TRAVELLING TO TR

A UPEI Student Guide

UPEI International Student Office - April, 2021

UNIVERSITY of Prince Edward ISLAND

* The information in this guide was correct as of printing on April 14, 2021; please be aware that in response to pandemic conditions both inside and outside of Canada, the federal government may make changes to the travel rules and procedure. Students are solely responsible for keeping themselves up to date on any regulatory changes made by the Government of Canada and the Prince Edward Island Government.

Please review the steps outlined in this guide carefully and reach out to us if you have any questions. Before making any travel plans, or purchasing airline tickets, please make sure that you meet the requirements to enter Canada, and enter PEI. Information and processes are often changing so it is important to review all of the emails that you receive from the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) and the International Student Office (ISO). For the most up-to-date information, ensure that you review the **Canadian** federal government's immigration website (Immigration, Refugee, and Citizenship Canada or IRCC).

We can't wait for you to join us!

Sincerely,

The UPEI International Student Office Team

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TRAVEL-RELATED UPDATES

The Canadian government has prepared a very helpful <u>Coming to Canada</u> <u>Checklist</u>; all incoming students should read and be familiar with these guidelines. Failure to follow the required steps can result in Canada Border Services Agency denying you entry to Canada.

If you will be driving to Canada from the United States, please follow the instructions from the Canadian government found <u>here</u>.

Starting January 7, 2021, ALL travellers, five years of age or older, will be required to present a negative COVID-19 test result to their airline before being permitted to board any international flights to Canada.

The test must be performed using a specific type of test for detecting COVID-19. Only COVID-19 molecular polymerase chain reaction (or PCR) tests will be accepted. Tests must be taken within 72 hours prior to your **scheduled** departure to Canada.



Documentation of a negative laboratory test must be presented to the airline prior to boarding. *Despite* receiving a negative test, you will still be **required to complete the full, mandatory 14-day quarantine (selfisolation), and the three-day mandatory quarantine (selfisolation) at your point of entry to Canada. The cost of the three-day minimum federal quarantine at the point of entry to Canada is at the student's own expense. Please budget between \$1500-\$2000 for this three-day stay.** Failure to <u>comply could result in fines or jail time.</u> For more information, please visit <u>here</u>. It's also recommended that you review Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship's (IRCC's) <u>**COVID-19**</u> **page** for the most updated information and announcements.

NOTE:

This means that if you encounter flight delays, etc. that could impact your ability to board your flight and travel to Canada, you may be required to then get another test so it is within the necessary timeframe of 72 hours prior to your departure.









ArriveCAN App

The **ArriveCAN App** is now required and must be used prior to entering Canada to confirm that you have reached your quarantine destination, and to complete mandatory *daily* reporting during quarantine (self-isolation), which includes a brief daily symptom self-assessment.

ArriveCAN is available as a mobile app or you can sign in online. Please make sure that you are using the most up-to-date version of the app. You will need to submit all COVID-related information digitally through **ArriveCAN** prior to boarding your flight to Canada. Students will need to provide travel and contact information, a quarantine (self-isolation) plan, and a COVID-19 symptom self-assessment. To download the app, sign into the website, or receive additional information please click *here*.

****Travellers must be ready to show their ArriveCAN receipt when seeking entry into Canada**; a border services officer will verify that you have submitted your information digitally. Travellers who do not submit the required information digitally **beforehand** will not be able to board their flight.

If you have questions about the **ArriveCan App** check the Canadian government website or call, toll-free number (1-833-641-0343).



NOTE:

The app does not use GPS and only uses the information you provide which is used by the border agent.

IMMIGRATION-RELATED UPDATES



UPEI is dedicated to supporting students during this challenging time. Please check our *UPEI COVID-19* info page for all updates and everything you need to know before coming to Prince Edward Island. We would like to remind all students who are registering or have already registered for 2021 Fall Academic Semester courses that student visa decisions are made by the Canadian government visa offices. UPEI has no influence on the government or visa decision-making process; in addition, UPEI personnel are not allowed to make inquiries about student visa applications. No refunds, beyond the *general UPEI refund policy*, will be made for failure to obtain a study permit.

