



# Pre-Arrival Guide: Exchange Students Winter 2024



**Schulich**  
School of Business



**Updated November 16, 2023**

Information can change rapidly. Please consult official  
Government of Canada links before travelling

**Welcome to Schulich's webinar. We will begin shortly**

**Please mute your microphone and disable your video sharing  
We will be using the chat box**

**Please tell us your name and school you are coming from**



# Planning for Canada Overview

## Pre-Arrival Checklist

- Travel Documents
- Accommodations
- University Health Insurance
- Student Account Payments
- Connect with Other Students
- Packing List

## Arrival in Toronto / York U

- Transportation from Airport
- York University Campus
- Public Transportation
- Shopping
- Attend Orientation



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Open Arms Committee (OAC)	
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# PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA

## PRE-ARRIVAL CHECKLIST

- ☐ Obtain [Immigration](#) Documents
- ☐ Secure [Accommodations](#)
- ☐ Learn about [Health Insurance](#)
- ☐ [Connect](#) with other Students
- ☐ [What to Bring](#) with you
- ☐ Plan to arrive for [Orientation](#)

**Please note:** Immigration and border information is valid as of November 16, 2023

# PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA

## IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

Exchange students must apply for the **correct travel document**. The travel document you require will depend on your **country of citizenship**.

- Exchange students studying for **one semester (less than 6 months) in Canada** can study in Canada as a visitor. You do not require a study permit. However, you must obtain the correct travel documents based on your [country of citizenship](#) prior to travelling to Canada:
  - ☐ [Temporary Resident Visa](#); or
    - ☐ Letter of Acceptance can be used as the 'invitation letter' requested in the TRV Application;
    - ☐ If you require a TRV, apply ASAP as processing times can be very lengthy
  - ☐ [Electronic Travel Authorization](#); or
  - ☐ US Passport
- Exchange students studying for **more than 6 months in Canada** must apply for a [study permit](#).
  - ☐ Review the [application requirements](#), [required documents](#) and [processing times](#) before applying. A TRV or eTA will be issued upon approval, as required.

# PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

### Travelling to the US

- Consider any planned travel to the US and whether you will need a [visa](#) or [ESTA](#). Note: If possible, apply for your US visa before you leave your home country.
- It can be challenging to obtain US visa from Canada

### International Experience Canada

- Exchange students wishing to work in Canada after their exchange term can check their eligibility for [International Experience Canada](#) programs. Please check to see if your program requires you to apply outside of Canada.

### Working in Canada

- Exchange students are generally not authorized to work in Canada, unless you have a study permit
- If holding a study permit, work authorization does not start until you begin classes

**More information will be provided during your Exchange Orientation in January**

# PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA ACCOMMODATIONS

It is your responsibility to secure adequate housing in Canada. Securing short-term housing in Toronto can be challenging and we strongly suggest that you begin your search early and use reputable sources. **Be very cautious to avoid rental scams, as these are currently on the rise in Toronto (and globally).**

## On-Campus Housing – **APPLY ASAP**

Undergraduate – Residence	Graduate – York University Apartments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8 Residence buildings on York’s Keele Campus</li><li>• Meal-Plan available for students</li><li>• Variety of social and educational activities are provided for residence students</li><li>• For more details including photos, rates and contact info, visit the <a href="#">Undergraduate Residence Website</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Apartment buildings for graduate students and families</li><li>• Lease-based occupancy</li><li>• Furnished and unfurnished apartments</li><li>• Students should bring their own bedding, small kitchen appliances and other items</li><li>• For more details including photos, rates and contact info, visit the <a href="#">York Apartments website</a></li></ul>

## Off-Campus Housing

- There are many options to search for off-campus housing, including:
  - York University - [Off-Campus Housing Service](#)
  - Places4Students - [Off-Campus Housing Website](#)
  - Contact IR for more off-campus housing search resources

**Note:** *Tenants in Ontario have certain rights and responsibilities. Familiarize yourself with the general guidelines before entering into a lease or rental agreement by visiting the [Landlord and Tenant Board website](#)*



### York Student Housing Office:

340 Assiniboine Road, York University

Tel: +1-416-736-5152

Email: [yorkapts@yorku.ca](mailto:yorkapts@yorku.ca)

Website: [Student Housing](#)

### Executive Learning Centre Hotel:

Students may stay here at a reduced rate upon arrival. Use promo code 'SSB INTL STU'

Website: [ELC Accommodation](#)

[ELC Extended Stay Packages](#) (4-week min.)

