



WINTER PRE-DEPARTURE 2024 HANDBOOK

For International Students

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME TO GEORGIAN COLLEGE

Take the first step towards an exciting academic journey in Canada with the help of our comprehensive Pre-departure handbook. This handbook is designed to assist you in adjusting and transitioning to life at Georgian, providing you with all the necessary information and support you need.

At the International Centre, we are committed to ensuring your success and well-being by providing a wide range of services and programs tailored specifically for international students. From navigating the complexities of health insurance to assisting with study permits and visas, our team is here to guide you. Count on us to connect you with valuable Georgian resources and essentials about the vibrant communities surrounding your campus.

For quick and convenient answers to your questions, look no further than [MyGCLife](#). This online platform is a wealth of knowledge, offering articles and resources on various topics. Whether you need help with immigration support, want to explore available bursaries and scholarships, or require a better understanding of your fees, [MyGCLife](#) has you covered.

Once again, we extend a warm invitation to you and look forward to your arrival. Safe travels, and we can't wait to meet you soon!

The International Education and Development Office

We are thrilled to have you join our vibrant community of learners and wish you every success on your educational journey. As you embark on a path of personal and professional growth at Georgian, we extend a heartfelt welcome.

Leslie Palson, PhD-C

Dean of International Education and Development



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Talk to us live	Page 4
Important dates	Page 5
International Information Week	Page 6
Mandatory arrival process	Page 7
Staying safe in Canada	Page 8
Airport support	Page 9
Registration information	Page 10
Forms and placement requirements	Page 11
Georgian OneCard	Page 12 and 13
Health insurance coverage	Page 14
Finding a medical professional	Page 15
Immunization records	Page 16 and 17
Housing information	Page 18
Cost of living in Canada	Page 19 and 20
Time to start packing	Page 21
Selecting winter clothing	Page 22 and 23
Additional information	Page 24
Campus locations	Page 25

TALK TO US LIVE ONLINE



Ask an Ambassador sessions

Our International Student Ambassadors are a team of students who can assist you with any questions regarding the transition process, arrival procedures, and other services.

Our Ambassadors have gone through the same process of coming to Canada as you have, making them a valuable resource. These sessions provide an opportunity for you to speak with an Ambassador on a one-on-one basis and obtain the necessary information at your convenience.

When: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to noon ET*

Where: Join through [Microsoft Teams](#)

*Eastern Time Zone

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

For all upcoming important dates, please visit the Georgian College [website](#). As a newly arriving international student, the following are important to note:

International Information Week Nov. 13 to 17

The International Education and Development Office hosts a virtual International Information Week (IIW) six weeks before the start of the semester to help prepare students for their arrival. During IIW, daily sessions will be held to inform students about various topics.

Once completed, recordings of the sessions will be available on the [International Information Week for Winter 2024](#) students page on MyGCLife.

Course registration opens Dec. 5

Head Start Orientation

At [Head Start Orientation](#), you'll have the opportunity to connect and engage with Georgian services, supports, and resources to ensure your success. This is organized by the First-Year Experience team. Make sure to regularly [check their page](#) for any updates on the event.

