



EXCHANGE PROGRAM



EXCHANGE FACT SHEET

2024-2025

Information for Exchange Partners & Prospective Inbound Students

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COVID-19 UPDATES

We are excited to welcome back inbound Exchange students for in-person study in 2023/24.

① Review our [COVID-19: Updates and Information](#) page for delivery decisions and the [COVID Updates for International Students](#) page for resources related to travel to Canada.

DATES & DEADLINES

Nominations are accepted by email from VIU exchange partner institutions November—March. Please include student name, email, program area, exchange period & duration (1-2 semesters).

Deadlines for Partner Nominations:	March 15th for the following Fall & Spring semesters.
Deadline for Student Applications:	March 31st for the following Fall & Spring semesters.

Late nominations for Spring semester may be accepted depending on program and course availability.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
International Orientation	TBC	TBC
First Day of Classes	TBC	TBC
Last Day of Classes	TBC	TBC
Exam Period	TBC	TBC

VIU Schedule of Dates: <https://www.viu.ca/registration/dates-and-deadlines>

There are no academic classes for exchange students during summer semester (May—August).

FACT SHEET—For Inbound Exchange

PROGRAMS & COURSES—Undergraduate Studies

VIU offers exchange options for Bachelor/Undergraduate programs only. Masters/Graduate & the English Language Centre programs are excluded. If the program you are interested in is not listed, contact edabroad@viu.ca to inquire.

Open Academic Programs

Registration for these courses is open to all students but classes will fill quickly.

Management	Business (Accounting, Economics, Financial Services, Human Resource Management, International Business, Management & Marketing)
Arts & Humanity	English, Literature, History, Media Studies, Indigenous Studies, French, Spanish, Japanese
Social Sciences	Anthropology, Geography, Global Studies, Liberal Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, Psychology
Science & Technology	Math, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, 1 year of Physics/Engineering, Astronomy, Biology

Open “Limited Entry” Programs

Course seats are reserved for cohorts. If space is available, exchange students may register in these classes.

Management	Tourism Management, Recreation & Sport Management, Hospitality Management
Arts & Humanities	Graphic Design, Visual Arts, Interior Design, Jazz, Theatre
Social Sciences	Criminology
Education	Physical Education, Education (EDTE courses—spring semester suggested)
Human Services	Child & Youth Care, Early Childhood Education, Social Services
Science & Technology	Computer Science, Fisheries & Aquaculture, Forestry, Resource Management

ADMISSIONS - HOW TO APPLY

Once nominated, apply online: <https://apply.educationplannerbc.ca/>

Tips: under ‘Immigration Status in Canada’, select ‘Non-Canadian, No Visa Status (student is studying outside Canada)”; under ‘Student Type’, select ‘Short-term exchange or visiting student (e.g. 1 or 2 semesters) from a VIU partner university’; then select the closest program to your area of study at your home university.

Application fee: Exchange students do not pay the \$150 application fee. You must enter your individual [Application Fee Waiver Code](#) (sent in your welcome email from VIU’s Education Abroad office).

Supporting documents to submit at time of application:

1. University transcripts (do not provide your high school transcripts)
2. Copy of the photo page of your passport
3. Proof of English language proficiency*
4. Certified English translation of any documents issued in a language other than English

* **Proof of English language proficiency** is required from applicants for whom English is not their first language or from those whose education was completed in any country where English is not the official language. Minimum score requirements:

IELTS 6.5 (with no band under 6.0)

DAAD (CEF B2 or equivalent)

TOEFL IBT 88 (with no section under 20)

We strongly advise prospective Exchange students to submit proof of English proficiency results *at the time of application*. In the absence of these results, you may only receive a conditional acceptance. Full acceptance is subject to submission of English proficiency results at least *two months* prior to the commencement of your study period. Without timely demonstration that you meet VIU’s required English proficiency benchmark, your acceptance will be revoked. For a full list of tests to demonstrate English language proficiency, visit <https://international.viu.ca/admissions>.

IMMIGRATION/VISA STATUS IN CANADA

Non-Canadian, No Visa Status (student is studying outside Canada) x | v

STUDENT TYPE

PLEASE CHOOSE THE CATEGORY THAT BEST DESCRIBES YOU. (Optional)

Short-term exchange or visiting student (e.g. 1 or 2 semesters) from a VIU partner university x | v

Application Fee

An application fee is required for each submitted application.

