



USEFUL LINKS

University of Victoria UVic uvic.ca
International Centre for Students uvic.ca/ics
Incoming Exchange Students uvic.ca/incomingexchange

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UVIC CONTACTS

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IMPORTANT ACADEMIC DATES

Semester	Orientation	Start Date	End Date	Exams
Fall 2026 Term	Late August 2026 (TBD)	September 9th, 2026	December 23, 2026	December 2026 (TBD)
Spring 2027 Term	Early January (TBD)	Early January 2027 (TBD)	Late April 2027 (TBD)	April 2027 (TBD)

All important dates for the academic year can be found on the [UVic Academic Calendar](#)

NOMINATION PROCESS (FOR PARTNERS)

Nomination deadline for fall and spring terms: **April 1, 2026**

Nomination Form:

- Partners please complete a separate form for each student nomination.

Required Information:

- Student name
- Student email address
- Proposed exchange term(s)
- Area of study
- Level of study (Undergraduate or Graduate)

PARTNERS:

[Click here to nominate](#)



Upon nomination, the ICS Exchange team will reach out to students to invite them to apply.

APPLICATION PROCESS (FOR STUDENTS)

Application deadline for fall and spring term: **April 15, 2026**

Required documents to be submitted via application form:

- Current passport
- A recent passport-size photograph
- Official academic transcript
- List of currently registered courses (if not listed on transcript)

STUDENTS:

[Click here to apply](#)



Acceptance email: Once admitted to UVic, students will receive an email that includes the student's UVic identification number, a letter of acceptance, and information about preparing for study at UVic.

Note: All incoming exchange students to UVic are admitted in the Faculty of Social Sciences. This will not affect the courses they will be able to register in.



ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS

The language of instruction at UVic is English. **The ICS Exchange Program does not require incoming exchange students to provide proof of satisfying UVic's English Language requirement.** Partners are trusted to select and nominate students whose proficiency in English is suitable for a university in which courses are taught in English. For reference, current UVic English requirements are TOEFL iBT 90 (No section less than 20) OR IELTS 6.5 (No band less than 6.0).

Non-English majors planning to take an English course should take the Academic Writing Self Placement Test. Select: 1) Academic Writing Requirement (AWR), 2) Selecting an AWR-designated course, 3) self-placement questionnaire. **For-credit English courses** are available for incoming exchange students with permission from the English Department.



A Business English and Communications course (COM 206) may be open to English as an Additional Language students if there is space available.

The UVic English Language Centre offers English courses for an additional fee in the summer before the September exchange term. The ELC programs include tests that meet the UVic admission criteria. Once students complete the ELC program successfully, they are ready to take courses at UVic.

The **UVic Library** offers numerous resources to support student success, the **The Academic Skills Centre (ASC)** is here to help with writing, reading and speaking needs, as well as academic integrity.





COURSE SELECTION AND REGISTRATION

Once students are accepted into the ICS Exchange Program they will receive step-by-step email instructions for course selection, course registration, and timetable planning.

Students must confirm with their home adviser how many courses that they are required to take at UVic. A typical courseload is between 6.0 and 7.5 UVic units (4-5 courses). 1.5 units at UVic equals 6 ECTS.

Full Course Catalogue: [UVic Calendar: Courses by Subject Area](#)

- List of UVic courses with no pre-requisites by [faculty](#) and by [theme](#) (*these list are not exhaustive)

Note: *these lists are not exhaustive and not all courses listed are offered every term. Current timetable information is available on the [UVic Class Schedule Search](#)

Course Registration for courses taught in the fall and spring terms Students are required to register for first and second term courses online in June.

Registration Restrictions: Exchange students are restricted from registration in most Business, Education, Engineering, Health, and Law courses unless the exchange agreement with our partner university includes these Faculties.

EXCHANGE TRANSFER CREDIT

All exchange students should consult with their home exchange adviser regarding exchange transfer credit and how their UVic course credits will transfer back to their home institution.

[UVic Undergraduate Grading Scale](#)

[UVic Graduate Grading Scale](#)

GRADUATE STUDENTS ON EXCHANGE

Incoming exchange students wishing to take courses at the graduate level will need to get permission from the relevant UVic instructor. The ICS Exchange team will liaise with these students to request course registration permission from the UVic department that offers the course of interest. Registration will be conditional and approved on a course-by-course basis.

TRANSCRIPTS

After the final exam period and once all final grades have been submitted, digital official transcripts will be emailed to the international office at the student's home university. Students can also view their grades and unofficial transcript by logging on to their [My Page account](#).



PREPARING FOR UVIC

Information about immigration documents, health insurance, working in Canada, and other important topics is available on the [International Centre for Students website: Living in Victoria](#)

Health Insurance: Exchange students are automatically enrolled in the **GuardMe** medical insurance plan. This plan covers required medical services to address new and unexpected illness or injury. The coverage is for a registered student's first 4-month academic term at UVic (September to December, January to April, or May to August).

GuardMe Fee: approximately \$265.00, assessed upon course registration at UVic.

U-Pass (optional)

To enroll, students must **opt-in through the University of Victoria Student Society (UVSS)**. The **total cost for one term is \$260**, which includes:

- **\$81-U-pass fee**
 - Provides unlimited access to BC Transit bus services throughout Victoria, including to and from UVic.
- **\$98 - UVic Athletics and Rec Fee**
 - Grants access to drop-in recreation activities (e.g., basketball), squash courts, the CARSA stretch zone, and other services.
 - Note: Access to the Fitness and Weight Centre, Climbing Centre, and group programs requires an additional fee.
- **\$81 - UVSS fees**
 - Supports essential student services such as the UVSS Food Bank, Advocacy Groups, and more.

