

Central Okanagan – Arrival Information for students

The Central Okanagan International Education program looks forward to welcoming students to our program, schools and community.

The following email is intended to help students make their first weeks go as smoothly as possible.

We wish all of our students a safe journey and a school year full for fun, adventure, and friendship.

Flights

In the event of any flight changes/issues/delays please email: International.Education@sd23.bc.ca

Call our emergency phone at 250-801-5684 to report any urgent flight changes.

Students are asked to keep their host families informed as they make their journey to Kelowna. Students should send a message when they arrive in Canada and to provide an update about their expected arrival in Kelowna.

Arrival Guide

In addition to this email, students should carefully read through our arrival guide. Our arrival guide is intended to assist students with pre-departure tasks, ArriveCAN app, safe travel tips, and information on arrival in Canada and Kelowna.

[Link to Arrival Guide](#) (revised August 2022)

Expedited Processing Submission Form for Immigration at Vancouver Airport (YVR only)

The Vancouver airport (YVR) has a voluntary Expedited Arrival Process that they are piloting. Students travelling through Vancouver who require a Study Permit, are encouraged to complete this form before travelling to save time. Information will be sent directly to Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) who will process and print permits prior to the students' arrival.

Link to the form is: www.yvr.ca/en/students

Airport Arrival

Host families will pick up students at the Kelowna Airport. Students should communicate with Host Families once they arrive in Canada to update then on the expected arrival time.

International program staff will also be at the airport for most flights to help welcome students and to scan copies of students study permits. Students will also receive a Welcome Bag.

Random COVID testing

As of July 19th 2022, travelers entering Canada may be subject to random COVID testing.

If selected, students will receive an email shortly after completing their customs declaration. The email will be sent to the same email address used for ArriveCAN. The email will have important information about where and when to get tested. Tests are free and should be completed by the end of the next day. Travelers do not need to quarantine while awaiting results.

Settling into your homestay

Please take time to get to know your homestay family and to carefully go over the rules, routines, and expectations of the home. Students should be especially careful with learning how to properly use bathroom fixtures, laundry and cooking facilities. Please ask questions if you are unsure about anything.

Have some fun with your Host Family– Okanagan Beach Rentals

We hope that students will be able to have some fun during their first few days. To encourage this, we have set up an account for Host Families at Okanagan Beach Rentals located at Rotary Beach. This opportunity is available until September 15th. <https://www.okanaganbeachrentals.com/>

School Orientation:

We hope all new students to our program are able to attend their school based orientation.

September 1st GESS, KSS, OKM and all Middle Schools

September 2nd RSS, MBSS

Orientation will begin at 9am and go until 3pm. Lunch and snacks are provided. Students should enter through the main doors of the school.

Students should bring: pen, notebook, water bottle, cell phone with Canadian number.

Course schedules will be provided at this time.

School Supplies

Students should be ready for the first day of school with the following basic school supplies. Host families can support with this task if required.

- Large 3 ring binder (most students prefer one with a zipper)
- lots of lined 3-hole paper (8 ½ x 11 inch)
- dividers with 3 holes – to create sections for subjects
- pens, pencils
- sportswear & sport shoes if needed

SIM Card - PhoneBox

Students will need to get a SIM card and Canadian cell phone number. Students must maintain a Canadian cell phone number for the duration of their program. For safety reasons, International numbers, social media platforms, and wi-fi based communication cannot be the sole means of communication.

Students can choose to use any cell phone provider, but SIM cards from PhoneBOX will be provided in the students Welcome Bags they receive at the airport. PhoneBOX representatives will be at the Secondary School Orientations (Sept 1 and 2) to assist with any issues. <https://gophonebox.com/>

Getting to School - Bussing

Host Families will assist students in learning how they will get back and forth from school.

For students riding the school bus, homestay parents will have information about the bus route and pick up times/locations.

Medical Insurance

Student should have received an email directly from Study Insured containing medical insurance information including a printable wallet card and policy number. Students should print out a medical card and save a picture of it on their phone in advance of their journey.

Students will also receive a printed copy of their Medical Insurance Card at their school orientation on September 1st or 2nd.

For detailed information about Study Insured coverage please follow the link to the Central Okanagan / Study Insured [Website](#)

First Day of School

The first day of school is Tuesday September 6th.

This is only a half day for students. At Secondary Schools, students will go through a mini-rotation of all Semester 1 classes.

Afternoon school busses will run 3 hours early.

Green Bay Welcome Activity: Monday, September 12

All new students to our program will be taking part in our Welcome Activity and Orientation at Green Bay Camp on Monday September 12th.

Students will be picked up from their school shortly after 9am and buses will depart Green Bay at 4:30pm.

The morning will consist of an orientation. The afternoon will be full of fun beach and water activities.

Students should bring water bottle, sunscreen, hat, swimsuit.

All food will be provided.

Student Trips

6 optional trips will be offered to International Students during the 2022/23 school year. Students are encouraged to consider the exciting opportunities to Vancouver, Victoria and the Rocky Mountains.

Trips dates, prices and details can be viewed at the following [link](#).

The first trip to Vancouver is October 13 – 15. Registration for this trip will be on September 13th at 3:30pm. Last year, trips sold out quickly. It is important students are prepared to register. Payment must be made online by credit card. Registration links and detailed trip itinerary will be emailed well in advance.

We wish students all the best for an amazing study abroad experience.

We look forward to welcoming you soon!

The International Education Team