



# WELCOME TO



## Edison College Canada

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WELCOME PACKAGE

[WWW.EDISONCOLLEGECANADA.CA](http://WWW.EDISONCOLLEGECANADA.CA)



# Welcome to British Columbia, Canada

All of us at Edison College Canada are very happy that you have chosen to start your journey with us. This guide aims to provide you with essential information to help you settle into your new home as an international student. If you need any assistance, feel free to contact us here at Edison College.







# Pre-Arrival Checklist

- **Identification, Visa and Study Permits:** Ensure you have the necessary documents and your passport is valid for travel.
- **Travel Insurance:** Obtain travel insurance coverage for your travel to Canada.
- **Travel Arrangements:** Book your flight and arrange transportation from the airport to your accommodation.
- **Accommodation:** Secure a place to stay.
- **Orientation Programs:** Make sure to contact and inform us by email about your plans in Canada. Send us a copy of your itinerary and any other pertinent information. Email us at [info@edisoncollege.ca](mailto:info@edisoncollege.ca)





# Travelling to **Victoria**

**Depending on your country of origin, you may have to travel either directly to Victoria, or via Vancouver.**

Find all essential details for your travel ahead.



# Travelling to Victoria

## **Customs and Immigration**

International travelers must undergo Canadian customs and immigration upon arrival. Prepare all travel documents, passports, visas, and permits for inspection. Review Canadian Customs regulations to ensure no restricted items are carried.

## **Study Permit**

Immigration officers verify your study visa, issue a study permit, and if needed, a co-op work permit for programs including work components. Ensure completion before leaving the international airport; it's a crucial step.

## **Direct Flights to Victoria International Airport (YYJ)**

Certain international flights may arrive directly in Victoria, based on your location. Airlines like Air Canada, WestJet, and Pacific Coastal Airlines operate at YYJ. Check the airport's website for flight schedules and availability.

## **Transportation from the Airport**

Various transportation options are available from the airport to downtown Victoria, including taxis, rental cars, and public transit. BC Transit offers bus services from the airport to various parts of Victoria.



# Travelling to Victoria

## Traveling to Victoria via Vancouver

Most international students initially land at Vancouver International Airport (YVR), a major gateway. YVR offers comprehensive immigration services for international arrivals. Explore the [airport's website](#) for further information.

## Traveling from Vancouver to Victoria:

Travel options from Vancouver to Victoria include:

- **Flights:** Air Canada and WestJet offer frequent 30-minute domestic flights.
- **Ferry:** BC Ferries connects Tsawwassen (near Vancouver) to Swartz Bay (near Victoria) in about 1.5 hours. Explore details [on their website](#).
- **Helicopter or Seaplane:** Helijet and Harbour Air provide faster, scenic routes via helicopter or seaplane between Vancouver and Victoria.
- **BC Ferry Connector:** Convenient and reasonable rates for a direct nonstop bus from YVR to Tsawwassen, stay on the bus as it drives onto the ferry, and onwards to downtown Victoria.

## Planning Your Journey

Plan ahead, especially during peak seasons when transport can be busy. Consider factors like time, cost, and convenience in your choice. Whether going directly to Victoria or via Vancouver, prepare all necessary travel documents. Both routes vary in experience and convenience, so pick based on your travel plans and preferences.



# Accommodation

## 1. Edison College Partners

For the benefit of all our students, Edison College has partnered with providers to ease your accommodation search.

Our partner, Evergreen Hospitality Group, provides accommodation to Edison students and their families across the Island.

Key Features Included:


High speed Wifi and Utilities

Kitchen suites and parking

Weekly Housekeeping service

Fully furnished

For Booking Assistance Contact:  
Mr Storm Jespersen

 Phone: +1 (778) 989 0409

 Email: [storm.jespersen@evergreenhotelgroup.com](mailto:storm.jespersen@evergreenhotelgroup.com)





