New International Student Information Session: Finding Off-Campus Accommodation

Session Etiquette

• Please stay on mute
• Please use the chat box to ask questions and presenter can address questions throughout and at the end. Please do not answer other students’ questions in the chat box.
• If you have a question that the presenter does not answer, email international.advice@ucalgary.ca.
• Please participate. There will be a few polls throughout. Your participation helps confirm that we are not experiencing technical difficulties.
• Note: This session will be recorded.
New International Student Information Session:

Finding Off-Campus Accommodation

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Welcome Centre Student Advisor
Kirsty Gruber, Advisor, International Student Transition Support

International Student Services

• Drop-in (& remote) advising to assist with getting settled in Calgary
• Coordinate International Student Mentorship Program
• Coordinate Orientation events for international students

• Kirsty.gruber@ucalgary.ca
• International.advice@ucalgary.ca
Session Agenda

• Covid-19 resources
• Self-Isolation for accommodation
• Avoiding rental scams
• Accommodation
  • Searching for accommodation
  • How to choose an accommodation
  • Expected expenses
  • Rental agreement
  • Renter rights and responsibilities
• Questions
Website Resources

• ISS website > Resources >
  ➢ https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/iss/covid-19-faqs
  ➢ https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/iss/resources/self-isolation-supports-international-students
  ➢ Banking: https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/iss/resources/banking
  ➢ Housing: https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/iss/resources/housing

• Welcome Centre website:
  ➢ https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/welcome-centre/your-first-week
Self-Isolation (Quarantine) Plan
-before you arrive

• Legally required to have a plan for where you will self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival at final destination in Canada
  • You can be fined if you do not complete your full self-isolation period
  • While in isolation after travelling, if you become sick with cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat during this time, you must isolate for an additional 10 days from the beginning of symptoms or until you are feeling well, whichever takes longer.
Self-Isolation (Quarantine) Plan
-before you arrive

Self-Isolation Requirements

• Review these important websites before you plan your travel for up-to-date requirements:
  • Government of Alberta Isolation Requirements: https://www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx
  • Alberta Health Services Isolation Information: https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16997.aspx#trav
    • Symptoms to watch for
    • Guidelines for isolation and general well-being during Covid-19
    • Testing and non-emergency information
Self-Isolation (Quarantine) Plan - before you arrive

Contacts to know:

- **Healthlink: 811**
  - 24 hour free phone line for non-emergency health concerns
  - Speak with a registered nurse
  - Service available in multiple languages

- **SU Wellness Services:** learn about services [ucalgary.ca/wellness-services](ucalgary.ca/wellness-services)

- **Emergency: 911**
  - Fire, Ambulance, & Police
Self-Isolation (Quarantine) Plan
-before you arrive

• Self-isolation supports for international students
  website: ucalgary.ca/student-services/iss/resources/self-isolation-supports-international-students
  • How do I plan for self-isolation?
  • What are the requirements?
  • What are my accommodation options?
  • How can I best prepare?
  • How do I travel to my self-isolation accommodation?
Self-Isolation (Quarantine) Plan
-before you arrive

Self-Isolation Accommodation Options:

• If you have a guaranteed spot in on-campus residence, visit the Residence Services website: https://www.ucalgary.ca/ancillary/residence

• If you’re planning to live off-campus, you must arrange short term accommodation to meet any isolation requirements.
  • UCalgary has arranged some budget-friendly options with local hotels, that include different grocery, food, and/or in-room cooking options: https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/iss/resources/housing

• You must make these arrangements before you travel
Settlement Tasks

Finding long-term housing:

• While in self-isolation, start your online search for a long-term off-campus accommodation (if needed).
• You can use this time to research what’s available and possibly schedule viewings for once you are done your self-isolation time.
• Do not rent accommodation without first viewing it and talking to the landlord/other roommates.
• [https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/iss/resources/housing](https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/iss/resources/housing)
Avoiding Rental Scams

- View spaces in-person, meet landlord and roommates
- Keep your personal information and documents safe
  - Only share SIN when required
  - Credit or banking information
  - Use caution before clicking links in texts or emails
- Protect Yourself
  - Don’t answer calls from numbers you don’t recognize
  - Hang up—block phone numbers
  - Research a potential rental property or job opportunity

If you are uncertain please speak to ISS before taking any action or sharing any information
What tools do you use to find housing?

- Online websites/ Apps – the following websites have rental listing:
  - RentFaster.ca
  - RentSeeker.ca
  - RentSpot
  - Point2 Homes

- Ucalgary Student Union Off-campus Housing list: [www.places4students.com](http://www.places4students.com)

- Other resources – Facebook Marketplace & WhatsApp groups. But use your caution!
What should I consider when choosing a neighbourhood or rental accommodation?

