Pre-Arrival Guide: International Students

Winter 2027

Schulich School of Business | YORK UNIVERSITÉ UNIVERSITY

Updated Sept. 2026

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, country you are coming from and the program you will be entering

Planning for Canada Overview

Pre-Arrival Checklist

- Immigration
- Visa and Work Authorization
- Accommodations
- University Health Insurance
- Connect with Other Students
- Packing List

Arrival in Toronto / at York U

- Transportation from airport
- Public Transportation
- York University Campus
- Shopping
- Orientation

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International Relations Office	Room W262, SSB
Virtual Office Hours:	Monday – Friday, 9AM – 4:30PM
Email:	intlrelations@schulich.yorku.ca
Website:	International Relations
Virtual Q&A Sessions	https://schulich.yorku.ca/international-relations-qa-webinars/

Webinar Guest: GBC team
Graduate Business Council (GBC), International Relations gbcinternational@schulich.yorku.ca

PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA

Pre-Arrival Checklist

- ❑ Immigration Documents
- ❑ Visa and Work Authorization
- ❑ Secure Accommodations
- ❑ Learn about University Health Insurance
- ❑ Connect with other Students
- ❑ Packing List

Please note: Immigration and border information is valid as Sept. 2026

PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA

Immigration Documents

International Degree-Seeking Students

- A study permit is required for all students completing a program longer than 6 months in Canada. **You should have already applied for your study permit.**
- If you are **OUTSIDE** of Canada:
  - ❑ Must apply for your study permit in sufficient time to receive approval before the start of classes; processing times may be lengthy
  - ❑ Review the application guide, supporting documents and processing times before applying
  - ❑ Drop in to a Q&A session, if you need additional support.
  - Depending on your country of citizenship, to enter Canada you will also require:
    - ❑ Temporary Resident Visa (TRV); or
    - ❑ Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA); or
    - ❑ US Passport
  - Letter of Introduction (study permit approval letter) will be sent by IRCC; you will need to show this letter at the border
  - Study permit will be issued at the border when you arrive
- If you are **INSIDE** Canada:
  - ❑ In most cases, you must have a valid study permit before starting your classes *(exemption for certain work permit holders)*
  - ❑ Apply to extend study permit, or change conditions (for work/visitor permit holders)

PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA

Visas and Work Authorization

Work Authorization

- Your study permit may authorize you to work in Canada. Authorization begins only after you start your classes in Canada
- More detailed information on work authorization and immigration status will be provided during the New to Canada orientation.

Accompanying Family Members

- Your children may be eligible to come with you to Canada.

Social Insurance Number (SIN)

- The SIN is a 9-digit number that you need to work in Canada and file your taxes. You can apply for a SIN with a valid study permit that states work authorization **(check this when they print your permit at the border)**
- **How to apply?**
  - You can apply:
    - At Schulich during New to Canada
    - in person or online (*from within Canada)*
    - At Pearson airport upon arrival, if Service Canada kiosk is open *(in baggage area)*

PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA

Accommodation

It is your responsibility to secure accommodations in Toronto. Consider the type of accommodation that is best for you by researching costs, location, etc.

On-Campus Housing – York Apartments

- Housing for graduate students and families
- Lease-based occupancy
- Furnished and unfurnished apartments - you will need to obtain your own bedding, small kitchen appliances and other items
- York Apartments website
- Offers will be rolled out as units become available

PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA

Accommodation

Off-Campus Housing

- There are many options to search for off-campus housing, including:
  - York University Off-Campus Housing Service
  - The Quad - off-campus student residence within 2 min walk to Schulich
  - Places4Students- Off-Campus Housing Website
  - Use your network-GBC Housing Group Chat: https://chat.whatsapp.com/J8Olcrh5zq38fwV0LTInri

Executive Learning Centre Hotel
Schulich School of Business
Short-term/long-term stays available
Discounted rate for international students
reservations@Schulich.yorku.ca ; 416-650-8300

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*

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.
- UHIP does not cover medications, routine dental care, etc *(supplemental insurance recommended)*
- Students will be automatically registered and charged; check your student account
- The approximate cost is $632 (Jan. 2027– Aug 31st,2027)* ； $79.00 per month
- Your coverage will begin on 10th day of the month prior to your program start (i.e.: Dec. 10th); if arriving earlier, ensure you have your own private insurance.
- For more information visit the UHIP website and the York University UHIP website

Graduate Student Association (GSA) Supplemental Health Insurance

- All full-time students will be automatically registered and charged; Enrollment is for 1 year (Sept 2026 – August 2027)
- Coverage includes items such as prescription drugs, paramedical services, dental benefits, etc.
- The approximate cost is $410 from Jan. 1st – Aug 31st*. Billed to your student account.
- If you have **dependents** in Canada, register them through Green Shield Canada
- For more information, including plan options, please visit the GSA website

** Fees are subject to change*

PREPARING TO ARRIVE IN CANADA

Connect

The Graduate Business Council

The Graduate Business Council (GBC) is the Schulich student representative council for all master's level graduate students. Each term the GBC organizes events and initiatives which help to engage students with the larger student body. Aside from social and athletic activities, the GBC serves as the student body's voice to the faculty and administration. Check out the GBC's programming for international students:

Website: GBC Website Instagram: @GBCSchulich

Reach out for support: GBCInternational@schulich.yorku.ca

Student Clubs and Associations

Get involved with one of Schulich's many clubs and associations. From the Case Analysis Club to the Schulich Net Impact Association there is a group for every interest. Visit the GBC website for more details: Schulich Clubs and Associations

New to Schulich Website

Stay connected and up-to-date. The New to Schulich website has a number of resources to help you along the way.

Schulich GradBlog, Instagram & Twitter

Follow the Schulich GradBlog and @SchulichSchool for Schulich stories, news and reminders.