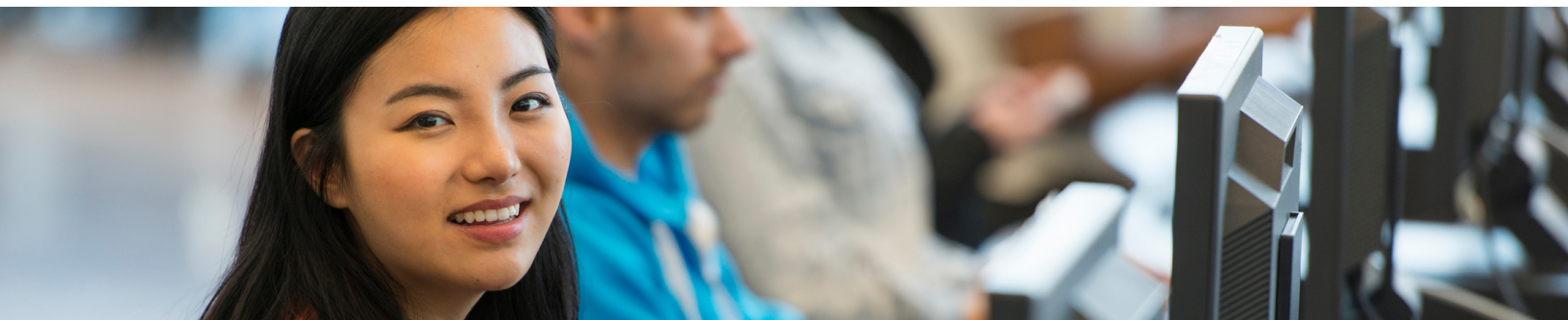
Academic Orientation

Attending [Academic Orientation](#) is a great way to meet your professors and peers in your academic program. This is organized by the First-Year Experience team. Make sure to regularly [check their page](#) for any updates on the event.

Semester start Jan. 8

The semester commences in early January, so mark your calendars and get ready for an exciting start to your college journey. To make the most of your first day, we recommend a few key preparations. Firstly, ensure that your laptop or any other necessary devices are fully functional and ready for use. Additionally, it's advisable to print out your class schedule and familiarize yourself with the locations of your classrooms beforehand. Arriving approximately 10 minutes before your classes will provide you with ample time to settle in, find your way around, and get acquainted with your professors and fellow students.

INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION WEEK



Join us for [International Information Week](#), designed specifically for winter 2024 international students. In November, we will be hosting a series of informative sessions covering a range of topics, including immigration, housing, working in Canada, the arrival process, health insurance and more. Attending these sessions is highly recommended as they will provide crucial insights into the mandatory requirements and facilitate a smooth transition as you plan your arrival in Canada.

Take advantage of this valuable opportunity to gain essential knowledge and receive support as you begin your new academic journey.

Welcome session and campus break outs

Nov. 13 - 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. EST

International Student Insurance and Well-being

Nov. 14 - 10:00 to 11:10 a.m. EST

Dependents and students travelling with a spouse or children (optional)

Nov. 14 - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EST

Mandatory arrival process and housing

Nov. 15 - 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. EST

Immigration support and applications

Nov. 16 - 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. EST

Employment and financial budgeting

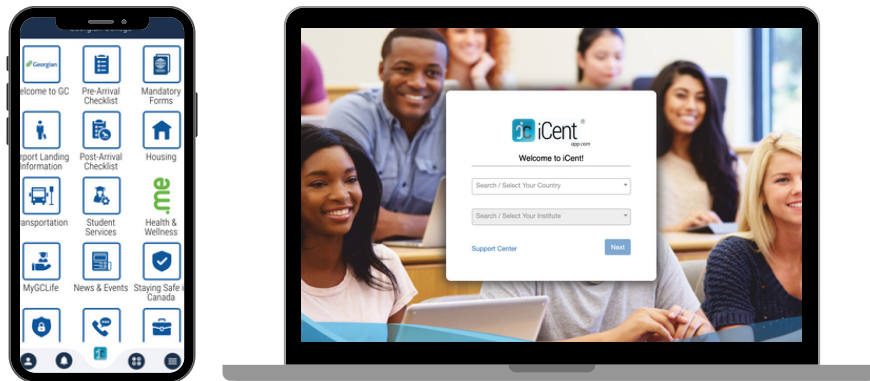
Nov. 17 - 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. EST

Note: By attending all the sessions, you will gain a better understanding of the expectations as an international student in Canada, which will ultimately support your successful transition.

MANDATORY ARRIVAL PROCESS

GEORGIAN iCENT APP

All students must complete Georgian College's **mandatory** arrival process through the iCent app. This application is available through [Apple Store](#) and [Google Play](#).