- Budget
- Proximity to university and/or work
- Access to transportation facilities and essential services (grocery, hospital)
- Facilities available – Laundry, gym
- Parking
- Proximity to neighborhood schools (if you have minor children)
What is an average cost? What are some expenses to plan for?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apartment type</th>
<th>Average rent</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apartment (1 bedroom) in City Centre</td>
<td>1,206.10 C$</td>
<td>1,000.00-1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apartment (1 bedroom) Outside of Centre</td>
<td>982.27 C$</td>
<td>800.00-1,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apartment (3 bedrooms) in City Centre</td>
<td>2,047.16 C$</td>
<td>1,700.00-2,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apartment (3 bedrooms) Outside of Centre</td>
<td>1,585.96 C$</td>
<td>1,350.00-2,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**UCalgary cost calculators:**
- Undergraduate Cost Calculator: [https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/cost-estimator](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/cost-estimator)
- Graduate Student’s Cost Calculator: [https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/costoflivingcalculator/](https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/costoflivingcalculator/)
What is a lease? What are things to look for?

"A lease is a **contract** between a **landlord** and a **tenant** (or tenants) that sets out the rules both parties will follow. Leases are also known as residential **tenancy** agreements or rental contracts." -

[https://www.landlordandtenant.org/](https://www.landlordandtenant.org/)

Types of leases: Periodic and fixed term

- Essential details – Check Address, rental amount and due date, rental term, notice period
- Renewal policy
- Utilities and facilities
- Security deposit
- Responsibilities such as snow removal
- Sublet policy
What’s the difference between a shared accommodation and having a landlord?

The *Residential Tenancies Act* does not address the rights and responsibilities for tenants in shared accommodation.

A roommate agreement might include things like:

- how rent is to be split and paid to the landlord;
- how bills will be split;
- how the rental property will be shared;
- when notice to move out must be given to the other roommate(s);
- how the security deposit will be handled if one roommate leaves; and
- how chores will be split in the rental property.

Source: [https://www.landlordandtenant.org/roommates-and-subletting/](https://www.landlordandtenant.org/roommates-and-subletting/)
What questions should I ask before renting?

- Any major repairs done in the past year or anticipated in the upcoming year?
- Who will be responsible for repairs?
- Whether minor repairs be done before you move in?
- Is laundry service available?
- Internet services available or is there a provision to get connection?
- Had there been any recent break-ins?
- Are pets allowed?
- Can I sublet my apartment?

What supports are available to help understand about renter rights/responsibilities?

Some useful resources to get insight on rights and responsibilities:

• [https://www.landlordandtenant.org/](https://www.landlordandtenant.org/)


• Student Legal Assistance (UCalgary): [http://slacalgary.com/](http://slacalgary.com/)
Welcome Centre

Student Staff advisors provide support to new-to-Calgary students related to their transition to Calgary as well as life on- and off-campus

- welcome@ucalgary.ca
- www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/welcome-centre

UCalgary Welcome Centre is now open on all weekdays from 9:30 AM to 4 PM (MST) until September 4th.
Welcome Centre Student Staff

Caleb

Victoria

Raisa

Zareena
Other Ways to help make your adjustment to UCalgary studies as smooth as possible:

- ISS Immigration & Resources, the New International Student Checklist
- Attend other New International Student Information Series Sessions (See next slide)
- Visit the Welcome Centre!
- Review the International Student Orientation Module information online! Includes short videos and advice from staff across campus specific for you.
- Attend the live panels for international students (and submit your questions in advance):
  - Undergrad/exchange students: Sept 1. 9:30 a.m. MDT (Calgary time)
  - Grad students: Sept 2. 9:30 a.m. MDT (Calgary time)
- Attend campus-wide orientation events remotely Sept 2-4
- Learn more at: https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/iss/resources/international-student-orientation
Other Upcoming Sessions & Events:

• **Healthcare & Insurance in Alberta**: Thursday, August 27 (11 am MDT) & Tuesday, Sept 15 (11 am MDT)

• *Learn more or register at*
  https://events.ucalgary.ca/international-student-services/
Connecting with ISS

• Remotely:
  • Monday-Friday, 9:00-12:00 pm & 1-4:00 pm MDT (Calgary time)
  • No appointment necessary
• E-mail: international.advice@ucalgary.ca
• Immigration E-mail: issimmigration@ucalgary.ca
• Website: www.ucalgary.ca/iss
• ISS COVID FAQ: https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/iss/covid-19-faqs
• Newsletter: weekly updates www.ucalgary.ca/iss
• Events calendar: https://events.ucalgary.ca/international-student-services/
• Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/UCalgaryISS/
• Instagram: @ucalgaryiss
Questions?

*Please type them in the chat box.*
Thank you
international.advice@ucalgary.ca
welcome@ucalgary.ca