

## PRE-ARRIVAL PACKAGE



### Welcome to VGC International College

Thank you for choosing VGC! In this pre-arrival package, you will find information on what is required before departing your country, while travelling to Canada and on arrival at the airport.

This package also provides information for your first day at VGC and what to expect.

We look forward to meeting you soon!

## Before Leaving your Country

We can't wait to see you at VGC! But before you leave, make sure you have completed the following checklist to ensure you can come to Canada without any issues:

### Checklist

- Visit [VGC's COVID-19](#) page for the latest travel updates and links to the Government of Canada's Covid-19 pages.
- Register for Medical/Health Insurance - Print a copy and bring it on the plane with you. We recommend using our VGC Health insurance plan.
- Have all applicable Visa and/or travel documents ready
- Submit your travel details to ArriveCAN - More information provided on the next page
  - You **MUST** complete this within 72 hours before departing for Canada
  - Be ready to show your ArriveCAN receipt at immigration
- Arrival Test: if you qualify as a fully vaccinated traveller, you may be selected for randomized Covid-19 testing when you arrive at the airport. Please follow the instructions you receive from the airport officials, should you be selected.

### Optional Checklist

- To reduce your wait time as a Study Permit Holder, complete the Voluntary Compliance Portal (VC Portal) within 72 hours departing for Canada. See VGC's [VC Portal Information](#)

### Important

It is the **student's responsibility** to read and prepare all documentation required by the Government of Canada before travelling. Check government links for the most **up-to-date** information:

- [Am I Eligible to Come to Canada?](#)

## ArriveCAN

All travellers entering Canada by air must use ArriveCan to submit their travel details. You must complete this task within 72 before departing for Canada. Here's what you need to know:

### Why do I need to do this?

1. It is mandated by the Government of Canada that you must submit your information before boarding the flight
2. Once completed, you must have your receipt ready to show the border officer in Canada, or you will be fined \$1,000 or denied entry into Canada.

### What information must you provide?

1. Submit contact info & travel details
2. Vaccination info & pre-entry test results

### Where Can I Access ArriveCan?

- You can register for [ArriveCan online](#) or on your mobile device. It is a completely free and secure app
- For more information, check out [ArriveCAN](#) on the Government of Canada's website



## What to Bring to Canada

It is important to know exactly what documents and visas you need before entering Canada. If you are receiving a study or work permit, make sure you receive these documents with the correct dates before leaving immigration.

Use this checklist to ensure you have all these items in your carry on and are ready to present it to the airline in your country as well as the Canadian immigration officer when you arrive:

### COVID-19 Related:

- Arrive CAN submission receipt (mandatory)
- Face masks according to airline requirements (medical grade, an N95, or FFP2) and hand sanitizer in your checked-in and carry-on luggage for use during travel

### Visa and other travel documents:

- Valid Passport and Visa (if applicable)
- Port of Entry (POE) Letter of Introduction (if applicable – must be presented to an immigration officer in order to receive your Study and/or Work Permit)
- VGC Letter of Acceptance (if you are receiving a Study Permit, make sure it is valid for the dates on this document)
- Medical/Health Insurance
- Proof of Covid-19 vaccination (in English or French)
- Medical records and other immunization records, translated if applicable (useful but not required)
- Accommodation details (address and phone number)
- VGC information and emergency phone numbers
- Proof of Funds (if applicable)
- [Biometric Instruction Letter](#) (fingerprints and photo; if applicable)



# Arriving at Vancouver Airport

## Step 1: Verify your identity and complete an on-screen declaration at a Primary Inspection Kiosk

This service is offered in multiple languages. Once completed, be sure to take your receipt. If you are an unaccompanied minor (under 18 years old) you will be directed to a border services officer for in-person processing.

## Step 2: Go through Canadian Customs and Immigration and present the following documents:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passport   | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other requested documents                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Port of Entry Letter (if applicable)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> If applicable, receive your Study Permit and Work Permit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VGC Letter of Acceptance                               |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VGC Letter for Work Permit Application (if applicable) |   |

### Note

- If you applied for a study permit and/or work permit, **DO NOT** leave the customs and immigration section at arrival until you have received the documentation
- If you are arriving on a Domestic Flight, you have already gone through Step 2, proceed to Step 3
- Some travellers may be selected for randomized Covid-19 Arrival Testing. Please follow the instructions you receive from airport officials should you be selected.