Follow these instructions to begin using iCent:

- 1) Download the application to your phone via the hyperlinks above or by searching "iCent" in the Apple Store or Google Play.
- 2) Enter "Canada" as your destination country and "Georgian College" as your institution name.
- 3) You are required to log in to iCent using your Georgian email address. A pin code will be forwarded to your college email for log-in purposes.
- 4) Fill in all the requested information to begin using the Georgian College dashboard.
- 5) If you are having trouble logging into the app, contact support@icent.app
- 6) You can get more information about the iCent app by watching this [short video](#).

Note: The iCent app isn't available for ILAC students. If you are attending the Georgian@ILAC campus then email studentservices@georgianatilac.com for information regarding their arrival process.

*All 7 Georgian College campuses will be closed for the holidays from **Dec. 22, 2023** to **Jan. 2, 2024**. During this time, you will not be able to access any on campuses services and will not receive any responses from the college. During this time, we encourage you to visit [MyGCLife](#) to search the answers to your questions.*

STAYING SAFE IN CANADA

ONLINE MODULES

At Georgian College, the safety and well-being of our students is of utmost importance. While Canada is widely recognized as one of the safest countries for international students, we are committed to providing comprehensive support to ensure your safety throughout your time with us.

We understand that international students may encounter unique challenges and potential scams or frauds. To ensure your security and empower you with the necessary knowledge, we have developed a [series of modules](#) available through the [MyGCLife](#) platform and on the iCent app. These modules offer valuable insights and practical guidance on various aspects, including personal security, financial awareness, cyber safety, and more. We strongly encourage you to complete these modules, as they serve as an essential resource to help you navigate your new environment with confidence.

Once you have completed the modules, please mark them as checked off on your arrival checklist in the Georgian Assist app, ensuring that you have taken important steps toward prioritizing your safety.



AIRPORT SUPPORT AND TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

Managed by iCent, Georgian College is a participating college of the Airport Welcome Booth located at both Terminals 1 and 3 at the Toronto Pearson Airport. The following services can be accessed at the Airport Welcome Booth:

- Shuttle and transit information from the airport
- Information about temporary accommodation and hotels
- Banking services and currency exchange
- Special assistance and baggage claims
- Orientation and campus information
- Airport wi-fi and refreshments

The Airport Welcome Booth will operate during the peak arrival periods for international students. The following dates and times is the tentative schedule of operation.

Date: Dec. 25, 2023 to Jan. 7, 2024

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Airport Pickup Services

To assist in a seamless arrival at Toronto Pearson International Airport, Georgian College highly recommends utilizing the arrival services provided by two trusted companies. We have partnered with these reliable service providers to cater to your needs. Select the links below to book directly with the provider of choice and make payment.

[Simcoe County Airport Services](#)

Contact: 705.728.1148 or toll-free 1.800.461.7529

[StuHomz](#)

Contact: 1.437.223.2223

Email: gcarrivals@stuhomz.com

Note: Arranging airport pickup is your responsibility. This service must be booked at least 72 hours before your departure. Plan ahead, due to the holiday season most services and businesses will be closed on December 25.

*In addition, Georgian College **does not provide free temporary accommodation**. It is crucial to arrange where you plan to stay in advance of your arrival in Canada.*



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Register for your courses

Full-time registration for courses starts on Dec. 5. To be eligible to register for courses, the following conditions must be met:

- You are admitted into a program (final or conditional);
- Full semester fees are paid; and
- Proof of your approved study permit

*Note: Winter 2024 applicants, it is strongly recommended that full semester fees are paid by **Nov. 30**, and proof of visa is uploaded on the IAS portal by **Dec. 3**.*

Once you have confirmed that you have an approved study visa and paid your fees in full, you will be able to pick your courses. Please check your [Banner account](#) for your program-specific registration start date.

Need help with registration and your student systems?

Join the Student Systems Support Hub sessions online via Webex. These sessions will show you how to register for courses, change them (add/drop), view your account details, find your timetables, apply for credit transfer, and receive introductions to Blackboard and MyPath.

