

Camosun International Student Newsletter

Volume 46 | January 15, 2024 | Welcome to Winter 2024



Greetings from Camosun International!

Greetings from Camosun International! Welcome to the start of the 2024 Winter Semester. Here is some important information to help new students get settled into your life in Victoria and succeed in your studies. Returning students, welcome back! We hope that you find these reminders helpful.

First Semester Checklist

- Get your [student ID card](#) with the library.
* Also, [Get your Umo U-pass](#) (Bus pass) ([BC transit – Umo](#))
- [Open a bank account](#) in Canada
- Get a SIM card (phone) & Internet
- Apply for your [BC Services Card](#) (With this card, you do not need to carry your passport with you in Canada!)
- Apply for [SIN number](#) (You will need this to work)

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New campus virtual tour available!

Are you lost? Not anymore!

Explore Camosun's new virtual tour by Dragonfly Technologies. Discover 360-degree campus walks, building tours, classrooms, and labs at Interurban and Lansdowne campuses. Engage with multimedia features and essential information. [Take a tour.](#)

- Apply for your [Co-op Work Permit](#) as soon as possible, especially if internships/practicums are a mandatory part of your program, such as Health programs (Practical Nursing, Early Learning & Care, Health Care Assistance etc).
- Apply for a [Criminal Record Check \(CRC\)](#) immediately if your program requires this (for example, Practical Nursing, Health Care Assistance, and Sport and Exercise Education programs).
- Textbooks: Make sure that you purchase your textbooks at the [Bookstore](#) early. You will need to know your course codes and section numbers (e.g. ACCT 111-001) in order to find your textbooks.
- Log into [myCamosun](#) and view “My Program” under “Student Planning”. Check your program requirements in the [Academic Calendar](#) . You can also contact your International Academic Advisor to obtain your Personal Learning Plan during your first semester.
- How do I log into Camosun’s online courses? All courses use D2L (Desire to Learn) as the main platform to deliver courses. D2L enables your instructors to provide you with online content, activities, group collaboration tools, and assessment options.

Need help with D2L? Please check our tutorials <https://elearningtutorialscamosun.opened.ca/d2l-tutorials/d2l-for-students>. Sign up for [Office 365](#)

- *Have technical issues or trouble with your password?* Camosun’s Information Technology Services department is here to help! Visit our [ITS department](#) and speak with someone through the online chat.

- **MEDICAL INSURANCE:** During your studies at Camosun College and your time in Canada you must have medical insurance at all times.
- ❖ **Medical Services Plan (MSP):** As soon as you arrive in British Columbia (whether coming from another country or another province), you must apply for BC the public health insurance, called MSP. Click here to apply online: [MSP: How to apply](#). MSP will start in your third month living in BC and it costs \$75 per month for international students. During the first two to three months living in BC, you must have a private insurance (called Guard.Me) while you wait for MSP to start.
- ❖ **Guard.Me:** Camosun College offers medical coverage for international students through the insurer guard.me, and you are required to have guard.me medical insurance until MSP coverage starts. There might be some exceptions to this rule. For more information, please check [here](#). This is also a reminder to all students who have been in BC. Please make sure you renew your MSP and do not let it expire. This is of utmost importance!

Please check our website for more information: [Medical Insurance and Healthcare for International Students](#)

Know Important Dates & Deadlines

It is your responsibility to know the important dates and deadlines. [Important Dates & Fee Deadlines 2023/24](#). There are a variety of start and end dates for different course sections. Find your class schedule and exam dates under "Plan & Register" in [myCamosun](#). Deadlines vary depending on start and end dates; and the length of the course.

Please see table below for the different deadlines for each course length.

Credit programs Winter 2024: Jan-Apr

Length	14 weeks
Start	Jan 8
End	Apr 13
Tuition & Fee Payment Deadline <i>Non-payment of fees may result in de-registration</i>	Dec 11
100% Refund Deadline	Jan 7
Course Add/Drop Deadline <i>Courses added after this period require School permission</i>	Jan 14
80% Refund Deadline <i>Courses dropped after this date are ineligible for refund</i>	Jan 14
Deferred Tuition & Fee Payment Deadline <i>For courses added after Aug 16 and students on approved tuition & fee deferral Tuition & fees for registrations occurring after Sep 19 are due immediately</i>	Jan 22
Last Day to Withdraw without Academic Penalty	Apr 13

Other lengths: If your courses don't start on the standard dates above, refer to the [list of non-standard course sections](#).

