



HERITAGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Pre-Arrival Orientation Guide (Detailed)

1. Preparing for Study in Canada

Pre-arrival planning reduces stress and helps you start your program smoothly. Before you travel, you should confirm your documents, plan your housing, arrange health insurance, and prepare a budget.

A successful start usually requires:

- Correct immigration documents
- A realistic living budget
- A safe place to stay
- A plan for health coverage
- A plan for transportation from the airport and your first week in Canada

2. Immigration & Study Permit Responsibilities

2.1 Confirm your study permit documentation: International students must have a valid study permit (or the correct entry approval for your situation). You should check:

- Your legal name matches your passport
- Dates are correct
- HCC is clearly connected to your documentation (where applicable)

2.2 Carry essential documents when you travel: Bring printed and digital copies of:

- Passport (valid for your travel and intended stay)
- Visa or eTA (if required)
- Letter of Acceptance (LOA)
- Proof of tuition payment and/or fee receipts
- Proof of funds for living expenses (as required)
- Address/phone contact information for your accommodation

2.3 Understand your responsibility to maintain status: It is your responsibility to follow immigration conditions. This includes:

- Studying as required
- Following work rules (if you are allowed to work)
- Keeping your documents valid and renewing on time

If you are unsure about a condition on your permit, ask for guidance before you work or change your study pattern.



HERITAGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

3. Health Insurance Planning

3.1 Why health insurance matters: Medical care in Canada can be expensive without insurance. Even a short clinic visit or emergency treatment can cost a lot.

3.2 Before you arrive: Students should arrange temporary private health insurance that begins on (or before) the day you arrive.

3.3 After you arrive: Depending on eligibility rules, you may be able to apply for BC Medical Services Plan (MSP). Some students may have waiting periods or specific requirements.

3.4 What to prepare:

- Keep your insurance information accessible
- Know what services are covered (doctor visits, prescriptions, emergency care)
- Know how to make a claim or contact the insurer

4. Housing & Accommodation Preparation

4.1 Choose safe and realistic housing

Common options include:

- Short-term rentals for the first 1–4 weeks
- Shared housing (room rental)
- Private rental unit

4.2 Understand basic rental expectations

In British Columbia, many rentals require:

- A written agreement
- A security deposit
- Monthly rent payments on time

4.3 Avoid scams

Be cautious if:

- The “landlord” asks for money before showing the place
- The deal looks too cheap compared to market prices
- You are pressured to pay immediately

Always keep receipts and written communication.

5. Financial & Travel Preparation

5.1 Build a realistic budget

Plan for:

- Tuition and school fees
- Rent and utilities
- Food and groceries
- Transportation



HERITAGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Phone/internet
- Health insurance
- Winter clothing and personal items

5.2 Arriving in Canada

Plan:

- Airport arrival time and pick-up/transportation
- The address where you will stay
- How you will access food and essentials in the first 48 hours

5.3 Packing and customs

Review customs rules and avoid bringing restricted items. Keep key documents in your carry-on bag.