Start: December 18, 2023

End: January 19, 2024

*No hub session offered during the winter holiday break (December 22, 2023 to January 1, 2024)

Hours and information on how to join a session can be found on the [Register for Courses](#) web page. For self-serve how-to resources on registration and student systems, access the [MyGCLife Academics](#) page.

Work permit for work-related studies

If your program includes a work component such as co-op, field placement, field training, industry placement, practicum, clinical placement, practical experience, or internship (paid or unpaid), then you must obtain a co-op work permit before starting your work term. You can apply for this permit alongside your study permit by using the co-op supporting letter that was included with your acceptance letter.

The conditions allowing you to work off-campus attached to a study permit are **NOT** interchangeable with the requirement to fulfill a work placement related to your studies. You need a separate co-op work permit to complete your work term.

FORMS AND PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Many programs, particularly in Health and Wellness, Community Safety, and Human Services, include placements that require immunization or criminal record checks among other possible requirements. These requirements must be met before your placement starts. It is your responsibility to make sure you are eligible to participate.

Visit the [Forms and placement requirements](#) section on the Georgian College website to see if your program has requirements you need to meet before the term starts. If you have questions, find your program coordinator's contact information on the [Programs web page](#).

Accessing immunizations in your campus community may be limited or not available. It is highly recommended that international students arrive in Canada with all the required immunizations completed already. Failure to do so may lead to a delay in your Clinical Preparedness Permit being approved which could prevent you from beginning your lab or clinical component. This can have significant impacts on your immigration status.



Note: The college assumes no responsibility on these matters and students should be aware we are unable to refund tuition fees in the event access to a placement is denied.

GEORGIAN ONECARD



ONEcard, the official identification card of Georgian College, offers a multitude of features beyond a simple ID. It serves as your student card, bus pass (for Barrie students), library card, athletic center card, and a convenient payment method for select vendors both on and off-campus - all consolidated into one card!

Here are the key highlights of ONEcard:

- Provides seamless access to various services.
- Personalize it by submitting your own photo.
- Use it at participating locations to purchase food, beverages, and items at Georgian Stores. Say goodbye to carrying cash and coins, as ONEcard enables swift and contactless transactions.
- Features a flex dollar account that operates on a declining balance system, allowing easy tracking of expenses with each purchase.
- Helps students with planning and budgeting by keeping track of all their spending, from textbooks to daily essentials.
- Easily add funds and track spending 24/7 from anywhere in the world, ensuring control over your expenses. Top up your account online or at most major banks to always guarantee sufficient funds.
- In case of loss or theft, students can quickly deactivate their card to protect their balance.
- For eligible students, the universal bus pass activates 24 hours after receiving your ONEcard, granting unlimited use of Barrie City Transit (Barrie Campus students only).

This tool aims to enhance your college experience by offering a convenient and versatile solution for accessing various services and facilities throughout your time at Georgian College. For further information, please visit the [ONEcard web page](#).

HEALTH

INSURANCE COVERAGE

As an international student enrolled in a post-secondary program at Georgian College, you have health insurance coverage from Guard.me as well as a health and dental plan from Georgian College Student Association (GCSA's) MyStudentPlan.



Guard.me insurance coverage

The provided insurance coverage is designed to address emergency health conditions and new ailments (such as the flu, sore throat, rash, etc.) that occur after your health insurance coverage is initiated. It is important to note that pre-existing conditions are not covered by this plan. Additionally, you have the option to purchase insurance for any dependents residing with you in Canada.

Guard.me insurance offers coverage for various sudden medical expenses, including:

- Hospital and walk-in clinic visits
- Prescription drugs
- X-rays and lab testing
- Physician and surgeon services
- Psychiatric hospitalization
- Psychotherapy
- Eye exams
- Paramedic services
- Physiotherapy and speech therapy
- Private nursing
- Ambulance services
- Dental treatments for accidental injury and emergencies
- Accessibility services
- Immunization
- Maternity coverage (If the pregnancy occurs after your arrival)
- Air evacuation and return home services
- Trauma counselling

Please be aware that your coverage begins on Jan. 1, 2024. If you plan to arrive before that date, it is recommended to consider purchasing additional coverage. For more detailed information, visit www.guard.me/Georgian

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

GCSA / MyStudentPlan coverage

This health and dental plan is intended to cover most non-emergency needs, including dental check-ups, physiotherapy, and massage therapy, among others. Additionally, you have the option to purchase health and dental coverage for your dependents residing with you in Canada.