We strongly encourage all students to check for updates on Canadian immigration and citizenship policies, by visiting the <u>IRCC official website</u>. Additionally, please monitor your emails for important immigration updates from our office.

The Canadian border continues to have restrictions. International travellers must receive both federal and provincial permission to enter. This means that even if you're allowed into Canada, you still need permission to enter PEI through the *PEI pre-travel authorization process*.

To be able to enter Canada as a student, you must meet these minimum requirements:

- You must have a valid study permit or a letter of introduction that shows you were approved for a study permit.
- You must be attending a *designated learning institution (DLI) with a COVID-19 readiness plan* approved by its province or territory. (UPEI is on the approval list!)
- All students must be registered in courses for the upcoming semester. Students not studying in the summer semester cannot enter Canada until the fall semester entry period. Students will not be permitted to travel to PEI for work purposes. The CBSA will turn you away at the border.

Students who wish to come to Canada in the summer semester must meet **both** of the following requirements: **you must be an existing student who was enrolled in classes in winter 2021**, and **you must be enrolled in summer classes**.



PRE-ARRIVAL

All students who meet the federal requirements and are planning to travel to Canada for the 2021 Fall Academic Semester should book their travel and then apply for their Pre-Travel Enrolment letter from UPEI approximately 30 days prior to their planned travel to PEI.

For people entering from outside of Canada, there are *two* separate approval processes to come to PEI; one at the federal level (see previous minimum requirements) and the other at the provincial level. The **PEI Pre-Travel Approval** is a requirement for both entering Canada and the province.

It is important that you apply early enough to ensure that you receive your approval in time for your travels. You MUST have the provincial and federal governments' approval before coming to Canada, so please consider this and plan accordingly. We will not be able to accommodate last minute requests.

To prepare for your travel, you should:

- Review this guide carefully.
- Gather and prepare all required documents.
- Ensure that you are registered for full-time courses for the 2021 Fall Academic Semester, a minimum of three courses (nine semester hours). If you need assistance with registration, please contact <u>apply@upei.ca</u> to make an appointment with an academic advisor.
 - Download the **ArriveCan App** (if travelling from outside of Canada), and follow the **federal requirements for booking your point of entry self-isolation hotel**.
 - We strongly recommend students to download the new <u>**COVID-19 Alert App**</u>, which can let you know if you have been exposed to someone that has tested positive for COVID-19.
 - Contact your airline to confirm what their travel requirements and regulations are.
 - Purchase a supply of reusable or disposable non-medical masks and hand sanitizer for travel and for use in public places in PEI.
 - **DO NOT** travel if you are sick, and report all symptoms you may be experiencing.

Tips for a successful online submission for PEI Pre-Travel Approval

Any section of the online form marked with * is a required field and must be completed.

Applications with inaccurate information or incomplete documentation will not be processed.

Application requirements vary based on your selections.

It may take additional time to upload a file.

Resize files larger than 1 MB before uploading (see <u>resizing</u> <u>photos for online applications</u>).

Keep a record of your Submission ID (example: 34123).

In the "Reason for Entry" section of the online form, select STUDENT, then select the type of student that applies to the applicant.

Instead of the hotel name, please indicate you are booked in the DIH (Designated Isolation Hotel), Select "Other" (in the "If yes, what type of accommodation will you use for self-isolation" field) and type "Designated Isolation Hotel" in the description text box. When you receive your booking, you can email with your reference number to the PEI Pre-Travel Approval office at <u>publicsafety@gov.pe.ca</u>

On the third page you will be asked to enter information for your support person.

