



WELCOME TO SECONDARY INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

A Quick Guide for Students and Families





01. Before You Arrive

WHAT TO BRING ON YOUR FLIGHT

- Passport
- Study Permit Approval Letter (if issued)
- eTA Confirmation (if issued)
- Custodianship Documents
- Your Canadian Address

COURSE REQUESTS & SCHEDULING

Course request forms are emailed to students after fees are paid.

When forms are sent:

- Semester 1 (September start): April – June
- Semester 2 (February start): November – January

IMPORTANT TO KNOW:

- Course requests help schools plan schedules but are **not guaranteed**
- Final schedules are confirmed after arrival with a school counsellor
- Schedules depend on:
 - Course availability
 - Timetable conflicts
 - English language level
 - Academic background
 - Students registering after June 1 (Sept) or after January 1 (Feb) will choose courses after arrival
 - If you have a schedule issue, speak with your counsellor within 1 week of starting school
 - Course requests are only available for students staying one full semester or longer

PRE-ARRIVAL ENGLISH ASSESSMENT (VITAL ENGLISH)

What is it?

- Online test (30 minutes total)
- Reading (15 min) + Listening (15 min)
- Aligned with BC ESL Levels 1–5
- Works on any device

Why it matters:

- Counsellors use your score to help plan your schedule
- Students needing support are placed in 1–2 ESL classes
- You will still take 6–7 regular academic courses

Complete your Vital English Assessment before arrival



02. After You Arrive

ORIENTATION EVENTS

You are invited to two orientations:

SCHOOL ORIENTATION (REQUIRED)

- School tour
- Schedule & program information
- Meet staff and students
- Dates available on our website

DISTRICT ORIENTATION (OPTIONAL)

- For all new international secondary students
- Fun field trip + meet other students
- Invitations sent 6–8 weeks before semester start

MEETING YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Know what courses your home school requires
- Students from Brazil, Mexico, and Spain: check if course validation is needed
- If validation is not required, your parent or agent must confirm by email

GRADUATION PLANNING

- If you want to graduate, talk to your counsellor
- Graduation depends on your academic history

BRING:

- Most recent report cards (translated into English)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ELL) TESTING

Most students do not need extra testing. You will only be tested if:

- You plan to graduate or validate courses and more information is needed
- You did not complete the Vital English Assessment

WHAT HAPPENS AT SCHOOL ORIENTATION?

You will receive:

- A guided school tour
- Your student login information (email & platforms)
- Important school routines and expectations
- Food!



03. School Life

GETTING TO SCHOOL

- Plan your daily commute (bus, walking, drop-off)

LUNCH

- Bring a packed lunch (cold lunches are common)

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Come prepared each day with required materials

TECHNOLOGY

ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MUST BRING THEIR OWN DEVICE

- Laptops are strongly recommended

ACADEMICS, REPORT CARDS & FEEDBACK

ACCESS THROUGH MYEDUCATION BC (MYED)

- You receive your login after arrival
- Issued 4–6 times per year (2–3 per semester)

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

- Teachers contact guardians if there are concerns
- Meetings, phone calls, or emails may be required

SCHOOL HOURS

- Typically 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (depends on school and schedule)

IF YOU ARE SICK

- Tell your legal custodian, who will inform the school
- Email your teachers to ask about missed work

GET INVOLVED

- Join clubs, teams, and activities
- Follow your school on social media for updates and events

- Parents outside Canada do not automatically have access

- Unexcused absences trigger automated messages:
 - Homestay students/legal custodian
 - Students living with parents/primary parent contact

ONGOING ABSENCE OR DISENGAGEMENT RESULTS IN FOLLOW-UP FROM THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT TEACHER OR PROGRAM COORDINATOR



04. If You Need Support

AT YOUR SCHOOL

- SCHOOL COUNSELLOR
Well-being, academics, graduation, schedules
- INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TEACHER
Social, emotional & academic support
- INTERNATIONAL YOUTH WORKERS
Student well-being
- PRINCIPALS / VICE PRINCIPALS
Student safety and wellbeing, escalated student support
- TEACHERS
Learning and coursework
- SCHOOL SECRETARIES
Fees, transcripts, MyEd help
- SCHOOL LIBRARIANS
Technology and email support

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION OFFICE

- PRINCIPAL AND VICE-PRINCIPAL
Oversee the program
- PROGRAM COORDINATORS
Student support when escalated from school level
- OFFICE STAFF SUPPORT WITH:
 - Letters of attendance
 - Program renewals
 - Medical, visa, and payment questions

