Studying in Canada, at Queen’s, and in Kingston

Justin Kerr
(International Student Adviser)
with a welcome from: Dr. Kim McAuley
(Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies)
Topics that will be covered

• Canadian immigration documents and what they allow you to do
  • Visas
  • Permits
• Arriving in Canada – What to expect
• Getting to know Kingston
• Where to stay
• Orientation programming
  • Supports for international students
  • Information for students with accompanying family members
Immigration documents

• Temporary Resident Visa (TRV)
  Sometimes known as *visitor visa* or *entry visa*
Immigration documents

• Study Permit
Applying for immigration documents

• We are assuming that you have already applied for your study permit since processing times for most applicants do not allow enough time before the start of your program.

• Only citizens of the United States can apply for their study permit upon entry into Canada.
Arriving in Canada

- You should be prepared upon your arrival with copies of the supporting documents you used for your study permit application (like the offer of admission and proof of funds), along with the “Letter of Introduction”.

- If you are sending personal items separately, you should also have a list of them. Ask the Border Services Officer to stamp the list, if possible.

  » This is to ensure you are not charged duties on the value of your own items.

quic.queensu.ca/international/arrival
Arriving in Canada

• Review the study permit before you leave the immigration desk. It may not name Queen’s. That is not a problem.
  – Make sure that the permit includes the words “may work” or “may accept employment” as that will simplify your Social Insurance Number (SIN) issuance.

• If family members are arriving with you, they should be granted visitor status (unless your spouse applied for a work permit).
  » Confirm the expiry date of your family members’ status so you can make sure their status gets extended before it expires (if necessary).
Extending immigration documents

• You can apply for a new study permit and or renew your TRV (if your citizenship requires one) within Canada.

• If you want to stay in Canada while a new application is processed, you must submit your application before your current study permit expires.

• If your study permit expires while you are waiting for an answer, you can stay in Canada and continue to study (and work).

• You should not plan to leave Canada while you wait.
Extending immigration documents

• Similar rules apply for your accompanying family members.

• If they want to stay in Canada while a new application is processed, they **must** submit their application before their current status expires.

• If your spouse/partner applies to change from visitor status to a work permit within Canada, they can only begin working once the work permit is issued (and they get a Social Insurance Number).
Applying for immigration documents

• You can apply on paper or online

• Applications are processed Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

quic.queensu.ca/studyingincanada

quic.queensu.ca/canadianpermitsandvisas
Working

On-Campus

• **Full-time** student with a Study Permit
• Social Insurance Number (SIN)

Off-campus

• **Full-time** degree-seeking student with a Study Permit
• Social Insurance Number (SIN)
• 20 hours per week during study periods and “full-time” during scheduled breaks.

» Social Insurance Number (SIN) issuance will be offered at QUIC on September 12. If you need it before or after that date, please visit the Service Canada office in Kingston.
After your studies at Queen’s

• The Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) Program
  – offers the possibility of a 3-year work permit to students who complete a bachelor’s degree in Canada.

• Pathways to remain in Canada permanently may be available.

• Queen’s provides employment guidance throughout your studies and after you graduate.
Getting to know Kingston

• Staff of QUIC will provide you with a welcome package upon arrival and will provide information about programs and services at Queen’s and in Kingston.

• Make sure you visit within your first few days in Kingston.
Where to stay / Accommodation

• If you have not yet confirmed your accommodation, please note that we connect students to various housing resources.

• If you plan to arrive in Kingston without your long-term accommodation confirmed, please make sure you have temporary housing booked.

• QUIC’s resources (including information about temporary and long-term accommodation) can be found at:

  quic.queensu.ca/housing

• Other support is provided by the Student Community Relations office.
Orientation

• An International Graduate Student Orientation will be offered at 5pm on September 13 at QUIC.

• Academic orientations will be offered by your academic department.

• The School of Graduate Studies will offer orientation programming – main event 5th September.

• The Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS – your student government) will also offer activities.
Introduction to QUIC

• International Student Advisers available Monday – Friday; 8:30am - 4:30pm (ET)
• Support your personal and cultural transition to Canada
• Information on health insurance and accessing health care
• Refer you to academic and non-academic services at Queen’s
• Connect you to community services
• Support for students with spouses and children
Ongoing support at QUIC

- One-on-one advising
- Connect you to academic supports
- English Language Support program – individual and group
- Social events to meet other students
  - Bus trips
  - World Link program
- Support for:
  - filing tax forms ($$$)
  - looking for a place to live
  - preparing for winter

and much more!
Your Health

• The University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP) is a mandatory, primary health insurance plan for all students registered at Queen’s who do not have Canadian provincial/territorial health insurance.

• UHIP can be used for visits to a doctor or hospital.

• To access your UHIP information online for the academic year – check your e-mail (the message is to be sent on August 10).

• You’ll also be able/expected to enroll your accompanying family members in the plan within your first month in Canada.
Your Health

• UHIP does not cover cost of prescriptions, visits to dentists, travel insurance, and vision care.

• Supplemental Health and Dental coverage is provided through your student government, the Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS)

• It has some coverage for those things not covered by UHIP (cost of prescriptions, visits to dentists, travel insurance, and vision care).

• Details & opt-out information at: sgps.ca/sgps-health-and-dental-plan/
Your family

• Accompanying “school-aged” children will be eligible to study in the public school system.
  – As academic students with study permits, you will be able to enroll your children in schools without needing to pay tuition fees.
  – Registration will begin in the final week of August.

• Family members are welcome at QUIC activities (though child care is not provided)
One of many services

- Student Wellness Services
- Student Academic Success Services (SASS)
  - Writing Centre
  - Learning Strategies
- Career Services
- Athletics and Recreation
- University Chaplain’s Office
- Campus Security and Emergency Services
  - SeQure app
  - Walkhome
Questions?

• International Student Advisers try to be available between 8:30am to 4:30pm (ET), Monday through Friday. No appointment necessary.

• E-mail isa@queensu.ca or call +1.613.533.2604
• The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) will be sending an invitation tomorrow to participate in another webinar (on August 17) that talks more about what to expect as a student and other resources available to all new graduate students.