Please enter the following: Donna Sutton Associate Vice-President of Students and Registrar Registrar's Office University of Prince Edward Island 550 University Ave., Charlottetown, PE C1A 4P4 <u>dsutton@upei.ca</u> 902-566-0628

WHEN YOU REACH THE CANADIAN BORDER

It is up to the border agent whether they will permit you to enter Canada or not. We do not want students to take any unnecessary risks or be turned away, so please come prepared and make sure that you have followed all of the previously mentioned required steps such as booking your federal hotel. When the border services officer greets you at the federal border, they look at several factors, including:

- Your reason for travelling to Canada, do they believe that you are a bona-fide student, and that you will be studying at the institution named in your letter of introduction and letter of acceptance. This is important because misrepresentation is a serious legal offence, and can result in a five-year ban from Canada.
- Have you properly and truthfully completed forms on the ArriveCan App
- Your ability to complete a federal quarantine (self-isolation) and a <u>14-day quarantine</u> <u>(self-isolation) period</u> as soon as you arrive at your final destination



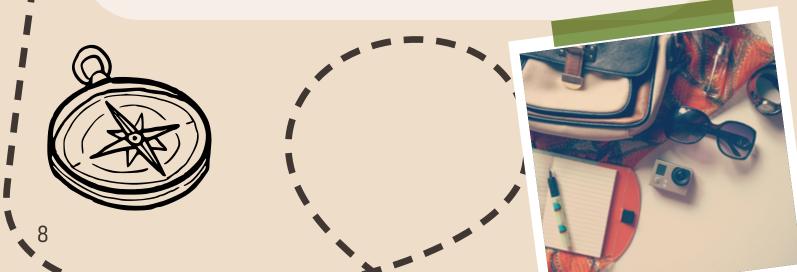
- have time to complete your quarantine (self-isolation) before you physically attend classes, or
- can study online during your quarantine (self-isolation)

YOU MUST BRING

- A valid study permit or letter of introduction that shows you were approved for a study permit
- The UPEI Travel Enrolment Letter (requested on myUPEI) and sent from the International Student Office. You must show a current registration.
- If you are a new student, you will also need to show a valid letter of acceptance from a <u>Designated Learning Institution (DLI) with a COVID-19 readiness plan</u> approved by its province or territory (UPEI is on the list!)
 - Proof that you have enough money to support yourself and any family members who come with you to Canada
 - Proof of your PEI Pre-Travel Approval
 - A valid ETA or visitor visa
 - Any other documents that the immigration has requested you bring

WHEN TRAVELLING

- You will be asked to complete a health check and confirm you have the essential documents for arrival before you are allowed to board your plane. Anyone with COVID-19 related symptoms will *not* be permitted to board.
- Passengers on all flights to Canada must show that they have the required non-medical masks for your journey otherwise they will not be allowed to board the flight.
- Bring extra masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes. You can use wipes to clean surfaces, as well as your purses and luggage. Don't forget to purchase an adapter for your electronics.
- Avoid large crowds. Practice social distancing of at least six feet (two metres) at all times when possible to do so.
- Be aware of the local situation and follow the local health advice at the locations you are travelling through.
- Wash your hands frequently and touch as few surfaces as possible.
- When eating, make sure to put your mask on as soon as you are finished.
- Keep your cell phone charged, in case of delays, and so that you can show the border agent/officer your ArriveCAN receipt. If possible, we encourage students to bring a battery pack (check your airline for their rules for battery packs).
 - Masks are required to be worn in the airplane, airports, and all public indoor spaces in PEI. This means you will need to wear one in the taxi and at the hotel until you get to your room.



SELF-ISOLATION

Everyone entering Canada and PEI must complete two levels of quarantine (self-isolation). The first occurs at the student's point of entry to Canada. For the most up-to-date information on this requirement, please consult the **Canadian government website found here**.

During the first federal quarantine (self-isolation), you must test negative for COVID-19, before you are permitted to board a plane and travel to your final destination. This quarantine period is at the student's own expense. All students should be aware that they will be responsible for all costs associated with this federal quarantine stay if they are required to self-isolate for longer than the three-day minimum. Failure to follow the federal quarantine guidelines can result in deportation from Canada.

Following this federal quarantine (self-isolation), students must also self-isolate for 14 days when they arrive in PEI. **This is mandatory.** Asymptomatic carriers of COVID-19 are still at risk of developing symptoms and infecting others.