UVIC ORIENTATION

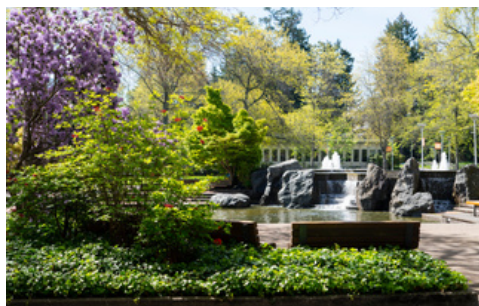
UVic offers a comprehensive orientation program to assist new students with their transition to academic and student life in Canada. Please note there is no fee for the following UVic orientation events.

Arrival in Canada: Incoming exchange students should plan to arrive in Canada in advance of the orientation events before classes begin.

International Student Welcome (ISW): full day event Offers relevant information about immigration documents, health insurance, banking, cell phone plans, Canadian culture and much more.

International Student Orientation Programs (ISOP): online and in-person events prior to the start of classes, covering such themes as

Registering for UVic Orientation events: Registration is required for the International Student Welcome event and other UVic Orientation events. Details will be available on the UVic Orientation website a few months prior to the start of term.



ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

Residence Services at UVic offers on-campus dormitory rooms or cluster units (private bedroom with shared kitchen and living room). Dormitory rooms include a mandatory meal plan.

Applying for On-Campus Housing

Once students have been accepted into the ICS Exchange Program, they must:

1. Receive their UVic student number (which begins with V00), and
2. Create a NetLink ID

After completing these steps, students are eligible to apply for on-campus housing through the [UVic Housing Portal](#).

⚠ Important application dates and deadlines are available on the [Residence Services website](#). UVic on-campus residence spaces are limited and competitive. Placement is not guaranteed for all applicants.

Priority Consideration

Students with specialized housing requirements or who require priority admittance to housing outside of current admissions practices or eligibility criteria, based on restrictions or limitations resulting from disability, chronic health conditions, dietary restrictions, or other considerations, are asked to submit a Priority Consideration Request (PCR) as part of their housing application.



Cancellation Fee: On-campus accommodation is limited, therefore cancellation fees apply. See the Refund and Cancellation Policies in the Residence Contract for more information

Minimum Course Registration Requirement for on-campus housing

Exchange students living in on-campus housing must be enrolled in a minimum of 4.5 UVic units per term.



Arriving to UVic

Students with confirmed room bookings will be emailed their scheduled arrival date. **Do not book your flights until your arrival date has been confirmed by Residence Services.** For further information, [contact Residence Services.](#)



Early Arrivals are only approved for Term 1 (Sept-Dec) and must be received in writing through the online application and within the request deadlines. **Early arrivals are not permitted for Term 2 (Jan-April)**, and students are able to arrive only on the date given to them by Residence Services (via their room assignment email). Please check the Residence Services website's Arriving Early section in July for information on how to apply for an early arrival for Term 1 (Sept-Dec).

Early Move-in

Only students who are registered for UVic's International Student Welcome event in late August will be eligible to apply for early arrival to on-campus housing. Additional fees apply. Only students who have been approved for an Early Arrival are able to move-in prior to their scheduled check-in date.



Leaving UVic

You are required to move out of your residence 24 hours after the end of the final exam period. Do not book your return flight home until you have confirmed your residence departure date. Otherwise you will be required to find alternative housing while waiting for your scheduled flight home.

Additional Information

Students who apply for both term sessions will be prioritized in the room assignment process. Residence Services sends room offers from May to late August via email. Once you have your student number and can log-in to your Online Tools, ensure that your My Page account has your current email address and that you are checking your emails daily.

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

Students can choose to organize their own living arrangements off campus. Students planning to live off campus should **arrive ahead of the start of classes** in order to allow for enough time to find housing. More information is available on the ICS website: [Off-campus housing.](#)



The **UVic Global Community** initiative provides opportunities and space for international and domestic students, staff, and faculty to share perspectives, celebrate diversity, foster intercultural connections, and cultivate an inclusive, globally minded campus.

Website: [UVic Global Community](#)

Follow **UVicinternational on Instagram** and join the **UVic Global Community Facebook Group** for information about student life, on and off campus events, education abroad programs, funding opportunities, and more!

The International Current Newsletter is a bi-weekly online publication that provides important dates and information, features opportunities for studying abroad, and highlights intercultural engagement, both locally and around the globe.

[International Current Newsletter - Previous Editions](#)



[Subscribe to the International Current](#)

The GC Mentorship Program is an opportunity for students who are interested in intercultural connections and offers friendship and guidance for students as they navigate their social and academic transition to UVic and to Canada.

To request a GC Mentor, complete the online application form: [Mentorship Program Application](#)

The GC Conversation Partners Program provides students with opportunities to practice and improve their conversational English skills all while building global relationships.

To request a GC Conversation Partner, complete the online application form: [Conversation Partner Program Application](#)

Presentations, Workshops and Events: GC partnerships, connections and collaborations create many opportunities for students to engage with the campus community!

International Students find a home at UVic: [Check out this great video!](#)