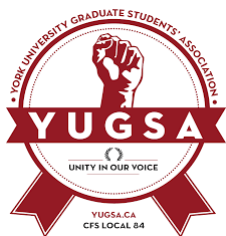
# PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA

## HEALTH INSURANCE



### University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP)

- Mandatory for all international students and dependents who are physically in Canada
  - Dependents must be enrolled within 30 days of arrival to avoid \$500 late fee
- Coverage includes services such as doctor's visits and hospital accommodation in Ontario and emergency services in Canada. Additional health insurance should be purchased for travel outside of Canada
- UHIP does not cover medications, routine dental care, etc (*supplemental insurance recommended*)
- The approximate cost is \$252 per term\*
- Your coverage will begin on 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month prior to your program start (i.e.: Dec 10<sup>th</sup>); if arriving earlier, ensure you have your own private insurance.
- For more information visit the [UHIP website](#) and the [York University UHIP website](#)



### York University Graduate Students' Association (YUGSA) Health Plan & York Federation of Students (YFS) Health & Dental Plan

- Optional for exchange students
- Coverage includes items such as prescription drugs, paramedical services, dental benefits, etc.
- Coverage is from Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> – Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>
- Graduate students: the approximate cost is \$375.\* For more information, please visit the [GSA Health Plan](#) website
- Undergraduate students: the approximate cost is \$260.\* For more information, please visit the [YFS website](#)



Further details will be provided at the Exchange Orientation Session



\* Fees are subject to change

# PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA

## HOW TO PAY YOUR STUDENT ACCOUNT

Exchange students pay tuition to their home school; however, there are some fees you may be charged as an exchange student at Schulich. The charges you may receive on your York University student account include UHIP and on-campus housing rent (if you are living on campus)

There are three options to pay your student account:

1.  [CIBC International Student Pay](#)
2.  [Convera](#)
3. Open a Canadian bank account when you arrive and pay your student account through internet banking

These options offer secure online portals for students to make payments for charges to their Student Account.

You can compare payment options and rates and choose the best one that meets your needs.

**\*\* ALWAYS** remember to include your York University student number with your payments so the money goes into the correct account

**Please note:** Your York student account is NOT a bank account! Do not transfer large sums and then try to take the money out. Only transfer enough money to cover any charges you will receive

*Further details regarding banking and your student account will be provided at the Orientation Session.*



# PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA

## ENGAGE IN STUDENT LIFE

### The Open Arms Committee

The Open Arms Committee (OAC) is a student-run organization at Schulich with the purpose of facilitating the transition of exchange students by trying to help them adjust to their new environment and settle into Schulich.

Throughout the year, the OAC will organize various events. In addition, exchange students are partnered with a Schulich student “buddy” who is available to answer any questions and concerns.

The OAC will email you with information and an invitation to join their Facebook Group/WhatsApp Chat/IG Account!

**Graduate OAC:** [mbaoac@schulich.yorku.ca](mailto:mbaoac@schulich.yorku.ca)

**Undergraduate OAC:** [bbaoac@gmail.com](mailto:bbaoac@gmail.com)



### The Graduate Business Council (GBC) & Undergraduate Business Society (UBS)

The GBC and UBS are the Schulich student representative councils for their respective students.

Each term the GBC and UBS organize events and initiatives which help to engage students with the larger student body. Aside from social and athletic activities, the GBC & UBS serves as the student body's voice to faculty and administration.

### Student Clubs and Associations

Get involved with one of Schulich's many clubs and associations. From the Case Analysis Club (Grad) to the Schulich Charity Association (Undergrad), there is a group for every interest. Visit the [GBC](#) and [UBS](#) website for more details.

Ask your Schulich “buddy” for more information.

# PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA CONNECT

## Schulich Social Media

Join your program's Facebook group to connect with other students in your program

BBA OAC: @Schulichoac

[General Schulich](#)



## Schulich Blogs, Instagram & Twitter

Follow the Schulich's socials for Schulich stories, news and reminders:

[GradBlog](#)

[Undergradblog](#)

[@SchulichSchool](#) – Twitter and IG

## OAC Buddy Program

Connect with a current student who will utilize their experience and knowledge to help you transition to life in Toronto and the Schulich School of Business

The OAC will reach out to you about their buddy program



# PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA

## ACADEMICS – COURSES & ENROLMENT



### Course Selection/Enrolment

- Course selection completed – Friday (UG)
- Instructions sent to view your timetable
- High demand/limited space



### Waitlist

- For high demand courses
- [Waitlist.Schulich.yorku.ca](http://Waitlist.Schulich.yorku.ca)
- Notifications to Schulich email

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# PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA

## WHAT TO BRING

Review what to [expect at the airport](#) when you arrive in Canada.

