

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

- Check the travel or exit requirements of your home country.
- Visit the [Government of Canada's Travel page](#) for the latest travel updates and links to policies and procedures on entering Canada.
- 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
- <OPTIONAL> 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?](#)



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:

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
- 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:

- Passport
- Port of Entry Letter (if applicable)
- VGC Letter of Acceptance
- VGC Letter for Work Permit Application (if applicable)
- Any other requested documents
- If applicable, receive your Study Permit and Work Permit

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

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](#)



What to do if you feel sick:



- Stay at home and **DO NOT** come to school. You can take your classes from home.
- If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID or have a positive test result, isolate at home for minimum of 5 days
- Please inform VGC at academicadmin@vgc.ca if you will be missing classes due to sickness

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.

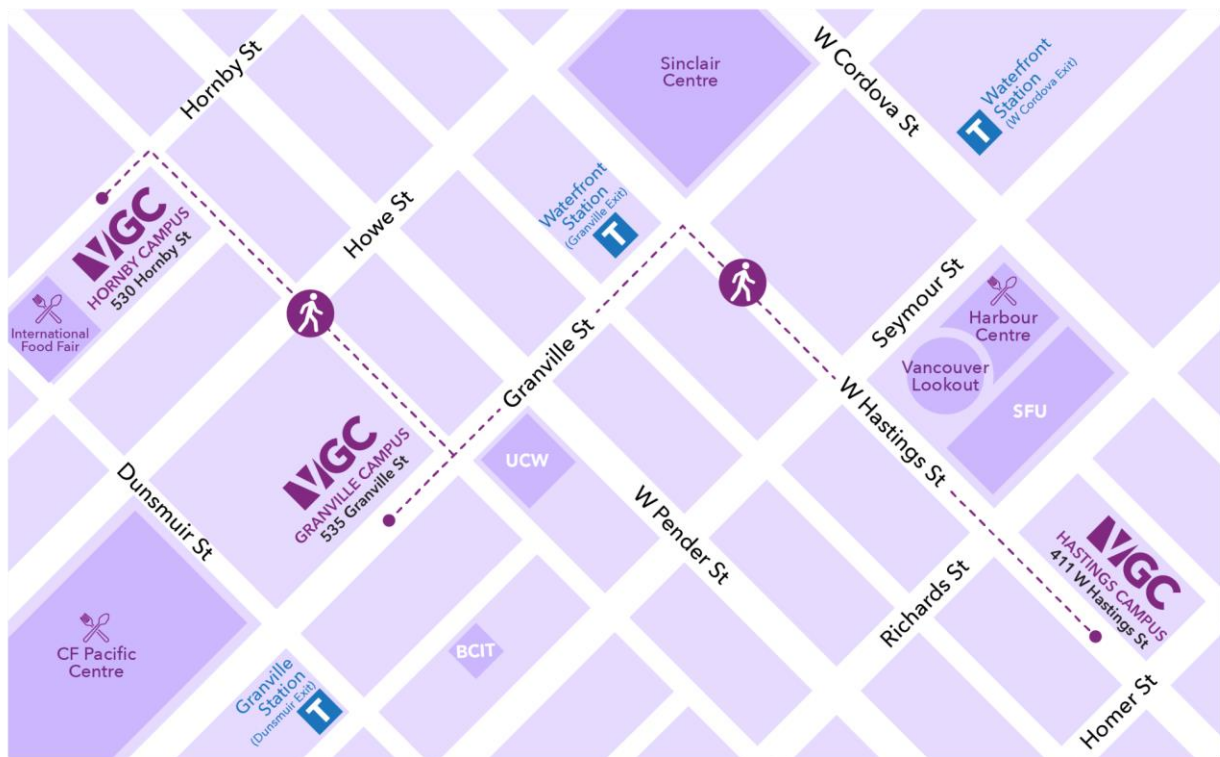



Getting to VGC

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. 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

One week before your start date, you will receive an email from our Admissions team with information about first day orientation, classes and the student portal.

Orientation

All new students are **required** to attend and **show up on time** for orientation. We will be sharing crucial school information, policies and procedures, as well your homestay arrangements, adapting to everyday life in Canada, and more.

ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

Location	VGC Granville Campus 535 Granville St, Vancouver BC, V6C 1X6, Canada
Time	8:00am – Check in, picture taking for student card 8:30am – Orientation followed by school and neighbourhood walking tour

IMPORTANT: We need copies of the following documents: study permit, eTA, emergency medical insurance and work permit (if applicable). If you have not sent us these documents, please email them to us at admissions@vgc.ca.

Only students who have submitted all the required documents will receive their student cards.

First Day Classes

After your orientation, you will have the option to your elective class from 12:30pm to 1:50pm. Full day of classes will begin the following day.

If you have not taken or completed your placement test, you will be required to take the missing test at the following times:

- Grammar Test – after Orientation
- Verbal Test – 2:00pm

Your test/s will then be graded by our Academics Team and you will be placed in the appropriate class for your level. To avoid any delays in starting your class, we encourage you to take and complete your placement test before you arrive.

You should have received an invitation from your Agent to take the placement test. If you haven't received it, please register on the [VGC website](#) to take your online placement test.

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

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

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



+1.604.688.9057



+1.778.737.9057