MEDICAL INSURANCE & HEALTHCARE

YOU ARE COVERED BY GUARD.ME INSURANCE WHEN YOU ARRIVE

IN CANADA:

- Emergency rooms are for serious emergencies only
- Other options include:
 - Walk-in clinics
 - Urgent care centres

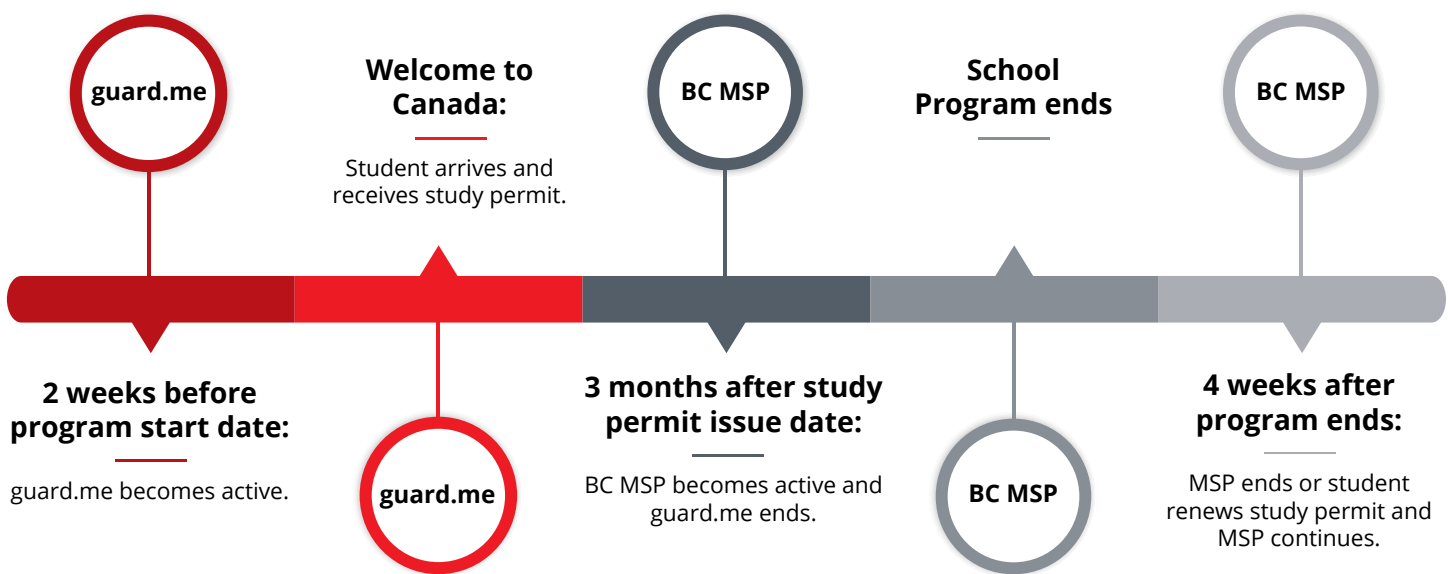
YOUR GUARDIAN/CUSTODIAN WILL HELP YOU BOOK MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

05. FAQ

Q: HOW DOES MEDICAL INSURANCE WORK?

A: Students have medical insurance for the full duration of their program.

- Parents are not covered on SD43's medical insurance. Make sure your parents have insurance for themselves!
- If you do not have a study permit, guard.me coverage will continue for the full duration of their program.
- For medical coverage outside your program dates, please contact our office.



	GUARD.ME	BRITISH COLUMBIA MSP (MEDICAL SERVICES PLAN)
How do I register?	Your registration is already complete.	Send us your study permit after you arrive in Canada so we can complete your registration.
What's covered?	Emergency and general medical care.	Emergency and general medical care. No prescriptions, dental, or travel
How does it work?	For most services, you need to pay first and apply for reimbursement.	Bring your MSP number and ID to any doctor's appointment at a walk-in clinic or hospital. MSP will pay directly
How do I get my card?	We will email you your guard.me card after you notify our office you have arrived in Canada.	MSP will mail the card to your home address in Canada.

Q: CAN WE TRAVEL TO THE USA FOR A VACATION?

A: If you are a citizen of a country eligible for the Visa Waiver Program, you may Enter the USA without a visa for a short trip. If your country is not listed on the visa waiver program, you may need to apply for a visa before visiting the USA. If you will miss school, be sure to notify their teacher before you leave!