GCSA/MyStudentPlan insurance offers coverage for various health and dental expenses, including:

Health (Items require a doctor's note)

- Physiotherapy and speech therapy
- Naturopath
- Psychologist
- Registered massage
- Chiropractor
- Vision
- Orthopedics
- Social worker
- Athletic therapist

Dental

- Annual exams
- Diagnostic
- Minor restorative oral surgery
- Periodontic
- Recall exams
- Preventative care
- Extractions
- Endodontic
- Major restorative services

Your coverage for this plan begins on Jan. 1, 2024. If you require further details, then visit www.MyStudentPlan.ca/Georgian



FINDING A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL

mobileDOCTOR

For international students, the Guard.me [mobileDOCTOR](#) app offers a convenient and accessible way to seek medical advice and assistance. This app lets you connect with qualified healthcare professionals from your mobile device. To utilize the app, simply [download it](#) and create an account using your student information. When you need medical guidance, you can schedule virtual appointments, chat with doctors, and receive personalized healthcare advice.

The Guard.me mobile doctor app is a valuable resource that ensures you have convenient access to healthcare services, especially during your time away from home. Stay connected to professional medical support and enjoy peace of mind knowing that you have trusted healthcare at your fingertips.

Medical emergencies

In case of a medical emergency it's crucial to know who to contact for immediate assistance. Dial 911, the emergency hotline, to reach paramedics, police, or fire services in urgent medical emergency situations. They will respond promptly and provide the necessary support.

Additionally, it is recommended to inform a staff member at Georgian College about any medical emergencies involving international students. This could be your faculty, Student Success Advisor, Student Immigration Advisor, Counsellor or [Campus Safety Services](#). Your well-being is a priority, and knowing the proper channels to reach out to in medical emergencies ensures you receive the necessary help when it matters most.



IMMUNIZATION RECORDS



To make sure you are prepared in case of illness during your stay in Canada, it is strongly advised that you carry an updated immunization record, endorsed by a doctor and officially translated into English. The immunization record should include the following information:

- Generic name of the vaccine (e.g., Diphtheria) rather than just the product or brand name. If possible, include dosage details and the manufacturing lot number of the vaccine.
- Date when each vaccine was administered, including the day, month, and year.
- Complete name of the doctor who administered the vaccine, along with any license or registration number associated with the doctor.
- Full address and contact details of the doctor's clinic or hospital, including the clinic's address, landline phone number, and/or cell phone number.

If you have received vaccinations from different doctors, it is acceptable to have separate records. It is important to bring records of all vaccines you have received. Additionally, it is highly recommended to have records for the following vaccines. Consult with your doctor to determine if any vaccines need updating or if boosters are necessary:

- Tetanus
- Diphtheria
- Polio
- Hepatitis B
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- Any other vaccines you may have received (e.g., BCG, Yellow Fever, Smallpox, etc.)

HOUSING INFORMATION

Finding suitable housing in Canada can be a significant task for international students. To streamline the process and secure a place before your arrival, it is advisable to start your search and secure accommodations before the start of the semester. For comprehensive information and assistance in finding your home away from home, we recommend visiting the [housing page](#) on our website, where you'll find valuable resources and guidance.



