



STUDENT INFORMATION GUIDE: Travelling to PEI for the 2021 Winter Academic Semester

November 2020

This guide is for all current and incoming UPEI students who are planning to travel or return to Prince Edward Island for the 2021 Winter Academic Semester. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions that limit travel to Canada and PEI are in place.

PLEASE NOTE: It is the responsibility of students and their families to keep informed of any changes in travel and self-isolation requirements. The following guide is intended as reference only. Students are encouraged to check federal and provincial travel requirements often, as they could change without notice. Parents/guardians travelling with students must also follow all federal and provincial travel regulations. **Students already on PEI are strongly encouraged to remain in the province and to avoid non-essential travel.**

Federal and Provincial government authority

On March 25, 2020, the Government of Canada implemented a self-isolation requirement for international travellers under the Quarantine Act. For details, visit [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Travel restrictions, exemptions and advice](#). Before international students make any travel plans, it is extremely important that they determine whether they are permitted to travel to Canada. In addition to international students having study permit approval, or US students travelling directly from the US, all international students must prove that they have an essential reason to travel to Canada. For detailed information on who can enter Canada, visit [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Visitors, foreign workers and students](#).

The Province of Prince Edward Island, under the authority of the Health Protection Act, also requires visitors entering Prince Edward Island to self-isolate for 14 days—even if they do not have COVID-19 symptoms.

Travelling/Returning to PEI from within Atlantic Canada

The Government of Prince Edward Island announced that effective November 24, 2020, non-essential travel to and from the province is discouraged, and that **anyone arriving from outside of PEI** will be required to self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival. This announcement has essentially ended PEI's participation in the Atlantic Canada bubble (New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and PEI) for a minimum of two weeks (up to December 7, 2020). Until that time, students travelling to PEI from within Atlantic Canada must follow the same guidelines as students travelling to PEI from outside the region (see below).

Travelling/Returning to PEI from outside Atlantic Canada

Effective November 24–December 7 at a minimum, **all students** arriving from anywhere off-Island for the 2021 Winter Academic Semester are required to develop a self-isolation plan, obtain pre-travel

approval from the PEI Emergency Measures Organization (PEI-EMO), and self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival on PEI. This includes new incoming students as well as students who have been studying at UPEI for the 2020 Fall Academic Semester and who have chosen to travel off-Island over the holiday break.

In order to enter or re-enter PEI as a student, all students must apply for “PEI Pre-Travel Approval” from the PEI-EMO *before arriving*.

Upon arrival at the Canadian port-of-entry, students will need to present their visa/study permit, letter of introduction, “Confirmation of Enrolment”, and “PEI Pre-Travel Approval.” Students will also need to present the same documentation at the PEI entry point (airport, Confederation Bridge, Wood Island Ferry Terminal).

Failure to provide proper documentation, including a self-isolation plan and “PEI Pre-Travel Approval”, at the Canadian and PEI borders may result in being denied entry into the country or the province. In certain situations, government authorities may also levy fines or lay criminal charges for non-compliance.

Parents can travel to PEI with students to drop them off; however, they require [PEI Pre-Travel Approval](#) and must adhere to all public health measures.

Developing your self-isolation plan/Obtaining your PEI Pre-Travel Approval

1. Decide when you are going to travel to PEI.

UPEI’s 2021 Winter Academic Semester begins January 11, 2021 (with the exception of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine semester, where online learning for first, second, and third-year DVM students and clinical placements for fourth-year students begin on January 4, 2021. In-person learning begins January 18, 2020).

Ideally, students who meet the criteria to travel to Canada and PEI should plan to arrive in PEI in time to complete the 14-day self-isolation period before classes begin. However, UPEI recognizes that, due to the holiday break, this may not be possible and accommodations will be made if students cannot complete their self-isolation period prior to the first day of classes.

Students who are booking flights to Canada should book connecting flights directly to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island (YYG) when possible. Keep an electronic and hard copy of your flight details and itinerary, to show where your travel begins and ends.

REMINDER: Masks are mandatory in indoor public places on PEI. You will also need to wear a mask while travelling to your final destination. You will need to agree to adhere to rigorous hygiene, cleanliness, and physical distancing practices for the entire duration of your travel, including transfers, and once on Prince Edward Island.

2. Determine where you will self-isolate for 14 days.

If you live off-campus and can self-isolate in your housing accommodation, you will need to:

- a. designate a self-isolation support contact who is currently residing on PEI (not another student who is self-isolating)
- b. have their contact information (address and phone number)

- c. have proof of your rent and/or lease agreement, hotel accommodation, or homestay/private residence arrangements

If you are a new incoming student and either live in UPEI Residence or cannot self-isolate at your housing accommodation, you will stay at a UPEI-designated hotel. In your PEI Pre-Travel Approval application, indicate that you will be staying at a UPEI-designated isolation hotel. UPEI will notify you of what hotel you will stay at for your 14-day self-isolation period. (Upon arrival at the UPEI-designated hotel, the student will be provided with a welcome letter, list of on- and off-campus resources, a UPEI non-medical mask, and guide to Charlottetown.)

PLEASE NOTE: Hotel accommodation, meals, and security services will be provided at no cost to new incoming students, but this does not include other personal items or supplies. Meals will be delivered three times per day on a set schedule, taking into consideration allergies, medical conditions, and food preferences.

If you a current student who chose to leave PEI for the holiday break and are returning from off-Island, and either live in UPEI Residence or cannot self-isolate at your housing accommodation, you can self-isolate at a UPEI-designated isolation hotel, but at your own expense. In your PEI Pre-Travel Approval application, indicate that you will be staying at a UPEI-designated isolation hotel.