To change your application after it is submitted, please contact the Admissions department at Vancouver Island University.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

I will pay by credit card when submitting my application.

I have an approved application fee waiver.

(Not Specified)

ENTER WAIVER CODE HERE:

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FACT SHEET—For Inbound Exchange

REGISTRATION - HOW TO ENROL IN COURSES

Course registration for Fall & Spring semesters takes place in May and courses fill quickly so prompt action is key to secure seats.

Accepted students will receive their individual registration date and instructions by email. Plan your course registrations in advance using the VIU Timetable system. Visit <https://international.viu.ca/course-registration> for more information and for an online tutorial.

If you'd like further advice on course registration, please book an appointment with an International Advisor here: <https://appt.link/international-advising>

PREREQUISITES

Students must demonstrate that they hold the necessary prerequisites for their prospective courses at VIU. In addition to official transcripts, VIU may request additional documentation such as course descriptions or syllabi to confirm prerequisites are met.

VIU English & Literature Courses:

Students who come from countries where the language of instruction is not in English may take ENGL 115, 125 or 135 during their first semester of study, and ENGL 115, 125, 135, 204 or 207 during their second semester of study.

ACADEMIC COURSE LOAD

Course delivery generally includes a combination of assignments, group activities, project work, midterms and exams throughout the semester.

Minimum: 3 courses (9 credits)

Maximum: 5 courses (15 credits)

Full course load: 5 courses (15 credits)

If registered in more credits/courses, the applicable international tuition & fees will apply and the student will be responsible for completing payment by the appropriate deadline or may be subject to late fee charges (see <https://international.viu.ca/fees>).

COURSE FEES

Exchange programs are run on a reciprocal basis and students pay tuition fees to their home institutions. The application fee, tuition fees, student society and activity fees are waived for exchange students. Students are responsible for all other costs (housing, books, transportation, medical insurance, study permit if required, etc).

MANDATORY MEDICAL INSURANCE

Students are required to have adequate insurance while studying in Canada and inbound exchange students are **automatically enrolled in a Guard.Me plan for their duration of study**, as they are ineligible for medical insurance through the VIU Student Union (VIUSU). Exceptions may be made for virtual exchange where the student does not travel to Canada. **The approximate cost is \$249.50 per semester (4 months' coverage).**

Studying at VIU for 2 semesters: Exchange students are unable to opt-out of Guard.Me, even if they attend VIU for more longer than 3 months, as they will not meet the 6 month BC residency requirement to be eligible for a provincial medical services plan until mid way through their second semester of Guard.Me coverage — see [Eligibility for MSP - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/insurance/eligibility-for-msp-province-of-british-columbia).

Please note: **VIU will verify that insurance has been paid for PRIOR to arrival** and could impose cancellation/withdrawal from the Exchange program and any VIU courses if payment is not received in advance.

LIVING EXPENSES

General living expenses can be **\$1,000—\$1,500 CAD per month depending** on lifestyle and accommodations. Use the cost calculator to get an estimate, including books, transit, housing, food, etc. Note: Tuition, activity fees, and student union fees do not apply to exchange students but will appear in the estimate.

VIU Cost Calculator: <https://international.viu.ca/cost-calculator> for more information.

FACT SHEET—For Inbound Exchange

TRAVELING TO NANAIMO

Nanaimo is located on Vancouver Island in British Columbia (BC), Canada. Review these travel tips that explain travel by airplane or ferry: <https://international.viu.ca/your-arrival>. Students should plan to arrive in time to attend the [International Student Orientation](#).

Air Travel: Can be arranged directly to the Nanaimo airport (YCD)

Ferry: There are two ferry routes from Vancouver (www.bcferries.com)
Horseshoe Bay to Departure Bay (RECOMMENDED for transit availability)
Tsawwassen to Duke Point

Pick Up: There is no airport pick up for students staying in on-campus residences or off-campus.

ACCOMMODATION

The housing market is competitive and short-term rentals may be difficult to secure. Please see our housing resources for international students: <https://international.viu.ca/housing> for more information.

