



Dear Incoming UPEI International Students:

UPEI extends a warm welcome to you in advance of your arrival. To make your arrival and transition as smooth as possible, please read this whole message and prepare yourself as needed. We are looking forward to meeting you here in Charlottetown!

Arriving to Charlottetown

Please make sure your final destination is Charlottetown (YYG) airport. You may fly in to Charlottetown with Air Canada or WestJet airlines. We offer free airport pickup for new international students if we have enough notice to send somebody. If you choose to live with a Homestay family, they will meet you at the airport. To request airport pickup, you must fill out the online [Airport Pickup form](#). If you need to contact the university after business hours to report a change in your arrival, please call Security at (902) 566-0384.

Residence

Unless you have already secured a room, it is advisable to look for an off-campus option. If you are staying in Residence and will arrive before the official move-in date, please let Residence staff know by email at residence@upei.ca. If your room will not yet be ready, you will need to stay in a hotel or elsewhere. Here are a few hotels in Charlottetown where you can book a room:

- Garden Gate Inn: (902) 892-3411
- Rodd Royalty Inn & Suites: (902) 894-8566
- Econo Lodge: (902) 368-1110
- Holiday Inn Express: (902) 892-1201
- Quality Inn and Suites: (902) 894-8572

Off-campus housing

Please contact Richelle Greathouse (rgreathouse@upei.ca) for a list of off-campus rentals. This site might be helpful as well: <http://pei.kijiji.ca/f-real-estate-room-rental-roommates-W0QQCatIdZ36>.

If you are interested in living with a family, we would suggest a Homestay arrangement. Homestay is economical, and provides students with an opportunity to practice their English language skills in a social environment. To receive more information about Homestay contact Richelle Greathouse at (rgreathouse@upei.ca).

Orientation

There is a one-day orientation (ISO) specifically for international and exchange students. For January 2016 students, orientation will take place on January 9th. You can register for this event through your Campus Login at <http://upeica/campuslogin>. It is very important to attend the orientation day.

Registration

If you are an EAP student, you should wait until you have taken the EAP assessment test to register for EAP classes or other courses. Non-EAP students can start to register for courses after paying the tuition deposit through Campus Login. Many courses are already full and



running wait lists. You can register/wait list yourself online through your Campus Login at <https://secure.upei.ca/cls/login.html>. If you need advising on your courses and registration, please contact fyac@upei.ca to book an appointment to talk to an advisor by phone or Skype. You can add, drop, or change courses within certain dates – please check the Timetable at <http://upei.ca/timetable>.

Payment of fees

Fees for first semester are due in full two weeks after classes commence. Once you register for classes, your fees owing will be displayed on your campus Login. You can pay in person at the accounting office by debit card, at your bank by wire transfer, cheque, money order, or bank draft. For international students, the most recommended form of payment is Custom House: <http://www.upei.ca/accounting/international-students-instant-pay-easy-way>

EAP (English Academic Preparation)

If you need to take the EAP assessment test, please go to the International Relations Office in the Robertson Library Room 225, and book a time to write the CanTest. You need to do this before registering. The coordinators will give you an assessment and advise you on which courses to take, according to your language level. Please remember that you should write the CanTest on or before the first day of classes. If you are writing the CanTest, please arrive at 8:45 am and bring your student ID and a pen/pencil.

Join us on-line

You are invited to join our Facebook group: UPEI International Relations Office. <https://www.facebook.com/UPEI-International-Relations-Office-244848688858940/>

We also have a group for international students. It is a closed group, so you need to make a request to join. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/upeiinternational>



Frequently Asked Questions

Where is Prince Edward Island? What academic programs are offered at UPEI? What are the admission requirements for international students? I want to apply for admission. What should I do? Are there deadlines that I need to know about? Where can I live? How do I get home-stay accommodations? Is there any financial assistance available? What is the weather like? Will someone help me when I arrive? What should I bring with me? What kind of transportation is available to and from the University campus? Can I work as well as study? What kinds of jobs are available? Is there medical insurance available? What kind of health care is provided? Who will help me when I have a problem? Can I travel back and forth to my country? Can my family come with me? How can I make friends and become involved in the community? I have applied for and received a letter of acceptance. What should I do now? Are there any clubs or teams that I can become involved in? What else is there to do in my free time? I am already in Canada as a visitor. How do I get a Study Permit? I am admitted for September, but could I come early to attend summer classes? Do non-Canadian airlines fly straight into Charlottetown? How do I connect and from where? How many semesters do you have in one academic year? When are the holidays? Can I stay in residence during the holidays?

