

Pre-Arrival Guide: Exchange Students

Fall 2025



Schulich
School of Business



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



| Ann Welsh | Rajbir Khurana & Sophie Yang |
|---|--|
| Associate Director International Relations | International Student Support Specialists |
| Cheryl Stickley | Tina Fantin |
| Graduate International Program Coordinator | Undergraduate International Program Coordinator |
| International Relations Office | Room W262, SSB |
| Virtual Office Hours: | Mon – Fri, 9:00AM – 4:00PM |
| Email: | exchange@schulich.yorku.ca |
| Website: | Incoming Exchange |
| Open Arms Committee (OAC) | |
| mbaoac@schulich.yorku.ca , bbaoac@gmail.com | |

PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA

Travel Documents

Exchange students must apply for the **correct Canadian immigration document**. The document you require will depend on your **country of citizenship** and **length of exchange**.

One Semester Exchange

- Exchange students studying for **one semester (less than 6 months) in Canada** can study in Canada as a visitor. You do NOT need a study permit. If you wish to apply for a study permit, you MUST connect with our immigration advising team before applying
- You must obtain the correct travel documents based on your [country of citizenship](#) prior to travelling to Canada:
 - [Electronic Travel Authorization](#); or
 - [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
 - US Passport

Two Semester (1 Year) Exchange

- Exchange students studying for **more than 6 months in Canada** must apply for a [study permit](#).
- Undergraduate 1-year exchange students are EXEMPT from the requirement for a **Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL)**. A PAL exemption letter has been provided to you with your Letter of Acceptance.
- Review the [application requirements](#), [required documents](#) and [processing times](#) before applying. A TRV or eTA will be issued upon approval, as required.
- Apply ASAP for your study permit, as processing times can be lengthy

Have questions about immigration requirements?
Please join a [drop-in Q&A Session](#) with Schulich's immigration advising team

PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA

Accommodation

It is a student's responsibility to secure accommodations in Toronto. Securing short-term housing in Toronto can be challenging; we strongly suggest students begin to 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

- 8 Residence buildings on York's Keele Campus
- Meal-Plan available for students
- Variety of social and educational activities are provided for residence students
- For more details including photos, rates and contact info, visit the [Undergraduate Residence Website](#)

Graduate – York University Apartments

- Apartment buildings for graduate students and families
- Lease-based occupancy
- Furnished and unfurnished apartments
- Students should bring their own bedding, small kitchen appliances and other items
- For more details including photos, rates and contact info, visit the [York Apartments website](#)

Off-Campus Housing

- Be sure to use reliable resources to search for off-campus housing, including:
 - [Schulich Off-Campus Housing Guide](#)
 - [York U Off-Campus Housing Website](#)

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: apstatus@yorku.ca
Website: [Student Housing website](#)

Executive Learning Centre Hotel

Short/long term stays available;
discounts for international students
Website: [ELC Accommodation](#)

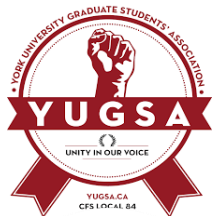
PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA

University 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 10th day of the month prior to your program start (i.e.: Aug 10th); 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 Sep. 1st – Aug. 31st
- 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. 

[Paying from an International Bank Account](#)

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 may organize 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

Undergraduate OAC: 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

Schulich Blogs, Instagram, LinkedIn

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

[GradBlog](#)

[Undergradblog](#)

[@SchulichSchool](#)

[LinkedIn](#)



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 – Enrolment & Waitlist



Course Selection/Enrolment

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



Waitlist

- For high demand courses
- Waitlist.Schulich.yorku.ca
- Notifications to Schulich email



Enrolment Once Courses Begin

- Waitlist assessed until...
 - MBA – first week of classes
 - BBA – second week
- Attend classes you are enrolled in
- Permission from Instructor

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PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA

