially at the beginning of your stay. Dinner time is a great time to get to know each other.

Please make an effort to keep your bedroom tidy and clean up after yourself.

Please be sure to ask your Homestay Coordinator for help, if needed.