When exploring housing options, consider the following suggestions:

- [On-campus residence](#): Conveniently live minutes from where you will be taking your classes.
- [Places4Students](#): Georgian College has partnered with Places4Students, a specialized company that focuses on offering off-campus housing solutions tailored to postsecondary students' needs.
- [Kijiji](#): Utilize online platforms like Kijiji, where you can find listings for rental properties, roommates, and sublets in various locations.
- [Facebook Marketplace and Groups](#): Explore Facebook Marketplace and dedicated groups specifically for housing or roommates, as they often have active listings and discussions relevant to your search.
- [Homestay](#): While studying, consider staying with a Canadian family to fully immerse yourself in the culture of the country.
- [SpacesShared](#): Connect with an older individual to help them with daily tasks and also enjoy the companionship of a roommate.

It is the student's responsibility to secure accommodation and come prepared with the means to financially support living expenses in Canada. The cost of off-campus housing can range from \$750- \$1,500 CAD for a shared accommodations. The college does not have temporary or permanent housing options for students.

If you have questions or require assistance, email housing@georgiancollege.ca

Georgian College does not verify or take responsibility for the accuracy of the information provided by third-party sources, nor does it assume liability for any issues arising from the use of such information—exercise due diligence and caution when making housing arrangements.

HOUSING INFORMATION



Exercising caution and vigilance is essential when searching for housing. Watch out for [potential scams](#) and protect yourself by following these guidelines:

- **Verify the information:** Thoroughly assess the accuracy of the information provided in listings before committing to anything. Visit the property or conduct video tours if possible.
- **Trust your instincts:** If a deal appears too good to be true or you feel uncomfortable with the landlord or roommates, it's better to move on and find a more reliable option.
- **Read agreements carefully:** Before signing any lease or rental agreements, carefully read and understand the terms and conditions. Seek clarification on any unclear points.
- **Be a responsible tenant/roommate:** Once you secure housing, strive to be a good tenant or roommate by respecting the property, adhering to lease terms, and maintaining a positive living environment.

Standard leases

It is legal in Ontario to sign a Standardized Lease. The Government of Ontario has set [out rules and regulations](#) about what can and cannot be in a lease.

Need temporary accommodation?

Visit the temporary housing tab within the iCent app to view hotels for each campus location. If you have not secured permanent housing prior to arrival, it is your responsibility to arrange a temporary stay at a hotel.

The average cost of a hotel room per night can range from \$90 to \$180 CAD.

COST OF LIVING IN CANADA

The average cost of living for an international student in Ontario can vary depending on various factors such as the city or town of residence, lifestyle choices, and personal preferences. It's important to note that these figures are approximate and subject to change. Here are some estimated monthly expenses for an international student in Ontario:

- **Accommodation:** On-campus residence options can range from around \$700 to \$1,200 CAD. Off-campus housing, including shared apartments or renting a room, can range from \$750 to \$1,500 CAD per month.
- **Transportation:** Monthly public transportation passes can cost between \$100 and \$150 CAD, depending on the city and transit system. If you plan to own a car, you'll need to consider additional expenses such as insurance, fuel, maintenance, and parking, which can amount to several hundred dollars per month.
- **Food:** Grocery expenses can range from \$350 to \$500 CAD per month, depending on personal choices and dietary preferences. Dining out or eating at restaurants can add an additional \$15 to \$30 CAD per meal.
- **Education Expenses:** Textbooks and educational materials can cost an average of \$500 to \$1,000 CAD per semester, depending on the program and courses.
- **Mobile/Internet:** Can range from \$80 to \$200 depending on your plan.
- **Miscellaneous expenses (entertainment, clothing, etc.):** Ranging from \$300 to \$450 depending on preferences.



Sometimes, leases do not include utilities and tenants are responsible for paying for heat, hydro, water, and gas. The cost of these utilities depends on your usage and the size/age of your home. Prior to signing your lease, you have the right to ask your landlord for an average of what monthly utility bills might be, or you can contact the utility provider for a more accurate estimate. Keep in mind that internet/Wi-Fi is not usually considered a utility in Ontario, so if your lease includes utilities, it's best to ask your landlord directly if this includes internet. If it doesn't, you'll need to budget for this expense separately.

It's advisable to carefully plan and manage your expenses while considering your personal financial situation.