# SANDMAN HOTEL VICTORIA

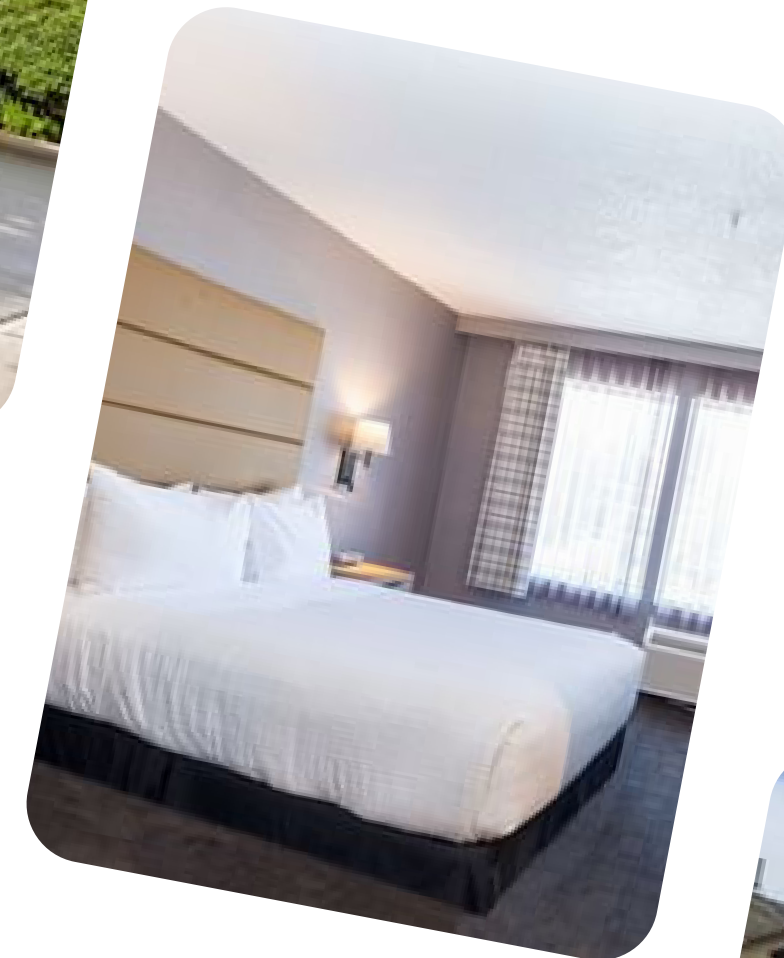
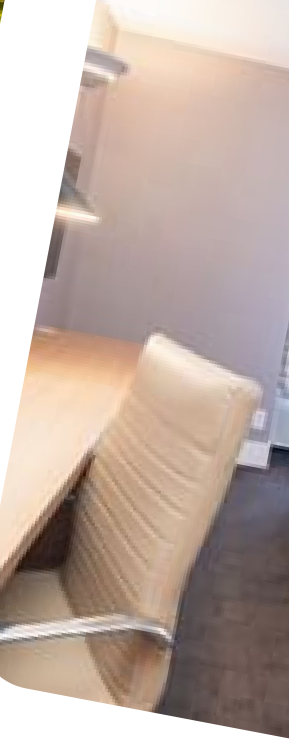
Edison College Canada collaborates  
with The SANDMAN HOTEL VICTORIA,  
offering budget-friendly  
accommodation.

Sylvia Wong Sales Victoria

✉ Email: [sales\\_victoria@sandman.ca](mailto:sales_victoria@sandman.ca)