VIU STUDENT LIFE

Extensive social and recreation programs and facilities are also available, allowing students to explore the unique region through field trips, tours, activities and intramurals. Students can register prior to arrival. Fees apply.

Student Activities: <https://international.viu.ca/student-life-and-activities>

Campus Recreation: <https://viu.ca/campusrec>

VIU Students' Union Clubs & Events: www.viusu.ca

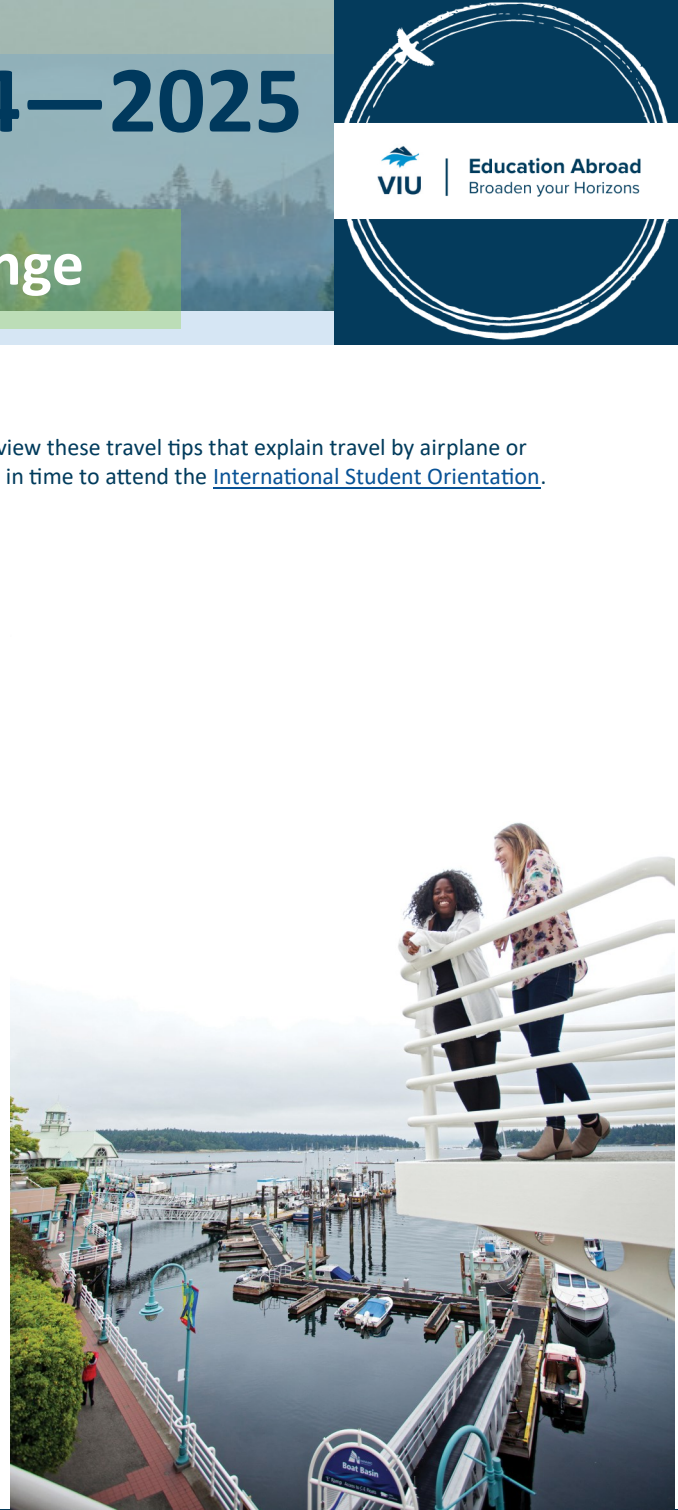
STUDENT SERVICES & SUPPORTS

VIU is committed to the success and wellbeing of all students, as demonstrated through the wide array of services available such as advising, counseling, disability services, health & wellness centre, gym facilities & weight room, outdoor recreation and services for aboriginal students. Please see our online information for details.

Student Affairs: <https://services.viu.ca/student-affairs>

Support Services: <https://international.viu.ca/student-support>

Academic Success: <https://international.viu.ca/academic-success>



Education
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Broaden your
HORIZONS