## Step 3: Leave the security area and pick up your luggage



# Arriving at Vancouver Airport

## Step 4: Find transportation to your new home

### 1. VGC Airport Pick-Up

- Look for a person holding a sign in the arrival area (Domestic or International)
- **DO NOT** leave the Airport Arrivals area if you can't find your driver. Call the Emergency Number provided on the homestay profile or pick-up confirmation letter

**Note:** Connect to the Airport WiFi as soon as you land to notify your pick-up company. If things take longer than expected, you **MUST** inform your driver.

### 2. Airport Taxis

- Taxis are located on Level 2 of the Domestic & International Arrivals area. Taxi Drivers are fully licensed and prices are regulated. Please refer to the [YVR website for prices](#)



## During your first 14 days in Canada

### Fully Vaccinated Students

Students do not need to quarantine but must follow all the public health recommendations such as wearing a mask where required or monitoring for symptoms of Covid-19. You can find the latest information about public health recommendations on the [BC Government Website](#).

### Keeping Safe While Studying with VGC

- Follow the most recent public health COVID-19 updates made by the BC and Federal health authorities. This information can be found on [VGC's Safety Protocols](#) web page
- Continue to practice proper hygiene by washing your hands and using hand sanitizer
- Use proper coughing and sneezing etiquette
- Continue to self-assess and if you start to feel any symptoms follow the steps on the next page

**Reminder:** Our safety protocols are in place to protect you and the VGC community. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



## If you feel sick:



- Stay at home and **DO NOT** come to school. You can take your classes from home.
- If you are able to get a COVID test and your results are negative, you will be able to come back onto campus.
- If you are unable to get a COVID test **or** your test comes back positive, you must isolate at home for a minimum of 5 days.
- If you have no more symptoms after 5 days, you can return to campus.
- If you are experiencing symptoms or have a positive test result, you must inform VGC at [academicadmin@vgc.ca](mailto:academicadmin@vgc.ca).
- If you would like to get further information, you can access the [Thrive Health COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) or call **8-1-1** to explain your symptoms and follow their instructions. This service is available in various languages

### Health Care information

Please visit the [Covid-19 safety](#) section on the VGC website for Health Care resources.

### Mental Health Care Options

- [Here2Talk](#) offers confidential mental health counselling 24/7.
- [BounceBack](#) provides free online, video and phone-based coaching for non-crisis situations.
- [Canadian Mental Health Association Self Check-In](#) directs individuals to the most appropriate resources.