Where is Prince Edward Island?

Prince Edward Island (also known as 'PEI') is the smallest province in Canada, located in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, on the southeastern coast of the country. Charlottetown is the capital city, located on the south shore. To view it on a map, click [here](#).

What academic programs are offered at UPEI?

The University of Prince Edward Island offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in Arts, Business Administration, Education, Nursing, Science, Veterinary Medicine. As well, there is a three-year diploma program in [Engineering](#). You should also check out [Graduate Studies](#), and our [Pre-professional Programs](#) (Architecture, Dentistry, Law, Medicine, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Veterinary Medicine).

What are the admission requirements for international students?

All students are required to have graduated with an academic high school diploma or equivalent. Most international students are required to take an English language test upon arrival, unless you have already submitted a TOEFL score. Depending on your score, you may be required to take English Academic Preparation (EAP) courses. See the International Relations Office website for more details on test scores and language requirements.

I want to apply for admission. What should I do?

You need to send in the completed application form and pay the non-refundable application fee. The application can be done online, or printed off and mailed in.

Are there deadlines that I need to know about?

To be considered for an entrance scholarship, your application must be received by March 1. The next deadline to send in your application and tuition deposit for the first semester (in September) is May 1. Other important dates in the Academic Calendar can be found at <http://www.upei.ca/programsandcourses/calendar-dates>



Where can I live?

You can live on campus, in one of the three [student residences](#). You must apply and be accepted to residence before you arrive. You can live with a home-stay family, or you can rent a room or apartment. It is strongly suggested that you make these arrangements before you arrive. For more information on the home-stay or rental options, contact Richelle Greathouse at rgreathouse@upei.ca

How do I get home-stay accommodations?

You will need to fill out an application form and contact the home-stay coordinator Richelle Greathouse. (rgreathouse@upei.ca)

Is there any financial assistance available?

Although you should not depend on financial assistance to be able to study, there are several awards and scholarships for which international students are eligible to apply. Every fall and spring, new bursaries are posted on our website, and some are specifically for international students. For more information on [financial aid](#) follow the link.

What is the weather like?

The weather is a very popular topic of conversation because it is always changing. The summer months (July and August) are warm and pleasant, with temperatures typically in the 20s. From November until April, temperatures often drop below 0oC and it is necessary to dress appropriately. Snow typically begins to fall in November and ends in March. The fall (September and October) and spring (April, May and June) are moderate in temperature. See more [PEI weather details](#).

Will someone help me when I arrive?

If you forward your flight information to the International Student Advisors (ISAs), someone will pick you up at the airport and bring you to residence. If you are living in a home-stay, please contact your home-stay family or the co-ordinator to arrange to be picked up. There are lots of people available to help with everything from choosing courses to finding your way around. Of course, as time goes on you will become more independent, but there is always someone you can ask for help.

What should I bring with me?

Be aware of weight restrictions determined by the airlines you are flying with. When packing clothing, think more about long-sleeve shirts and long pants (trousers) and less about shorts or light tops. Perhaps instead of bringing lots of textbooks in your native language, invest in a specialized dictionary to help you with translations.

What kind of transportation is available to and from the University campus?

There is a public transit bus that runs through the main parts of the city and UPEI students can ride as often as they want for free just by showing their student card. To see the routes, check the <http://triustransit.ca>. By taking the bus, you can be downtown in just 10 minutes. Otherwise, students typically walk or take a taxi to where they need to go.

Can I work as well as study?

Yes, you can. International students can work on campus for up to 20 hours per week without a work permit. For more details, see [Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#).



What kinds of jobs are available?

