Do international students have to complete any forms or paperwork before arriving in Nova Scotia?

Yes. All international students entering Nova Scotia must complete the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in. They must complete the form each time they wish to come to the province. Approval is automatic. They must be prepared to show their approval email and proof of vaccination (if applicable) to border officials, if asked.

Students who are required to quarantine must also complete a daily digital check-in during their 14-day quarantine period.

There are also other federal requirements for all international travelers entering Canada, including using the federal government’s ArriveCAN app. It is mandatory for travellers entering Canada to use the app to provide their information to the Public Health Agency of Canada. People can download the ArriveCAN app or call 1-833-641-0343.

As post-secondary institutions are required to provide or arrange quarantine accommodations for international students (and co-arriving family members), student should reach out to their institution to ensure arrangements are finalized before travel. Please check with the institution as they may require additional paperwork from the student.

Do international students need to quarantine (self-isolate) for 14 days when they arrive?

International students who were fully vaccinated at least 14 days before arriving in Canada are not required to quarantine. Vaccines must be approved by Health Canada. All other international students are required to quarantine for 14 days and get tested under the federal Quarantine Act.
How will you ensure international students who are not fully vaccinated complete the full 14-day quarantine? Will they be provided with accommodations, meals and other supports?

The post-secondary institutions that are receiving international students have oversight responsibility for them during their 14-day quarantine, whether on or off-campus. This includes arranging quarantine accommodations, ensuring students have suitable transportation from the airport, and providing meals and other supports during their quarantine period.

Why are international students who are not fully vaccinated required to complete their mandatory 14-day quarantine in a location approved by their institutions?

As outlined in the International Student Institutional Readiness: Public Health Requirements document, Nova Scotia post-secondary institutions approved to accept international students are required to provide international students with the necessary supports and oversight during their federally mandated 14-day quarantine period including arranging or providing quarantine accommodations.

Most institutions in Nova Scotia who are welcoming international students have decided to have them quarantine in hotels or in residence because it enables the institutions to better meet their oversight obligations.

We ask all international students to contact their institution prior to making any travel plans so that they can understand what the arranged quarantine accommodations are so that students may make an informed decision on whether travel to Canada at this time is appropriate for them.
Do international students need to get tested?

In addition to a test at point of entry into Canada, international students who are not fully vaccinated are required by the federal government to take a self-test on day 8 of their quarantine. They must receive a negative test result before they are allowed to leave quarantine. See more information about federal testing requirements.

What happens if an international student begins to experience COVID-19 symptoms during their 14-day quarantine in Nova Scotia?

International students are asked to self-monitor during their quarantine. Anyone who develops symptoms should complete the online COVID-19 self-assessment to book a COVID-19 test. Anyone who can’t do the assessment online can call 811.

Post-secondary institutions that are receiving international students have plans in place to support any student who receives a positive diagnosis of COVID-19.

Do international students have to pay for asymptomatic testing in Nova Scotia?

No. However, if the student requires a test for essential travel, for example, to fulfill a requirement by their home country in order to travel home, then the student would need to obtain a test from a private company and pay a fee. Private testing companies include PRAXES and Switch Health.

Why are we allowing international students to arrive in Canada when the positive COVID-19 cases in many countries are increasing? Won’t that increase the risk in Nova Scotia?

Canada’s borders are a federal responsibility. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada started allowing international students with the proper documentation and quarantine plans to enter Canada on October 20, 2020.
Nova Scotia’s post-secondary institutions are working with international students to ensure they understand the federal and local public health directives when they arrive in Nova Scotia, including the 14-day quarantine period. Further, they will be monitoring and supporting international students to ensure they successfully complete their quarantine period.

Nova Scotia was very successful in welcoming over 3,500 post-secondary students from outside Atlantic Canada last year. Institutions will be following the same protocols to welcome international students safely back to Nova Scotia.

**What happens if an international student does not comply with the federal mandatory quarantine?**

If students choose to break their mandatory quarantine or isolation, resulting in the death or serious bodily harm to another person, they could face a fine of up to $1,000,000, imprisonment of up to 3 years or both.

The Contraventions Act gives police (including the RCMP, provincial and local police) more power to enforce the Quarantine Act. They can issue tickets to people who don’t comply with the act or the emergency orders. Fines range from $275 to $1,000.

**Can international students get vaccinated?**

International students in Nova Scotia can get vaccinated free of charge. You must complete any required isolation or quarantine before you can get vaccinated in Nova Scotia.

If an international student does not have a Nova Scotia health card (MSI), they will NOT be able to book a vaccine appointment online. They must book their appointment by phone by calling toll-free 1-833-797-7772. The international student will need to confirm at the time of booking that they will be in Nova Scotia long enough to receive both the first and second dose.

If you’re not a permanent resident of Nova Scotia, when you arrive at your appointment you need to provide government-issued identification from your home province, territory or country and one additional piece of supporting documentation. Required supporting documentation includes:

- utility bill that shows the address of where you’re staying in Nova Scotia
- long stay invoice for your accommodation in Nova Scotia (for example, Airbnb)
• letter from an occupant of the residence where you’re staying in Nova Scotia confirming your stay

• proof of work in Nova Scotia (for example, letter from employer or pay stub)

• work permit (showing location by province or territory and your name and date of birth)

• student ID card

• letter showing proof you’re attending a school in Nova Scotia

• letter of acceptance from a designated learning institution in Nova Scotia

• port of entry letter of introduction that shows you were approved for a study permit

• letter from a faith-based institution, healthcare provider or other registered organization or agency confirming that you’re living in Nova Scotia