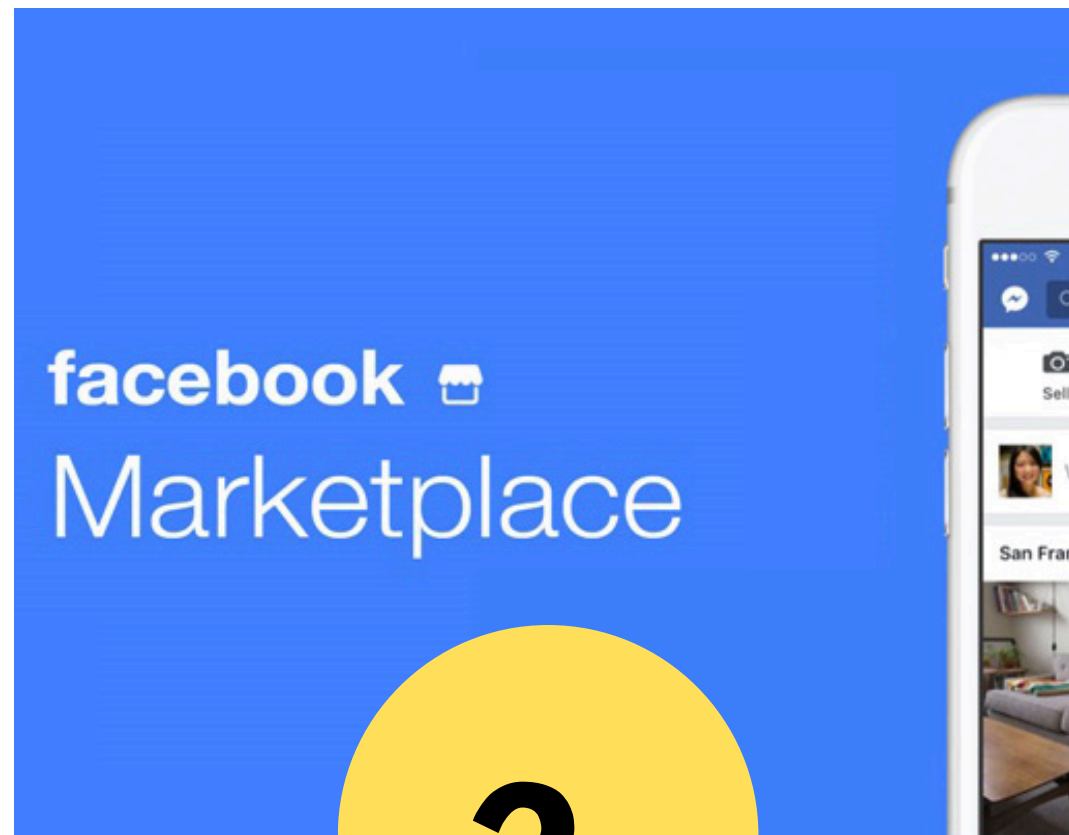
☎ Phone 250 388 0788 ext #2105

Fax 250 388 0787





# Accommodation



2.

## Facebook Marketplace

Commonly used for finding accommodations, entire homes, rooms, shared accommodations for short term and long-term rentals that suit every budget



3.

## Kijiji.ca

Offers a variety of listings including room rentals and roommates in Victoria. You can find 70+ options for room rentals and roommates in Victoria on Kijiji.



4.

## 4Stay.com

Our partner, 4Stay, offers a marketplace that connects students with room providers and roommates in and around Victoria.



# Accommodation



5.

## Roomies

This website is dedicated to finding roommates and rooms for rent. It can be specifically useful for students looking to share accommodations with others.



6.

## Roomster

Another platform for finding shared accommodations and roommates in Victoria.



7.

## Craigslist.ca

Popular platform for finding rooms for rent in Victoria. It lists various options ranging from shared housing to private rooms.



# Finances

## Bank Account

Key Canadian banks in Victoria include Royal Bank of Canada, Bank of Montreal, TD Bank, Scotiabank, CIBC, HSBC, and ICICI, offering tailored banking plans for international students. Setting up an account is straightforward. Schedule an appointment online to avoid queues when visiting the bank.







# Finances

## Interac e-Transfer

Interac e-Transfers offer a popular and convenient way for electronic money transfers in Canada. Use online or mobile banking, with just an email address or mobile number needed for the recipient. It's fast, secure, and doesn't require sharing personal financial details, widely used for various payments and splitting bills among friends.



# Finances

## Social Insurance Number (SIN)

The SIN, a confidential nine-digit number in Canada, is crucial for employment, taxation, and accessing social services. Employers require it for paychecks and tax filings. International students/foreign workers must apply for a SIN upon arrival if planning to work. The process entails providing necessary documents to Service Canada, like a work or study permit. Safeguard your SIN and disclose it only when legally necessary due to its sensitive nature and potential misuse if compromised.





# Setting up A Mobile Plan

Most companies offer a pay-as-you-go option and an annual contract option.

## Popular Providers

- [Bell](#)
- [Freedom Mobile](#)
- [Koodo](#)
- [Chatr](#)
- [Fido](#)
- [Rogers](#)
- [Telus](#)
- [Virgin Mobile](#)

To set up an account or purchase a phone in-person, visit the provider at their store. You 'll be required to present your government-issued photo identification (e.g., passport) and proof of address.

**Calling Home:** Calling cards are cost-effective pre-paid telephone credits that you can use to phone anywhere in the world. Usually available in \$2.50, \$5, \$10 and \$20 denominations.



Google Hangouts

Remember, you can always use **WhatsApp**, **Skype**, **Google Hangouts** or other online tools to communicate with your family and friends back home.