Student jobs on campus can consist of working in the cafeteria, in residence, as a grounds keeper, in the library, or assisting professors, just to name a few possibilities. For off-campus, there are many places that employ students part-time. You can view postings on the central government job site by creating an account at <http://www.jobbank.gc.ca>.

Is there medical insurance available?

Yes. All full-time students, international and local, are automatically enrolled in a student medical insurance plan which is included in your student fees and is administered by the UPEI Student Union. For more information, see the UPEI Student Union page at <http://upeisu.ca>.

What kind of health care is provided?

You will be provided the same health care as any Canadian citizen. There is a Student Health Centre located on campus where you can make an appointment to see a medical doctor, and there are walk-in clinics for emergencies.

Who will help me when I have a problem?

Of course it depends on what kind of problem you have, but there are lots of people to turn to. Asking your International Student Advisor is a good move in the right direction. There is support in place through the Department of Student Services and the Webster Centre for Teaching and Learning to help with personal problems, academic struggles, and career-planning.

Can I travel back and forth to my country?

You can travel back and forth if you have a "re-entry visa." You can apply for this at the time you are applying for a study permit. See <http://www.cic.gc.ca/ctc-vac/cometocanada.asp>.

Can my family come with me?

Yes, it is possible. If you have a spouse and/or children, they can apply for a visitor visa, a study permit, or a work permit to be able to come with you.

How can I make friends and become involved in the community?

Living in residence is a good way to become quickly involved and to meet many fellow students. You can also apply to the "Buddy Program," where you will be matched up with a Canadian or returning student who can spend time with you and introduce you to his/her friends. There is also the "Ambassador Family Program" through which you can be matched with a local family to get together for a meal or an outing a few times each semester.

I have applied for and received a letter of acceptance. What should I do now?

You need to contact the Canadian Embassy in your country to apply for a study permit. The process and wait time will depend on what country you are in, but the Embassy will tell you what you need to do.

Are there any clubs or teams that I can become involved in?

Yes. There is a [sports centre](#) on campus available to all students for fitness and recreation.



There are many clubs and societies through your faculty or the Student Union that you may be interested in joining. There is also a Society of International Students (SIS).

What else is there to do in my free time?

There are many social activities going on at the University and in the local community. A good entertainment guide is *The Buzz*. Other interesting cities to visit on the weekends include Moncton and Halifax. Because of liquor licensing rules, many nighttime social activities are restricted to those 19 years of age and older, although the UPEI campus pub, “The Wave” often has events open to all ages.

I am already in Canada as a visitor. How do I get a Study Permit?

You can send your application to a Canadian Embassy in the United States, preferably to Buffalo, New York. When your application is approved, you will be notified to travel to the Canada-US border to receive your study permit. The form can be found [here](#). You have to apply as if you are “Outside of Canada”.

I am admitted for September, but could I come early to attend summer classes?

Yes, as long as you have made arrangements and have your letter of acceptance. You will want to mention this plan to the Embassy when you apply for your study permit.

Do non-Canadian airlines fly straight into Charlottetown? How do I connect and from where? Charlottetown has a small airport with two main air carriers: Air Canada and WestJet. In the summer months there are other carriers (NorthWest Airlines and Delta Connection). You will want to book your flight so that you can connect with one of those airlines in Montreal, Toronto, Halifax, or Ottawa, which will bring you into Charlottetown Airport. Before booking your ticket, visit <http://flypei.com>.

How many semesters do you have in one academic year?

There are two semesters. The first semester goes from September through to December, and the second semester goes from January through to April. There is also a spring session (May-June) and a summer session (July-August), which are optional.

When are the holidays?

There is a break between semesters in December (Christmas holidays) until the first week of January. The exact dates depend on your particular exam schedule, but most students get at least two weeks’ vacation. There is also one week of holidays in February (Reading Week), and a long break (summer holidays) between the end of exams in April until the first week of September.

Can I stay in residence during the holidays?

You will need permission to stay in residence during the Christmas break, and you may request a move-out extension if you wish to stay for a short time after your final exams in April, but everyone needs to move out during the summer.