UPEI has been working with the Government of Prince Edward Island to secure hotels to support students who need to quarantine/self-isolate. If students are travelling from outside of Canada, in most cases they must stay at the designated hotel for quarantine. For students travelling from outside of PEI, but from within Canada, or for students studying at the Atlantic Veterinary College coming directly from the USA, you can choose to either submit your own comprehensive quarantine/self-isolation plan or use the designated hotel. If you are using your own plan (instead of staying at the hotel) and they don't approve it, you will need to apply again with a more comprehensive plan or you may be required to quarantine at the province's designated hotel (at your own expense if not eligible for coverage).

Students staying at the designated hotel during the province's approved arrival time are provided with accommodation, meals*, and security services at no cost to the student (*see note below); however, 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. *Students are recommended to bring a credit card to be used for any extra food delivery or other services.* As soon as the hotel is confirmed, information about services and amenities will be provided to students. Besides daily check-ins from the PEI Chief Public Health Office, UPEI staff 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.

*As of now, the Government of PEI will only cover the expenses ONCE for students to selfisolate at the designated hotel and only when students enter PEI for the first time since the *pandemic began* (students who left Canada or PEI for mandatory travel will need to speak to a UPEI representative). UPEI may still reserve hotel rooms for students who need to quarantine at the designated hotel and arrange meals and necessities; however, if you do not meet the above-mentioned requirements then this would be at your own expense.

Important information: At this time, students who have negative COVID-19 tests, and/or have been vaccinated are not exempt from these quarantine requirements. Violating any instructions provided to you when you entered Canada is an offence under the Quarantine Act and could lead to up to:

- 6 months in prison and/or
- \$750,000 in fines

COVID-19 TESTING

During your provincial quarantine/self-isolation period, you will be required to complete two COVID-19 tests, ten days apart. If one of these tests is positive for the virus, you would be required to quarantine for 14 days from the date of the positive test. You must be symptom free before leaving quarantine.



SELF-ISOLATION GUIDELINES

- The Government of PEI takes the health and safety of everyone very seriously. It is important that you follow the law and respect your self-isolation period. It is how our COVID-19 numbers have stayed so low.
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This means that you are **NOT** allowed to leave your self-isolation location, take the bus or a taxi to get groceries or have a friend come over to visit you.

- You cannot leave your place of quarantine until you are permitted by the PEI Chief Public Health Office to do so.
- Should you need to have anything dropped off or delivered, it must be contactless. When opening your to pick up the item, you must also be wearing a mask, dspite not actually leaving your room.
- You must have a comprehensive plan to obtain any needs you might have (food, medications, etc.), and the available funds to obtain these items.

NOTE:

You should not quarantine/selfisolate in a place where you will have contact with anyone who is 65 years or older, has underlying medical conditions, or has a compromised immune system.





STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS FOR THOSE TRAVELLING TO PEI FROM OUTSIDE OF CANADA

Instructions for those travelling from within Canada to PEI is described towards the bottom of this document

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

Please review the full guide for details and further instructions. Below is a *general* step-bystep instruction for travelling to PEI from *outside* Canada.

- Make sure that you are eligible to receive a travel letter from UPEI. Students who wish to come in the 2021 Summer Academic Semester must meet **both** of the following requirements: you must have been enrolled in classes in winter 2021, and you must be enrolled in summer classes. Students not studying will not be permitted to travel to PEI for work purposes. New fall admission students will not receive approval to travel until the approved fall arrival time.
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NOTE:

Ensure that you are registered in full-time courses (minimum of nine credits or three courses)

Book your travel—to Canada and to PEI (you will need travel dates for the next steps). The ISO recommends that students book flights that allow for changes. In general, it will be cheaper to rebook a flight to PEI, versus booking a last-minute flight to PEI if you happen to be delayed at your point of entry to Canada.

Make a *hotel reservation* for the mandatory federal government three-day quarantine/self- isolation requirement as soon as your travel plans are confirmed.

Submit the Pre-Travel Enrolment Letter Request Form on myUPEI (right-hand side under 'UPEI forms") when it is approximately 30 to 40 days prior to your travel date.