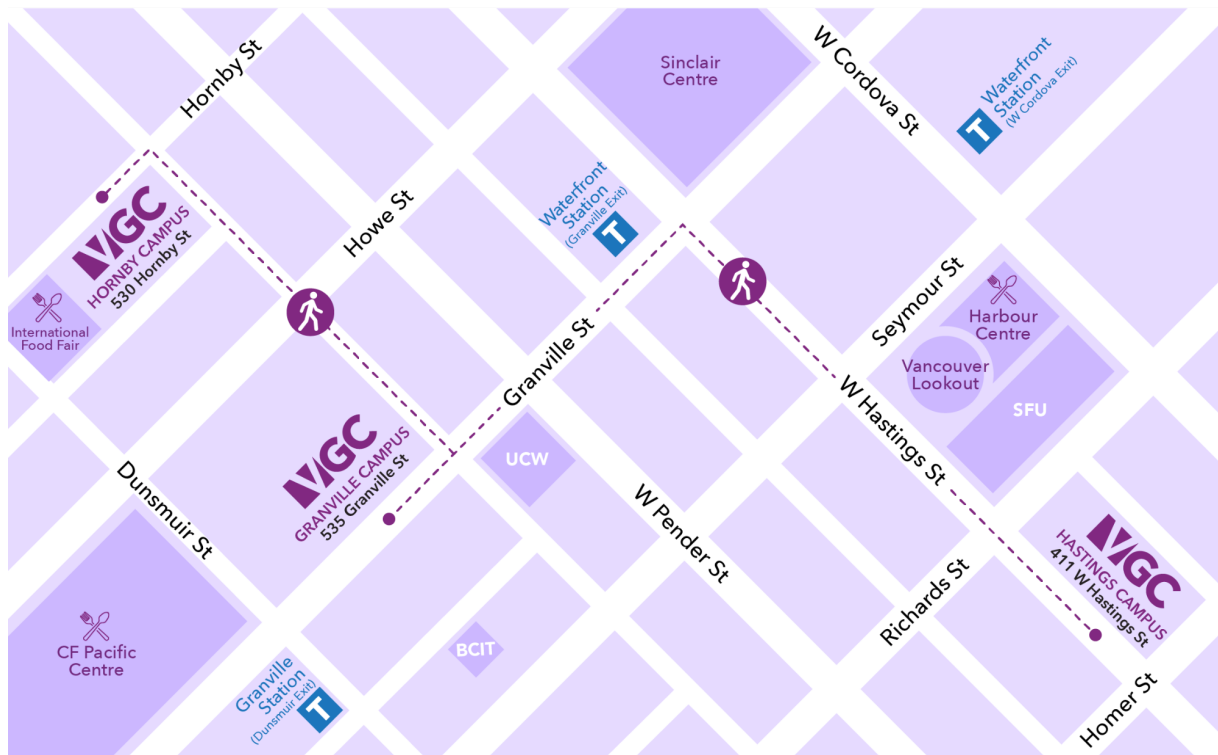



## Getting to VGC

VGC's Granville, Hastings and Hornby campuses are conveniently located near various public transportation locations. You can get more information about schedules, trip planning, maps, and fares on the [TransLink website](#). You can also use Google Maps or the [Transit App](#) to plan your route. Masks are recommended on all forms of public transportation. If you take public transportation, you can travel by:

- Buses
- SkyTrain (Canada Line, Expo Line, and Millennium Line)
- SeaBus (ferry that travels between Vancouver and North Vancouver)
- West Coast Express (train that goes between downtown Vancouver and Mission City)

Note: Expect to spend \$100-\$181 per month on public transportation



	Waterfront Station to VGC Hastings Campus	2 min.
	Waterfront Station (Granville Exit) to VGC Granville Campus	1 min.
	Waterfront Station (Granville Exit) to VGC Hornby Campus	4 min.
	Between VGC Hastings and VGC Granville Campuses	4 min.
	Between VGC Granville and VGC Hornby Campuses	3 min.



## Your First Day at VGC

On the **Friday** before your start date, you will receive an email from our Admissions team with information about the student portal as well as the first day orientation. Attending VGC's orientation is **mandatory**. We expect all students to show up on time. Please see the schedule below:

8:30 - 8:45	Arrive to the campus specified in your Friday email. Check in with the front desk and then join the other new students in the lounge.
8:45 - 12:30	Orientation followed by a school and neighbourhood walking tour.
12:30	Finished for the day. Students can eat lunch on campus or go home. <b>Classes will begin the following day.</b>

**IMPORTANT:** Send an Email to [admissions@vgc.ca](mailto:admissions@vgc.ca) with a photo of your passport, visa and medical insurance before orientation. If you purchased insurance through VGC, you do not need to send proof of medical insurance.



## Resources

### Public Holidays

VGC International College is not open on public holidays. If a public holiday falls on a Monday, the school will be closed and orientation will fall on a Tuesday. You can find the latest information about [public holidays](#) on VGC's website.

### Useful Tips about Vancouver

<b>Facts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vancouver uses the Pacific Standard Time</li> <li>● The Legal Adult Age and the Legal Drinking Age is <b>19</b> (two pieces of ID are required)</li> <li>● Taxes include the Goods and Services Tax (GST) at 5% and the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) at 7%</li> <li>● Tipping 15%-18% is customary in Vancouver. It is expected in many services such as restaurants, taxis, hairdressers/salons, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Weather</b>	<p>The average temperatures are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● December - February: 0°C - 5°C</li> <li>● March - May: 5°C - 15°C</li> <li>● June - August: 20°C - 25°C</li> <li>● September - November: 10°C - 18°C</li> </ul>
<b>Currency &amp; Payment Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● You can exchange most currencies for Canadian dollars at:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Many commercial banks</li> <li>○ Currency exchange offices at the airport or in the city</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Major Credit Cards such as Visa or MasterCard are widely accepted</li> <li>● We advise that you have CAD\$200 in cash when you arrive in Canada</li> </ul>

### Contact us

We are here to support you in having an amazing VGC experience. If you have any questions, please contact us at:



[marketing@vgc.ca](mailto:marketing@vgc.ca)



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