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# Health and Wellbeing

## **Medical Services Plan (MSP)**

The first 3 months, you will be enrolled in Edison College private insurance plan, following which you will be required to enroll in the provincial healthcare plan, which is mandatory for your period of studies.

## **Healthcare Services**

Soon after your arrival, it is important to locate nearby hospitals, clinics, and dental services.

## **Mental Health**

Access counseling services through Edison College. We provide our students access to a counsellor, please ask at the front desk for more information.

## **Emergency Contacts**

Keep a list of local emergency numbers, including local hospitals and police.  
Police/Firefighter/Ambulance number: **911**  
Suicide Crisis Helpline: **988**



# Transportation

## Public Transport

BC Transit manages public transit in Victoria and offers a comprehensive network of bus routes covering the city and its surrounding areas.

- Efficiency and convenient
- Connect major educational institutions, shopping centers, and residential areas
- Bike-friendly buses and seasonal ferry services
- Reloadable cards available for fare payment

## Driver's License

If international students wish to drive in Victoria, they can use their home country's driver's license for a limited period. For a longer stay, they should obtain a BC driver's license.

The Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) oversees this process. The licensing system includes a graduated program for new drivers.

We also recommend learning about bike and car rentals for short-term use.





# Employment

**Work Regulations:** During the Academic component of the college program, international students are allowed to work up to 20 hours per week, and during the study breaks, students may work full time.



## Online Job Boards

Find job listings on: [Indeed](#), [WorkBC](#), and [Monster](#). They offer a wide range of listings and can be filtered by location, job type, and industry.



## Networking Events and Meetups:

Platforms like [Meetup](#) and [Eventbrite](#) list local networking events, workshops, and industry meetups.



## Local Newspapers and Community Boards

Local businesses advertise job openings in local newspapers or community boards found in cafes, community centers, and public libraries.



## Social Media Platforms

Create a professional profile on [LinkedIn](#) and connect with local businesses and professionals. Facebook groups specific to Victoria can also be useful for finding local job postings.





# Employment



## Job Fairs

Check job fairs in the area, a great opportunity to meet employers face-to-face, learn about different companies, and submit your resume directly.



## Recruitment Agencies

Recruitment agencies in Victoria can assist in job placement, especially for specific industries. Check [Randstad](#) and [Adecco](#).



## Volunteering

Volunteering in local organizations or events can often lead to job opportunities. It's a way to gain Canadian work experience and build a local network. [Volunteer Victoria](#) is a good place to start looking for volunteer opportunities.





## Community Clubs and Organizations

Victoria, VIC provides diverse clubs spanning sports, arts, and culture. Joining these aids international students in socializing and blending into the community. The [Victoria Community Center](#) website is a hub for discovering these clubs.



## Cultural Etiquette and Adjustment

Understanding Canadian social norms and cultural etiquette is vital for seamless integration. [Settlement.org](#) offers extensive insights into Canadian culture. Cultural centers and libraries also host workshops for newcomers to learn about Canadian customs.



## Exploring British Columbia

Local exploration unveils culture and environment. [Tourism British Columbia](#)'s site showcases regional attractions, landscapes, and unique features.





# Social and Cultural Integration



## Participating in Local Festivals and Events

Victoria thrives with diverse festivals year-round, spanning music, food, and cultural celebrations. Find upcoming events via the [City of Victoria's](#) page.



## Volunteering

Volunteering with local organizations is not only a way to give back to the community but also a chance to meet people from diverse backgrounds. It can provide a deeper understanding of the local community and culture.



## Cultural Organizations

Joining cultural organizations or groups related to specific nationalities or ethnicities can be comforting and provide a sense of community. These organizations often host events and social gatherings.



# Know Your Rights



## Legal Services

Access Pro Bono offers free legal advice and services in BC. Legal Services Society of BC provides legal aid and resources.



## Employment-related Legal Issues

Employment Standards Branch offers guidance and support. Certified immigration consultants can also help.



## Workplace Rights

The BC Employment Standards Act provides minimum standards for wages, working conditions, and benefits.



## Health and Safety Laws

WorkSafeBC provides resources on safe work practices and what to do in case of workplace injury.



## BC Human Rights Clinic

Knowing BC's human rights laws is vital to understand and defend against discrimination.



## Tenant's Rights

Guidelines on rental agreements, dispute resolution, and more.