### ☒ Important Items to Pack

- ☐ Valid Passport, with your Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) or electronic Travel Authorization (eTA), as required; or US passport\*
- ☐ Letter of Introduction from the visa office (if applicable)\*
- ☐ Your Schulich Acceptance Letter (copies acceptable)\*
- ☐ Proof of funds\*
- ☐ Address where you will be residing\*
- ☐ Photocopies/digital copies of all important documents (also send them to your email)\*
- ☐ Medications, health documents and prescriptions (if applicable); check import limits for medications
- ☐ Medical insurance documents for any additional health/travel coverage (if applicable)
- ☐ Driver's license or international driver's license ([drivetest.ca](http://drivetest.ca))
- ☐ Unlocked phone
- ☐ Laptop
- ☐ Power type A and B: Standard voltage is 120V, standard frequency is 60Hz <https://www.power-plugs-sockets.com/canada/>
- ☐ Business attire for presentations and career events
- ☐ Weather appropriate clothing for the [season](#)
- ☐ Credit card(s) and money for immediate use upon arrival
- ☐ [York U Campus Map](#)

\* Pack in your carry-on luggage as you will be [required to show these to the border officer](#) upon arrival (before getting your checked luggage)

# ARRIVAL IN CANADA CHECKLIST

- ☐ [Transfer](#) from the airport and check into your accommodation
- ☐ Orient yourself with the [York campus](#)
- ☐ Learn how to use Public [Transportation](#)
- ☐ Obtain your [YU-card](#)
- ☐ Engage in [Student Life](#)
- ☐ [Shop for Food](#) and [Living Essentials](#)
- ☐ Attend Exchange [Orientation](#)
- ☐ [Explore!](#)



# ARRIVAL IN TORONTO

## TRANSPORTATION FROM PEARSON AIRPORT

### Airport Taxi (recommended)

- Taxi fares from the airport are based on a flat rate tariff
- Fare : \$50-60 CAD approximately (tips and extra luggage fee extra)
- Travel time: 30 minutes to York campus
- Taxis will be waiting once you exit the airport terminal. Use only authorized taxi providers
- For information on taxi services, visit the [Pearson Airport](#) website

### Ride-Hailing Apps

- Use [Uber](#) or [Lyft](#) to and from airport
- Fare: approximately \$50 from airport to York U
- Uber Rider kiosk available as you leave baggage area

### Airport Train to Downtown - Union Pearson (UP) Express

- Fare: **\$12.35** by cash/credit card or **\$9.35** by PRESTO
- Connects to Union and Bloor subway stations
- Travel time: 25 minutes to Union Station (downtown)
- Pick up locations and schedules, see [UPExpress at Pearson](#)



**Note:** We strongly discourage the use of public transportation (TTC) when first arriving in Toronto with all your luggage

# ARRIVAL IN TORONTO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

## Toronto Transit Commission (TTC)



- Fare: \$3.35 cash, \$3.30 PRESTO/credit/debit
- Serves City of Toronto
- Closest stop: York University station
- For more information, visit: [TTC website](https://www.ttc.ca)

## York Region Transit (VIVA/YRT)



- Fare: \$4.25 cash, \$3.88 PRESTO
- Serves areas north of York University (York Region)
- Closest stop: Pioneer Village TTC station
- For more information, visit: [YRT website](https://www.yrt.ca)

## Mississauga Transit - MiWay



- Fare: \$4 cash, \$3.10 PRESTO
- Serves Mississauga region
- Closest stop: Islington TTC station
- For more information, visit: [MiWay website](https://www.miway.ca)

## GO Transit



- Fare: \$3-\$20 PRESTO depending on the distance; must tap on and off
- Connects to regional locations: Mississauga, Brampton, Hamilton, Scarborough, Milton etc.
- Closest stop: Highway 407 TTC station and bus terminal
- For more information, visit: [GO website](https://www.go-toronto.com)

## Brampton Transit (ZÜM)



- Fare: \$4 cash, \$3.10 PRESTO
- Serves Brampton region
- Closest stop: 5 min walk north of Schulich on Ian McDonald Blvd
- For more information, visit: [ZÜM website](https://www.zum.ca)



# ARRIVAL AT YORK UNIVERSITY

## KNOW YOUR CAMPUS

### Connect to Wi-Fi

- AirYorkPLUS – use your Passport York credentials

### Schulich School of Business Building

- Take a [virtual tour](#)!

### York Lanes

- Includes places to eat, grocery shops, the bookstore, public transit passes, pharmacy, dentist, doctor, etc.

### Banking & ATM Machines

- **Bank of Montreal (BMO):** Located in York Lanes. Branch & ATM machines
- **Royal Bank (RBC):** Located at 95 The Pond Road. Branch location  
340 Assiniboine Residence & Bennett Centre. ATM only
- **Scotiabank:** Located in Bergeron Centre for Engineering. ATM only
- **TD Canada Trust:** Located in Central Square. ATM only
- **Alterna Savings:** Located in York Lanes. Branch location

### Emergency and York Security

- In the even of an emergency **call 911**; Free of charge from any phone
  - On campus call: York Security at **+1-416-736-5333**
- York Security Office Location: Parking Structure 2, William Small Centre



### York U Safety App:

Offers services such as goSafe, Campus Shuttle, and interactive campus maps.