Packing List

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](#)); driver's abstract/history
- ☐ Credit card(s) and Canadian dollars for immediate use upon arrival
- ☐ Power type A and B: Standard voltage is 120V, standard frequency is 60Hz <https://www.power-plugs-sockets.com/canada/>
- ☐ Unlocked phone
- ☐ Laptop
- ☐ Business attire for presentations and career events
- ☐ Weather appropriate clothing for the [season](#)
- ☐ [York U Campus Map](#)

* Pack items 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 TORONTO

Checklist

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

ARRIVAL IN TORONTO

Transferring from Pearson International 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 save 40% with 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



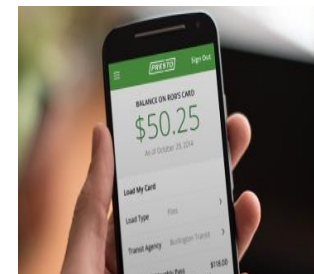
Tap your payment method on the card reader: \$3.35

- Pay TTC fare when transferring between systems and GO fare if using GO train or bus
- Hop on/off any direction for 2 hours (3 hours if using GO) without being charged again from the 1st time you tap on

[PRESTO](#) is accepted on all GTA transit systems

- Purchase a PRESTO card
 - [Online](#)
 - at a PRESTO vending machine (TTC subway stations)
 - at a [customer service outlet](#)
 - at Shopper's Drug Mart locations that sell PRESTO cards
- Cost: \$4 for card + \$0.05 minimum load/reload if purchased in person or \$5/\$10 minimum from a vending machine
 - [Load in advance](#) - may take up to 24 hours to reload on-line
 - Manage your card at [PRESTO](#) to add funds & passes and manage your profile
- Research [Post-Secondary Monthly Pass](#) on PRESTO to save money on each transportation system
- A PRESTO card provides access to "[PRESTO Perks](#)" - receive discounts to some attractions and events

PRESTO



ARRIVAL IN TORONTO

Shop for Food

Options Close to Campus



[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
- 670 Applewood Cres & Portage Pkwy, Vaughan

Options on Campus



[Grocery Checkout](#)

- York Lanes



[Shoppers Drug Mart](#)

- York Lanes
- Some non-perishable food items and snacks



- Many places for sit down/take out food on campus [On-Campus Dining Directory](#)

Grocery/Food Delivery



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.
- 670 Applewood Cres & Portage Pkwy, Vaughan



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 \$4

- Many locations in Toronto

Large Shopping Malls

Vaughan Mills

(YRT #20)

Toronto Eaton Centre

(Queen or Dundas TTC subway stations)

Yorkdale Shopping Centre

(Yorkdale TTC subway station)



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 U [Interactive Campus Map](#)

York Lanes

- Includes doctor, dentist, pharmacy, hair salon, places to eat, grocery shops, bookstore, public transit passes, 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

Emergency and York Security

- In life-threatening emergency call **911**; Free of charge from any phone
- On campus York Security at **+1-416-736-5333**, William Small Centre
- Download YorkU [SaferTogether 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

Introducing

Mobile YU-card

Your York University ID Card
is now on your phone!



Load money onto your YU-card

- Manage funds securely online with [eAccounts](#) or download the eAccounts Mobile App
- View balance, transaction history, deposit money or freeze your YU-card if misplaced



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](#).

[YU CARD WEBSITE](#)

STARTING AT SCHULICH

Orientation

Graduate Exchange Orientation: Friday, September 5, 2025

Undergraduate Exchange Orientation: Tuesday September 2, 2025

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

Visitor Information: www.toronto.ca/visitors/index.htm

Tourism: www.seetorontonow.com

Festivals & Events: www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/festivals-events/festivals-events-calendar/

Ontario

Moving to Ontario: www.ontarioimmigration.ca/

Tourism: www.ontariotravel.net/en/home

Festivals & Events: www.festivalsandeventsontario.ca/

Canada

Information: 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



Presto



Shopping
(find deals)