Dropping a Course after the Fee Refund Deadline

The deadline to drop a course with 80% fee refund is **January 14, 2023**. After the deadline, there will be no more fee refund for courses dropped. The deadline to withdraw from a course without academic penalty for Winter 2024 is **April 13, 2024**. Please see [How to Drop Your Courses](#) and [How to Register in Courses](#)

Waitlisted Courses

- Familiarize yourself with our [Waitlist Process](#).
- If you are on a waitlist, attend the class and inform the instructor that you are on the waitlist so you do not miss course content. It is important to check your email daily to find out if a seat has become available for you. If you receive an email, you will only have 24 hours to register, or the seat will be given to the next student on the list. If you are waitlisted for an online class, it's your responsibility to contact the instructor to let them know you are still interested.
- **After classes have started**, if you are still on a waitlist for your preferred course section, and there is a chance you will get in (e.g. you're in the top 5, not 40th on the list), be sure to attend the first day of class or you might be

removed from the waitlist for not being there. Each instructor may handle things a little differently, so when in doubt, contact them.

How can you contact International Student Services?

We have a team of International Student Experience Advisors (ISEAs) who can assist you with general questions and help with referrals to Academic Advisors, International Counsellors, and Employment Facilitators.



In-person: Come see us at the front desk:

Monday-Thursday: 9am-4pm

- Interurban campus: Liz Ashton Campus Center, CC251 (by the Bookstore)
- Lansdowne campus: Isabel Dawson, C201

Friday: 9am-4pm, virtual services only. No in-person service. Please call or email us with questions.



Virtual services: Both offices will be offering virtual services only on Fridays.



Phone our office: +1-250-370-4812, Monday-Friday 9am-4pm



Please email your question to international_advisors@camosun.ca **Include your name and Camosun ID#.**

Academic Advising

Booking Appointments (Tuesdays 9:30-11:30am and Thursdays 2:00-4:00pm)

You can book 30-minute appointments with an Academic Advisor. Topics you can discuss in these sessions include:

- Building your own learning plan
- Academic success and support service discussions
- Graduation and completion requirements
- Program change
- Transfer credits evaluation
- Transferring to universities

Please email international_advisors@camosun.ca if you wish to book an appointment with an advisor. Include your name and Camosun ID#, your program and the questions you have.

Drop-ins (Mondays 2:00-4:00pm and Wednesdays 9:30-11:30am)

You can come to the office for a 15-minute drop-in. Drop-ins are for quick questions. You don't need to book appointments in advance. The first-come, first-served policy applies.

Co-operative Education and Career Services

[Co-op & Career Services](#) helps students and organizations engage in meaningful ways through a variety of work-integrated learning and career opportunities. Contact us at educationthatworks@camosun.ca | [250-370-4181](tel:250-370-4181)

Karena Daschel is our Employment Facilitator for International students. Karena can assist you in learning more about how you can complete work terms (co-op for example), if you are interested.

- **Lansdowne Career Lab**
Fisher 128 - 3100 Foul Bay Rd, Victoria BC V8P 5J2
- **Interurban Career Lab**
Career Lab (between Jack White & Urban Diner) - 4461 Interurban Rd, Victoria BC V9E 2C1

Counsellors

[Counselling Services](#) provides personal, career and educational counselling. Counselling appointments are confidential and are provided at no additional cost.

Phone the Camosun College Counselling Centre at **250-370-3571** (open Monday to Friday, 9:00-4:00pm), to schedule a counselling appointment with an International Student Counsellor.

Additionally, for students who need support during evenings and weekends, or who are currently outside of Canada, we encourage you to seek help by contacting [Here2Talk](#).

Keep in touch through social media!

Follow us on Instagram [@camosunintl](#), [Friends of Camosun Facebook](#) page and our [Camosun International YouTube](#) channel to see college news, events, contests, students photos and videos, testimonials and more! You can share photos and videos with us. Please tag us and add #camosunintl when sharing some of your student life!

Previous Newsletters can be viewed at our [website](#). Or scan our QR code below.



International Student Services

Camosun International



international_advisors@camosun.ca | 250-370-4812

CAMOSUN COLLEGE | Victoria, BC | camosun.ca/international

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lekwungen and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.