TIME TO START PACKING

Before you begin packing for your travels to Canada, there are a few important things to consider:

Luggage and Customs

- Check the luggage restrictions specified by your airline.
- Familiarize yourself with the items that the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) does not permit through Customs, such as firearms, pets, plants, fresh fruits and vegetables, and meat products.
- Avoid packing money or valuable items in your checked luggage.
- Include two sets of clothing in your hand luggage in case of flight delays or lost baggage during transit.
- Don't forget to pack your laptop and ensure you have the necessary phone adapters and voltage converters.

Power Plugs and Sockets

In Canada, the power plugs and sockets are of type A and B. The standard voltage is 120 V, and the standard frequency is 60 Hz. If you are bringing any electronic devices with you, it is likely that you will need a voltage converter to prevent damage. Consider obtaining a combined power plug adapter/voltage converter.

Essential Documents

Ensure you carry the following documents with you while travelling to Canada. However, remember to **NOT** place them in your checked luggage:

- Final official Georgian College Letter of Acceptance
- Enrollment letter from the college (for registered students only) - [can be requested](#) on the [MyGCLife](#) student portal
- Official academic transcripts and degree certificates
- English language test scores
- International driver's license or driver's license from your home country
- Driving history (if you plan to buy a car in Canada)
- Immunization records (refer to page 14 for details)
- Student visa approval letter, also known as Point of Entry (POE) letter
- Passport
- Addresses and contact information for your accommodations in Canada
- Receipt of full semester tuition payment.
- Extra money to use for food, settlement, and transportation upon arrival

Note: Ensure that all documents in your native language are translated into English.

TIME TO START PACKING

Health Essentials

- Masks (optional)
- Gloves (optional)
- Vaccination records
- ArriveCAN documents (no longer mandatory but strongly encouraged)
- Small sanitizers
- Travel credit card
- Toothbrush
- Snacks (in checked luggage)

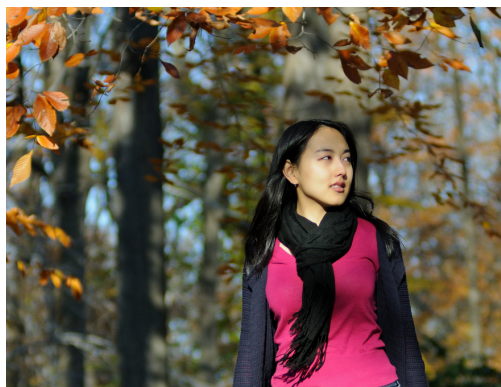
Clothing Recommendations

There is no strict dress code at Georgian College, so feel free to bring clothing that suits your personal style. However, keep in mind the changing seasons and varying weather conditions in Canada.

Summer – Lightweight clothing and sun protection is ideal as temperatures can often be above 30 degrees.

Spring and fall – It's useful to have sweaters and light waterproof jackets for cooler and rainy days.

Winter – Heavy jackets, scarves, gloves, hats, and waterproof boots are essential. Layering is common as it can be cold outside but warmer indoors.



Can I buy everything when I get there?

Absolutely! We suggest purchasing larger or heavier items after your arrival, particularly if you have a luggage allowance. Each campus community has everything you might require available locally. However, when arriving in the winter term, it is essential that you have some warm clothing already as you will need this immediately upon arrival.

SELECTING WINTER CLOTHING

Ensuring you are well-prepared for the cold weather in Canada is essential to stay warm and comfortable throughout the winter season. Embracing the beauty of winter becomes easier when you are bundled up in cozy layers. So, remember to dress appropriately and stay snug as you explore and experience the wonders of the Canadian winter.

Scarves - Opt for a thick, insulating material such as wool or fleece. Look for scarves that are long enough to wrap around your neck and cover your face if needed.

Hats - Choose a hat that fully covers your ears and head to protect against cold winds. Look for hats made from warm materials like wool or thermal fleece.

Gloves/mittens - Look for gloves or mittens that are lined with a warm and insulating material like fleece or thermal insulation. Consider gloves with touchscreen-compatible fingertips, allowing you to use your smartphone without removing them. Look for waterproof or water-resistant gloves if you'll be exposed to snow or rain.

