



St. Lawrence  
College

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# COVID-19 FAQs FOR NEW STUDENTS

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FALL 2020 | INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

**Our main priority is the health and well-being of all students, faculty, and staff within the communities where we live. As an overarching goal, we are focused on the well-being of all residents of Canada especially those that are most vulnerable. Through this pandemic, we have followed Government of Canada guidelines and encourage you to stay safe, follow Canada's Quarantine Act and review and understand the COVID-19 travel restrictions, exemptions and advice.**



**I am a new SLC student starting in Fall 2020. What will my first semester look like?**



All programs will run via alternate (online) delivery method during the first semester. Any on-campus components will be moved to future semesters. There will be no mandatory on-campus components in the first semester for any international student.



**What will online studies look like? What kind of equipment will I need to study online?**



International and domestic students will study together. All online courses are led by SLC instructors and may include online discussions, chats, virtual meetings, video walkthroughs, online presentations, website resources and aspects of experiential learning.

All students will need laptop computers to successfully complete program work. The most important characteristics of the laptop is the processing speed, and this will matter more for “high-tech” programs, such as Business Analytics, Game Programming, UI/UX Design etc.

All software, for the purpose of completing coursework and learning, is already included in the tuition fees. Microsoft Teams is the official platform approved for classes by SLC, although some professors may prefer Zoom or other platforms.



## **My Study Permit was approved on or before March 18, 2020. Can I travel to Canada?**



The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) guideline recommends that new students do not travel to Canada at this time. For those whose Study Permit (SP) was approved on or before March 18, 2020, you can request a Travel Support Letter. However, the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) may still consider your travel to be non-essential and you may be refused entry to Canada.

If your Study Permit has not been approved or was approved after March 18, 2020, you cannot travel to Canada and you do not qualify for a Travel Support letter.

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## **My Study Permit was approved on or before March 18, and I would like to try to enter Canada. How do I get a Travel Support letter from St. Lawrence College?**



If you decide to attempt entering Canada, St. Lawrence College can provide you with an individualized travel support letter, provided that your Study Permit was approved on or before March 18, 2020. You will be required to present this letter to authorities at your port of departure and entry into Canada.

To request this letter, please email [international@sl.on.ca](mailto:international@sl.on.ca), and include the following information:

- Title of email: Request for Travel Support Letter
- Full name (as written in your passport)
- Student ID
- Date of birth
- Program of study
- A copy of Visa or Study Permit approved on or before March 18, 2020

### **IMPORTANT:**

Most airlines reserve the right to deny boarding their aircraft; some airlines may refuse passengers, even if you have all required documentation. Before purchasing any travel tickets, please contact your airline to ensure you will be allowed to board. St. Lawrence College has no control over airline policies, or travel restrictions imposed by the Government of Canada. Please ensure your country is not under travel restrictions to Canada. We recommend purchasing a refundable ticket in the event you are denied boarding. Please carefully review the [Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada travel requirements](#) before travel.



## **I plan to travel to Canada despite the restrictions. What documents should I bring?**



We strongly advise against non-essential travel to Canada at this time. If you insist on traveling to Canada, please be aware of all travel restrictions including a [mandatory quarantine](#) (14 days). You will need to prove to Canadian Border Services officers that your travel is essential. We also suggest you have the following supporting documentation on hand:

- Approval letter from IRCC with barcodes
- CBSA letters (attached to your passport when you received your visa)
- Letter of acceptance from SLC
- Letter of support from SLC (if you are eligible to receive one)
- Tuition fee receipts
- Print all the Exemption items listed on the IRCC website stating that students are exempt from the travel restrictions if their permits were approved on or before March 18, 2020
- Insurance for at least 3 months
- A Quarantine plan that includes a street address where you will self-isolate for 14-days, details that show how you will obtain the essentials (such as food) during your self-isolation and the contact details of your landlady/landlord/accommodations owner.



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## **What is the deadline to provide SLC with a copy of my Study Permit?**



You can provide the following documents now to begin your studies in Fall 2020:

- Study Permit / confirmation of a Study Permit
- Approval in principle

The deadline to attach either of these documents to your profile on OCAS International is **September 8, 2020**.



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## **I applied for a Study Permit a while ago but haven't received a response from IRCC yet. What can I do in order to start my program on time and not miss any crucial deadlines?**



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) released an update on July 14 that states students are encouraged to submit complete Study Permit (SP) applications online to qualify for priority SP processing. If you cannot submit all of the documentation needed to complete your application, you may qualify for a temporary 2-stage approval process

and receive an “approval in principle (AIP)”. Please upload your SP approvals or AIPs to your OCAS International account by September 8, 2020. If you are working with an authorized education agent, please ask them to upload the document for you as they would be the one having access to your OCAS International account.

The students that have applied for the Study Permit but have received neither confirmation nor refusal before September 8th will have until the first 30 days of semester to receive a refund (less \$150 admin fee for Visa refusals; proof of refusal must be uploaded). These students may also defer to the next available intake without any penalties; the deadline to complete the deferral is September 18th.

The students who receive a Study Permit approval or AIP and withdraw, qualify for a refund less the \$2,350 is non-refundable deposit. These students they may also be able to defer to a future term (pending availability and number of previous deferrals); the deadline to complete the deferral is September 18th.

If you have submitted a SP application, the time you spend studying online will be counted toward your Post-Graduate Work Permit (PGWP) eligibility if at least 50% of your program is completed in Canada.



### **I don't want to study online, and would rather take classes in person. Why are you not allowing that?**



As much as we would love to welcome our students to campus, we have to abide with the regulations imposed by the Canadian Federal and Provincial Governments. We understand the challenges that international students are facing due to alternate (online) delivery. SLC is committed to providing all students a high-quality learning experience with dedicated, highly-skilled professors. You can start your program while studying from the comfort of home. Our goal is to have you in Canada and on campus as soon as it is safe.

We know that some students may find it difficult to follow the online schedule due to time zone differences and unreliable Internet connections. If you are unwilling to proceed with online studying, we suggest that you defer your studies to the next available intake.