Once you complete the form, you will be followed up with by our staff to confirm your travel dates and provide you with two letters. One to show the agent/officer at the border and the other to use for applying for your *PEI Pre-Travel Approval*.

Once you have the travel/enrolment letters from UPEI, you should apply right away for the **PEI Pre-Travel Approval**. (Please see the "note" section for how to process online submission successfully).

You must show the appropriate documents to the border agent/officer, including the completed form on the **ArriveCan App**. Please see the border section in this guide.

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Once you receive a negative COVID-19 test and have completed the three-day quarantine/self-isolation at your point of entry in Canada, you will be permitted to continue your travel to PEI.

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Upon landing in PEI, you will take a taxi to the designated hotel (unless you were approved for an alternative quarantine/self-isolation plan by the provincial government). You must go directly from the airport to your quarantine/self-isolation destination *with absolutely no stops*—not for groceries, gas, etc. If you are staying at the designated hotel, there will be a taxi ready to take you directly to the hotel.

Monitor your symptoms. You will receive daily check-ins from the PEI Chief Public Health Office. Depending upon your time of arrival, you may also be contacted by UPEI staff.

Since you have travelled from outside of Canada, you are required to complete daily mandatory check-ins via the ArriveCan App for the full 14-day quarantine/self-isolation period.



If your travel date has changed, you MUST alert UPEI and the PEI Government of this change **right away**. Otherwise, they will be looking for you, and this could lead to unnecessary problems with your travel and quarantine/self-isolation.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS FOR THOSE TRAVELLING TO PEI FROM ANOTHER PROVINCE IN CANADA

NOTE: If the ATLANTIC BUBBLE (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, or Newfoundland) is not in effect at the time of your travel, you will be subject to the travel rules that visitors from other Canadian provinces must follow.

> If travelling from another Canadian province, you are still required to quarantine/selfisolate for 14 days aand submit a comprehensive self-isolation plan to the province for approval before being able to enter, The proivince has turned people away who did not receive approval ahead of time. Be prepared so that this does not occur.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

Please review the full guide for details and further instructions. Below is a *general* step-bystep instruction for travelling to PEI from *inside* Canada:

- Ensure that you are registered in a full-time course load (minimum of nine credits or three courses)
- Book your travel (you will need travel dates for the next steps)
- Submit the Pre-Travel Enrolment Letter Request Form on myUPEI (right-hand side under "forms") and indicate whether you will be using your own quarantine/selfisolation plan or if you plan to stay at the designated hotel.
- Once you complete the form, you will be followed up with by our staff to confirm your travel dates and provide you with a letter to use for applying for your **PEI Pre-Travel Approval**.
- **5** Once you have your 14-day quarantine/self-isolation plan confirmed (if you choose to arrange your own self-isolation accommodation) and received your UPEI letter, you should apply right away for the **PEI Pre-Travel Approval**. (Please see the note section in this guide for how to process online submission successfully). You will need to show this receipt of approval at the provincial border and you are likely to be turned away if you do not have it.

Once arriving in PEI by air, you will take a taxi to the designated hotel (unless you were approved for an alternative self-isolation plan by the province). You must go directly from the airport to your quarantine destination *with absolutely no stops*— not for groceries, gas, etc. If you are staying at the designated hotel, there will be a taxi ready to take you directly to the hotel.

Monitor your symptoms. You will receive daily check-ins from UPEI and from the PEI Chief Public Health Office NOTE: Violating quarantine requirements can result in serious penalties and fines by both the federal and provincial governments and can impact your immigration. UPEI may also institute additional consequences.

NOTE: If your travel date has changed, you MUST alert UPEI and the PEI Government of this change right away. Otherwise, they will be looking for you, and this could lead to unnecessary problems with your travel and quarantine/selfisolation.

If you have any questions about quarantine/self-isolation, i.e., what the requirements are, please let us know. We want you to have all of the information so that no misunderstandings occur.



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*).

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.

When you arrive for the Fall Academic Semester you will receive our in-depth quarantine/selfisolation guide.

Questions? For more information, contact:

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