Winter coat - When selecting a coat, prioritize good insulation (goose down or synthetic) to keep you warm in freezing temperatures. Look for a coat that is both windproof and water-resistant or waterproof, providing protection against harsh and wet weather conditions.

Boots - Pick waterproof or water-resistant boots to keep your feet dry in snowy or wet conditions. Look for boots with good traction to prevent slipping on icy surfaces. Consider boots with insulation and a warm lining to keep your feet cozy in cold temperatures.

Remember to prioritize quality, durability, and proper fit when selecting your winter clothing items to ensure they effectively protect you from the cold weather. Additionally, layering your clothing and wearing thermal socks and thermal base layers can provide extra warmth and comfort during the winter season.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Learn about Canadian money

While Canadian cash is not necessary, having some on hand can be useful as a backup in case of any issues with your bank cards. Familiarize yourself with Canadian currency through the [Government of Canada website](#).

Banking

If you're a student in Canada looking for a chequing account for your daily expenses, there are five common banks that offer this service. While the features of these accounts are similar, there may be some slight variations between banks. To learn more about the options available to you and the requirements for opening an account, you can use the links provided below.

[Bank of Montreal \(BMO\)](#)

[Royal Bank of Canada \(RBC\)](#)

[Canadian Imperial Bank of Canada \(CIBC\)](#)

[Scotiabank](#)

[Toronto-Dominion Bank \(TD\)](#)

Some banks even offer appointment booking to reduce your wait time at the branch. Take some time to explore the websites and choose the bank that meets your needs best.

Budgeting for students

It's important for you to learn how to budget your money every month in order to have sufficient funds for your living expenses. Georgian provides [useful tips and tricks](#) to help you get started on this journey. Additionally, you can explore various [awards, scholarships and bursaries](#) that can assist in covering your expenses.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mobile phones

You can bring your mobile phone to Canada and buy a sim card from one of the many providers available throughout the city, including at the airport. Popular companies like Rogers, Bell, Telus, Fido, and Virgin Mobile offer both sim cards and cell phones if needed.

If you plan on bringing your mobile phone with you to Canada, it's important to ensure that it will work on the local mobile networks. Here are the steps to check if your phone is compatible:

1. Go to willmyphonework.net
2. Choose your phone brand and model.
3. Select 'Canada' as the country.
4. You can select any of the major carriers (Rogers, Bell, Telus, Fido, and Virgin Mobile) under 'Carriers'.
5. Click on 'Search'.
6. The results will display which networks your phone can work with.

Many stores, restaurants, and businesses in Canada, including all Georgian College campuses, offer free Wi-Fi. By connecting to these networks, you can use the data features on your smartphone without using your data plan.

Drinking water

Ontario has implemented an award-winning system to safeguard the quality of its drinking water. As a result, when you turn on your tap, you can rest assured that your drinking water is one of the most secure in the world. This simply means that you can freely drink water from the tap in your home without any concerns.



CAMPUS LOCATIONS

Barrie

One Georgian Dr., Barrie ON L4M 3X9

Orillia

825 Memorial Ave., Orillia ON L3V 6S2

Midland

649 Prospect Blvd., Midland ON L4R 4K6

Owen Sound

1450 8th St. E., Owen Sound ON N4K 5R4

Muskoka

111 Wellington St., Bracebridge ON P1L 1E2

South Georgian Bay

499 Raglan St., Collingwood ON L9Y 3Z1

Orangeville

22 Centennial Rd., Orangeville ON L9W 1P8



JOIN OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY



@ICGeorgian

Stay connected and stay informed by following us on our social media. By joining you'll gain access to valuable resources, stay up to date with the latest news and events, and receive important information relevant to your student journey.

Whether you're looking for campus updates, academic insights, student success stories, or simply seeking a platform to engage with fellow students, our Instagram and Youtube channels have you covered.



International Centre
Barrie Campus, Room C279