Download it today - [York U Safety App](#)

# ARRIVAL AT YORK UNIVERSITY YU-CARD

The YU-card is York University's official photo identification & campus debit card. It provides access to key services such as library, recreation facilities, exams, food, shopping, events, discounts and more.

York has recently instituted a mobile YU-Card. Please note: students must choose between a physical card and the mobile version – having both is not an option.

There is a fee to switch from one to the other.

[YU CARD WEBSITE](#)

## Introducing **Mobile YU-card**

Your York University ID Card  
is now on your phone!



### Step 1

Apply for your YU-card

Submit a [YU-card Application](#).



### Step 2

Get your photo approved

Once submitted, wait for email approvals.



### Step 3

Get your YU-card

Add your mobile YU-card to your [digital wallet](#).

💡 **Physical YU-card** | Need a physical YU-card? Please visit the YU-card Office at [WSC222](#) once your YU-card Application is approved.

**YU-card**



**Manage Your  
YU-card**



# ARRIVAL IN TORONTO

## SHOP FOR FOOD

### Options close to campus



#### Grocery Checkout

- York Lanes



#### Your Community Grocers

- University City Mall, Sentinel Rd



#### No Frills

- 3685 Keele St., Keele St. & St. Regis Cres
- 1 York Gate Blvd, York Gate Mall



#### Walmart

- 3757 Keele St., Keele St. South of Finch Ave
- 101 Edgeley Blvd, Hwy #7 & Edgeley Blvd



#### T&T Supermarket

- The Promenade, 1 Promenade Cir, Thornhill

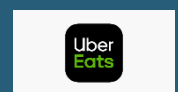
### Other Grocery Shopping Options

#### Shoppers Drug Mart

York Lanes, York University

- Not a full grocery store but can pick up some non-perishable food items and snacks

#### Online Grocery/Food Delivery Options





# ARRIVAL IN TORONTO SHOP FOR LIVING ESSENTIALS

## Options close to campus



### Walmart

A popular store due to its low prices and good quality

- 3757 Keele St., Keele St. South of Finch Ave.
- 101 Edgeley Blvd, Hwy #7 & Edgeley Blvd



### IKEA

Known for ready-to-assemble furniture and home accessories at an affordable price.

- 200 Interchange Way, Vaughan



### DOLLARAMA

Known for affordable shopping. Broad range of products at fixed price from \$1 to \$3.

**Many locations in the area!**

<http://www.dollarama.com/store-locator/>

## Large Shopping Malls

### Vaughan Mills

(YRT #20)

### Toronto Eaton Centre

(Queen or Dundas TTC subway stations)

### Yorkdale Shopping Centre

(Yorkdale TTC subway station)

## Online Shopping Options



# ARRIVAL IN CANADA EXCHANGE ORIENTATION

**Graduate Exchange Orientation: Friday, January 5, 2024**

**Undergraduate Exchange Orientation: Friday January 5, 2024**

The **Exchange Orientation** provides information you need to successfully adjust to life at Schulich and settle in Toronto and Canada.

At the Orientation you will:

- Meet the International Relations team and other exchange students
- Learn about Canadian culture & “Canadianisms” and how to adapt to your surroundings in and outside of the classroom
- Learn about health insurance and how to make a claim
- Learn what you need to know about studying in Canada as an exchange student
- Learn more about Toronto public transportation and some suggestions on things to see and do in and around Toronto

**Note:** You may receive invitations to attend other (non-Schulich) international student events such as webinars and orientations, hosted by York International. You are welcome to attend other York University events; however, as a Schulich graduate student, you are required to **prioritize attendance at Schulich events.**



# ARRIVAL IN CANADA EXPLORE

## Toronto

Information: [www.toronto.ca](http://www.toronto.ca)

Visitor Information: [www.toronto.ca/visitors/index.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/visitors/index.htm)

Tourism: [www.seetorontonow.com](http://www.seetorontonow.com)

Festivals & Events: [www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/festivals-events/festivals-events-calendar/](http://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/festivals-events/festivals-events-calendar/)

## Ontario

Moving to Ontario: [www.ontarioimmigration.ca/](http://www.ontarioimmigration.ca/)

Tourism: [www.ontariotravel.net/en/home](http://www.ontariotravel.net/en/home)

Festivals & Events: [www.festivalsandeventsontario.ca/](http://www.festivalsandeventsontario.ca/)

## Canada

Information: [www.canada.gc.ca](http://www.canada.gc.ca)

## Travel to the USA

Visa information: <https://ca.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/toronto/>



York U Safety



Weekly  
Events in  
Toronto



Toronto  
Travel  
Guide



My TTC



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Shopping  
(find  
deals)

