

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDY

PLEASE NOTE:

This document serves as a **guide** to student visa resources and information. We make no warranty or representation in relation to extent, content, and/or accuracy of information provided. For further information, inquiries, and updates, it is **strongly recommended** that students should **consult the relevant consular and immigration authorities** and confirm visa requirements as they apply to their own unique situation. Western International does not assist with specifics on these matters.

All information provided in this document is **exclusively** for **Canadian citizens not holding dual citizenship with the destination country** who are at least **18 years old**, seeking a visa for **study purposes only** and is not applicable for work abroad purposes.

- Canadian **permanent residents (PRs)**:
 - Some countries may have the same requirements as Canadian citizens
 - However, many may have different requirements based on the country that issues your passport (ie. the country of your citizenship)
- Canadian citizens holding **dual citizenship with destination country**:
 - Inquire further with nearest consular authority of destination country for visas requirements required for dual citizens
- Canadian citizens **17 years old or younger** at the time of application:
 - Type of visa and/or application process may differ; inquire further with nearest consular authority of destination country

This document does **not** include complete **requirements, timelines, or costs** for the visa you may need.

Expected Fees

Our recommended budget is **\$100-800 CAD** for estimated **consular, processing, and services fees** for visa applications. The visa you need may cost more or less than this estimate at the time of application; check linked resources for further information.

Application Processing and Timing

Depending on the destination country, you may need to **travel** to your **nearest consular authority or visa processing center** to submit or supplement an application **in-person**. You may also need to pick up the issued visa in-person at that location – in that case, factor in **additional time and financial costs** for any travel or steps required.

We recommend starting your visa application process at least **4 months in advance** of your **departure date**. It may take time for you to gather documents and/or information. Final steps may be getting documents of confirmation from your host university, the address you'll be staying at in the destination country, bank statements confirming sufficient funds from you and/or sponsor, etc.

Do not leave this to the last minute!

Europe				
Country	Short-Stay (Typically Up to 90 days)	Long-Stay (Typically Over 90 Days)	Estimated Processing Time	For more information:
Austria	Schengen Area (see notes below this table)	Visa D	2-4 weeks	Honorargeneralkonsulat (Toronto) , OeAD , Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation
Belgium	Schengen Area	Long Stay Visa (D-Visa)	3 weeks	Consulate General of Belgium in Montreal
Denmark		Residence Permit	2 months	Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration (SIRI)
Finland		Residence Permit	1-2 months	Finnish Immigration Service , VFS Global (Toronto)
France		Long-Stay Visa	30 days	VFS Global (Toronto)
Germany		National Visa + Student Residence Permit	6-8 weeks	German Consulate General in Toronto
Luxembourg		Residence permit for Students from Third Countries	1-3 months	Consulate General of Belgium in Montreal (<90 days) ; Embassy of Luxembourg in Washington (>90 days)
Netherlands		Student Residence Permit	2 months	Consulate-General of the Netherlands in Toronto
Norway		Study Permit (can travel to Norway before application decided)	15 days	VFS Global (Toronto) , Royal Norwegian Consulate General in New York
Romania		No visa required (≤ 90 days)	Long-Stay Visa (D/SD)	14 days
Spain	Schengen Area	Study Visa	30 days	Consulate General of Spain in Toronto
Sweden		Resident Permit	1-2 months	Swedish Embassy in Ottawa
Switzerland		National Visa	8-15 weeks	Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal
United Kingdom	No visa required (≤ 6 months)	Student Visa	3 weeks	UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI)

***Schengen Area:**

Schengen Area refers to European Union (EU) passport-free zone covering most (26) European countries without border controls between them (“Schengen States”).

- **Short Term Stays** (up to 90 days in any 180 day period)
 - Visa or residence permit **NOT** required
- **Long Term Stays** (over 90 days):
 - Visa or residence permit **Required**
 - Confirm appropriate visa or residence permit of intended country and obtain **BEFORE** departure. If visa not obtained and your stay exceeds 90 days, you may be **fined or deported**

More about **Schengen**: [Schengen Area – Government of Canada](#); [Schengen Visa – European Commission](#)

Americas				
Country	Short-Stay (Typically Up to 90 days)	Long-Stay (Typically Over 90 Days)	Estimated Processing Time	For more information:
Barbados	No visa required (≤ 6 months)	Student Visa	10 days	Consulate General of Barbados at Toronto
Brazil	No visa required (≤ 90 days)	Student Visa (VITEM IV)	5 days	Consulate General of Brazil in Toronto
Colombia	No visa required (≤ 90 days)	Inquire about student visa requirements at nearest consular authority	Inquire at nearest consular authority	Consulate General of Colombia in Toronto
Costa Rica	No visa required (≤ 90 days)	Provisional student visa	30 days	Consulate General of Costa Rica in Toronto
Cuba	Request student visa (D-2) information from nearest consular authority		Inquire at nearest consular authority	Consulate General of Cuba in Canada
Ecuador	No visa required (≤ 90 days)	Inquire about student visa requirements at nearest consular authority	Inquire at nearest consular authority	Consular Offices of Ecuador in Toronto, Embassy of the Republic of Ecuador
Jamaica	Student Visa		10-14 days	Consulate General of Jamaica in Toronto
Mexico	No visa required (≤ 180 days)	Student Temporary Resident Visa (>180 days)	1-4 weeks	Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto
Trinidad and Tobago	No visa required (≤ 90 days)	Inquire about Student Permit requirements at nearest consular authority	10 days	Immigration Division, Consulate General of Trinidad & Tobago in Toronto
United States of America	For exchange program participants, no visa required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ I-20 (/DS-2019) Certificate of Eligibility, SEVIS registration + fee paid, additional documents needed at port of entry – more information 			U.S. Consulate General Toronto

Asia and Oceania				
Country	Short-Stay (Typically Up to 90 days)	Long-Stay (Typically Over 90 Days)	Estimated Processing Time	For more information:
Australia	Student Visa (subclass 500)		14 days (varies)	Australian Consulate-General in Toronto
China	(X2) Study Visa (≤ 180 days)	(X1) Study Visa (> 180 days)	4-14 days	Chinese Visa Application Service Center (Toronto)
Hong Kong	Student e-Visa		6 weeks	Hong Kong Immigration Department
Indonesia	Visa on Arrival (VoA) (≤ 30-60 days)	Limited Stay Visa (Temporary Stay Visa (VITAS))	4-5 days	Indonesian Consulate General in Toronto
Israel	No visa required (≤ 90 days)	A/2 Student Visa	7 days	Consulate General of Israel in Toronto
Japan	No visa required (≤ 90 days)	Student Visa	5-6 days	Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto
South Korea	D-2-8 Short term study visa (≤ 90 days)	Study Visa for Attending Regular School (D-2) (> 90 days)	12-15 days	Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Toronto
New Zealand	NZeTa (New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority) (≤ 90 days)	Exchange Student Visa	16 days	Honorary Consul of New Zealand in Toronto
Singapore	No visa required (≤ 30 days), SG Arrival Card	Student's Pass (>30 days) + SG Arrival Card	1-2 weeks	Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Africa				
Country	Short-Stay (Typically Up to 90 days)	Long-Stay (Typically Over 90 Days)	Estimated Processing Time	For more information:
Rwanda	Visa on arrival (≤ 30 days)	Extend before entry visa expires at Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration, Kacyiru, Kigali (> 30 days)	10 days	Rwanda Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration
Tanzania	Ordinary (Single Entry) Visa	Student Visa	10 days	High Commission of the United Republic of Tanzania (Ottawa)
Uganda	Student Pass		3 days	Directorate of Immigration and Citizenship Control