3. **Obtain your confirmation documents from UPEI** by filling in the online form to [Request a Pre-Travel Enrolment Confirmation](#) from UPEI, or call us at 1-800-606-UPEI or 902-566-0318. This will serve as confirmation from UPEI that you are enrolled and are required to be physically on campus for the 2021 Winter Academic Semester. This is required for entry into Canada and PEI. If you are travelling by air, this confirmation will also serve as your “travel support letter” from UPEI as the airline might ask for one.
4. **Make transportation arrangements to your self-isolation accommodation.** Once you are self-isolating, you are not allowed to leave your self-isolation location. UPEI suggests that you pre-arrange your transportation with local taxi companies. Once you pre-book your taxi service, it is important that you save a copy of your booking and include it in your travel plan. You will be asked to show proof that you will safely reach your self-isolation destination. You might arrange alternative transferring options, as long as they meet PEI public health guidelines.
5. **If applicable, arrange medical health insurance to cover your self-isolation period.** Contact admin@upeisu.ca for assistance.
6. **If you are arriving from outside the country and are permitted to travel to Canada, download the “ArriveCAN app”** (from the App Store or Google Play) in order to submit your information to the Canada Border Services Agency.
7. **Obtain your “PEI Pre-Travel Approval for Students”** from the PEI-EMO by filling out the [online application](#) a minimum of 72 hours in advance of travel and ideally by December 1, 2020.

Defining self-isolation

What does it mean to self-isolate? Self-isolation (or quarantining) means having no contact with others. This means all situations where students may come in contact with others, such as at social gatherings, work, events, faith-based gatherings, healthcare facilities, grocery stores, restaurants, shopping malls, etc. During the self-isolation period, students must:

- stay in their own room or apartment and/or on the building's property;
- practice physical distancing while in corridors, stairwells, elevators, other shared spaces and outdoors;
- not leave their room/accommodation unless absolutely necessary, such as to seek medical care;
- not go to school, work, other public areas or use public transportation (e.g., buses, taxis);
- arrange to have groceries and supplies delivered to minimize contact.

What to expect while self-Isolating

Once students have completed their pre-travel approval requirements, whether they are self-isolating in a UPEI-designated hotel or according to a pre-approved self-isolation plan, they will be provided with a UPEI self-isolation contact person and additional information.

Staff who work for the Province of Prince Edward Island, through Operation Isolation, will contact all students in self-isolation once a day to check in and do a brief health screening. Phone calls that are not returned that day may result in fines or criminal charges.

If you are in your own accommodation

In addition to the PEI Operation Isolation calls, UPEI staff and/or Student Ambassadors will conduct virtual check-ins to see how students self-isolating in their own housing accommodation are feeling, and to support them in connecting with other students and services. Students who will be living in a UPEI residence after self-isolating will also be supported by UPEI Residence Services staff.

If you are at a UPEI-designated hotel

Students will be sent guidelines for their self-isolation location, including information about amenities and services that will be provided. In addition to the PEI Operation Isolation calls, UPEI staff and/or Student Ambassadors will conduct daily virtual check-ins to see how all students in self-isolation are feeling, and to support them in connecting with other students and services. The PEI-CPHO will arrange for COVID-19 testing of international students arriving from outside Canada at approximately day 10 of self-isolation. The 14-day self-isolation must be completed regardless of a negative test result.

Finding permanent accommodation

Students are not allowed to leave their self-isolation accommodation for the entire time that they are self-isolating. It is therefore highly recommended that students secure their long-term housing in advance of arriving on PEI.

If students have not yet secured long-term housing and need to stay at a hotel after their 14-day self-isolation period, they may book (at their own expense) at the Rodd Royalty Hotel at the preferred UPEI rate of \$79/night + applicable taxes (breakfast included). Rooms have a microwave and mini-fridge and the hotel will pick up grocery orders at the Atlantic Superstore two times/week for a small fee.

There may still be availability in residence. [UPEI Residence Services](#) offers various accommodation options, convenient meal plans, and built-in support services.

[Off-Campus Housing](#) helps students find housing availability outside our UPEI residence and homestay options. While they cannot guarantee suitable accommodations for all students, they provide links to many rental listings and opportunities for accommodation operators to list their available properties.

The [Homestay](#) Program is a great accommodation option for international and domestic students who prefer a “family-like” living arrangement. We have a wide variety of host families registered in our program who love meeting people from around the world and sharing our beautiful island with them.

Other Resources

We recognize how the COVID-19 situation may be stressful, especially for students travelling to PEI. UPEI has a number of supports for students through [UPEI Student Affairs](#), including personal counselling (studentserv@upei.ca), Accessibility Services (studentserv@upei.ca), and the International Student Office (irostu@upei.ca).

- [UPEI’s Operational Ease-Back Plan](#)
- [Keep up to date with UPEI’s response to COVID-19](#)
- [How to safely use a non-medical mask](#)

All UPEI students planning to travel to PEI must clearly understand the Government of Canada and the Government of Prince Edward Island laws and regulations, which are subject to change without notice, before making travel plans. Please consult government websites for the most up-to-date information. Failure to comply with these requirements may compromise the ability to attend and participate in UPEI programs and activities and could affect the student’s ability to stay and study in Canada and PEI.

QUESTIONS? For more information, contact:

**1-800-606-UPEI (8734)
902-566-0318**