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 letter from visa office*
- ☐ Your Schulich Letter of Acceptance (*printed copy acceptable*)*
- ☐ Proof of funds*
- ☐ Ensure your immigration medical exam is still valid
- ☐ 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

Arrival Checklist

- ❑ Transfer from the airport and check into your accommodation
- ❑ Learn how to use Public Transportation
- ❑ Orient yourself with the York campus
- ❑ Shop Online, for Food and Living Essentials
- ❑ Attend Orientation
- ❑ Student & Enrolment Services and Financial Aid
- ❑ Explore!

ARRIVAL IN TORONTO

Transportation 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 **$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 in the GTA

Toronto Transit Commission (TTC)

- Serves City of Toronto
- Can tap multiple times in 2-hr window for one fare
- Closest stop: York University station
- For more information, visit: TTC website

York Region Transit (VIVA/YRT)

- Serves areas north of York University (York Region)
- Closest stop: Pioneer Village TTC station
- For more information, visit: YRT website

Mississauga Transit - MiWay

- Serves Mississauga region
- Closest stop: Islington TTC station
- For more information: visit: MiWay website

Consider a PRESTO Card for student discount and other perks.

GO Transit

- 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

Brampton Transit (ZÜM)

- Serves Brampton region
- Closest stop: 5 min walk north of Schulich on Ian McDonald Blvd
- For more information, visit: ZÜM website

Note: Fares vary across transportation systems (usually approx. $3.30-$4.00/ride) and can be paid by cash or by tapping debit/credit card/PRESO card. Cash fares are usually slightly more expensive. OneFare Program in effect for most GTA transportation systems.

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

- **On Campus Bank Branches:**
  - Bank of Montreal (BMO): York Lanes
  - Royal Bank (RBC): 95 The Pond Rd
  - Alterna Savings: York Lanes

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 Safety App

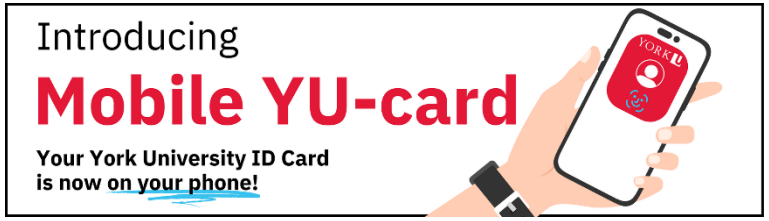
ARRIVAL AT YORK UNIVERSITY

Know your Campus

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

YU CARD WEBSITE



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.

STARTING AT SCHULICH

New to Canada Orientation

The New to Canada Orientation is part of your Ineo Orientation and provides important information to help you successfully transition to Schulich as an international student. It's also an opportunity for you to get to know the International Relations team and connect with other Schulich students.

During orientation, we will cover:

- Canadian culture, inside and outside the classroom
- Important immigration information
- International student experience, with "pro tips" from current international students
- Resources and support for international students
- Getting to know each other
- And more....

Date: Thursday, Jan. 7

***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**.

SCHULICH STUDENT SERVICE OFFICES

Student & Enrolment Services and Financial Aid

Student & Enrolment Services provides support to students such as academic advising, registration & enrolment support, letters, etc.

NOTES:

- Attend a **Mandatory Smart Start Session** or Prep Courses, if required
- Complete Academic Integrity Modules
- Book orientation to receive enrollment details
- Student Accounts:
  - Access @ York Student Financial Services
  - Includes tuition, UHIP/GSA, on-campus rent
  - Tuition payments due: Sept 10th, Jan 10th, May 10th for the respective term

Contact:

Student & Enrolment Services
Email: studentservices@schulich.yorku.ca
New to Schulich website

Financial Aid helps students with funding options such as scholarships, bursaries, loans and awards

NOTES:

- Entrance funding automatically assessed for international students at admission
- Encouraged to explore external loan and funding providers

Contact:

Financial Aid
Email: finaid@Schulich.yorku.ca
Financial Aid website

ARRIVAL IN TORONTO

Shop for Living Essentials

Regardless of where you choose to stay, you will need to purchase living essentials like pillows, blankets, dishes, etc.

Stores 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
(TTC Queen or Dundas Subway Stations)

Yorkdale Shopping Centre
(TTC Yorkdale Subway Station)

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

T&T Supermarket
- The Promenade, 1 Promenade Cir, Thornhill

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 the York University campus

On-Campus Dining Directory

ARRIVAL IN TORONTO

Shop Online

There are a number of online delivery services available. Connect with your buddy for insider tips on best online shopping in Toronto

Grocery Delivery

Cornershop by Uber

grocerygateway.com

instacart

voilà by Sobeys

FRESH CITY FARMS

Restaurant / Fast Food Delivery

Uber Eats

SKIP THE DISHES

DOORDASH

Essential/ Home Items Delivery

Well.ca Wellness Delivered

amazon.ca

CANADIAN TIRE

Walmart Save money. Live better.

IKEA

DOLLARAMA $1

STAPLES

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/

Toronto Travel Guide

Ontario

- Moving to Ontario: www.ontarioimmigration.ca/
- Tourism: www.ontariotravel.net/en/home
- Festivals & Events: www.festivalsandeventsontario.ca/

Weekly Events in Toronto

Festivals & Events Ontario

Canada

- Information: www.canada.gc.ca

Travel to the USA

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

Q&A

Attend our Study Permit webinar, Q&A Sessions and 1:1 Advising for support :

https://schulich.yorku.ca/international-relations-webinar-calendar/

Email:

intlrelations@schulich.yorku.ca

Academic/Enrollment questions?

studentservices@schulich.yorku.ca

Financial Aid questions?

finaid@schulich.yorku.ca