



INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT EDUCATION
Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools

Student Arrival Guide

June 2023



International Education Contact Information

International Student Education Office

Nanaimo Ladysmith International Student Education Program

250-751-0197

Dover Bay Secondary School

Room E201, 6135 McGirr Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9V 1M1

Email: ise@sd68.bc.ca

Website: studyvancouverisland.ca

In case you need help while travelling to Nanaimo, please add these three numbers to your phone. You can find us all on WHATSAPP (+1)

District Principal - Rob Hutchins

rob.hutchins@sd68.bc.ca

(250) 210-1471

Vice Principal – Lisa Thom

lisa.thom@sd68.bc.ca

(250) 816-6394

Urgent Matters phone – 24 hours a day

(250) 714-2252

Emergency Contact

In the event of an emergency requiring police, fire/rescue, or ambulance phone

911

Introduction

Please take time to review the information in this guide. This information will help you follow the rules for entering Canada safely and be prepared for life in Canada.

Our top priority is the health and safety of our students, host families, schools, and communities. We must still follow the regulations and recommendations of the Canadian and provincial governments, and the local public health authority. **The updated entry regulations below, are subject to change. Up-to-date information can be found [here](#).**

Please note, to enter Canada:

- **As always, travel documents are required: Passport, 'Immigration Canada Letter of Acceptance for a Study Permit,' eTA, or Visitors Visa. (If you are a RETURNING student, make sure you have your Study Permit with you.)**
- Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is **not required**
- COVID-19 pre-entry and arrival tests are **not required**
- Quarantine after you enter Canada is **not required**
- Using [ArriveCAN](#) is **not required**
 - To save time at the border, you can still use ArriveCAN to complete your customs and immigration declaration before flying into Canada. Visit [ArriveCAN: Advance CBSA Declaration](#) for the list of participating international airports.

- Health checks to board planes, trains, and ferries are **not required**
- Wearing masks on planes, trains, and ferries is **not required**
 - **It is still recommended that you wear a well fitted mask while you travel.**

If you have [symptoms of COVID-19](#), you should not travel to Canada.

If you feel sick or experience any symptoms of COVID-19 during your travel to Canada or upon arrival, you should put on a face mask and:

- as per Canadian government guidelines, you are to inform the flight attendant or a border services officer upon arrival. You may be referred to a Quarantine Officer for a health assessment and further direction.
- please contact Rob Hutchins immediately via email rob.hutchins@sd68.bc.ca or WhatsApp +1 250-210-1471.

While in Canada monitor your health for possible symptoms of COVID-19. If you are not feeling well be sure to alert your homestay host. Check out the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool [here](#). Call 811 if you are very sick and your symptoms are not improving.

Pre-Departure

Step 1 - Get to Know Your Homestay Family

1. Contact your Homestay family to get to know them. A video chat using Zoom, WhatsApp or WeChat is a good way. Remember to exchange emails, cell phone numbers, and WhatsApp numbers with your host family. Set up a text chat with your Homestay host before departure.
2. If you have not already added the following Nanaimo Ladysmith International Program Emergency numbers in your phone, please make sure you do! Also please add the Homestay Coordinator from your assigned Canadian school. **While travelling to Nanaimo, you can find us all on WHATSAPP (+1)**

District Principal - Rob Hutchins	rob.hutchins@sd68.bc.ca	(250) 210-1471
Vice Principal – Lisa Thom	lisa.thom@sd68.bc.ca	(250) 816-6394
Urgent Matters phone – 24 hours a day		(250) 714-2252

Dover Bay Homestay Coordinator – Sunny Hall
sunny.hall@sd68.bc.ca Cell phone: (250) 713-4031

Wellington, Ladysmith, and Cedar Homestay Coordinator – Avegale Morgan
avegale.morgan@sd68.bc.ca Cell phone: (250) 268-1897

NDSS and John Barsby Homestay Coordinator – Denny Probizanski
denny.probizanski@sd68.bc.ca Cell phone: (250) 668-2430

Be sure to share your flight information and arrival times with your Homestay family AND ise@sd68.bc.ca as soon as possible. If there are last minute changes in your flights and arrival times, please inform both your Homestay host and email ise@sd68.bc.ca

Step 2 – A Canadian Phone Plan – For your personal safety, it is an ISE requirement to have a Canadian phone plan with data, for the duration of your stay in our program. In the event you need to access a Mobile Doctor, for medical help, you need a Canadian phone number. (Mobile Doctor will NOT work with WhatsApp!)

We recommend you set up a phone plan for use in Canada before you leave your home country. Many international students in BC use PhoneBox but you can use any phone plan provider you choose if it is a Canadian plan **with data**. We have found that PhoneBox is the most convenient for international students to sign up for, because it does not require an adult to co-sign with a credit card. (Please note your homestay family cannot sign for this service.) Also, it is very simple to end the services with PhoneBox.

PhoneBox offers plans for \$35/month + 12% taxes. There is also a 1-time SIM card fee but using the link below will waive that charge.

It is best to set up a phone plan **prior to departure** to ensure you have access to your phone once you arrive in Canada.

You can use an e-SIM or have your physical sim card delivered to your Homestay address, so it is ready for you when you arrive. We recommend that you use the e-SIM service. An e-SIM card is simple to use – you will be emailed a unique QR code.

How to set up an e-SIM card on your phone:

1. Check to see if your IOS or Android phone will support an e-SIM card:

<https://lega.gophonebox.com/en/eSIMdevice>


2. Visit: https://gophonebox.com/activation/?bn=1477&i_rep=
*This unique link is just for Nanaimo Ladysmith students,
eliminating the \$10 SIM card charge.*



PhoneBox offers support in many languages: English, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Spanish, Portuguese, German, and French

*During our Program Orientations on August 30 & 31, we will have representatives from PhoneBox on site to support students.

Below is an example of the sign-up page:



Prepaid SIM Card Activation

Please fill out the below information.
If you require any assistance, please call us toll-free at 1-855-886-0505. You can also use the LiveChat window available at the bottom right of the page.

Do you have a SIM Card?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Do you want an E-SIM?

Tired of waiting for the delivery guy?
Get an E-SIM and Activate within seconds. Find out more about [E-SIM!](#)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Please note that eSIM is not compatible with all smartphones.
To make sure your phone is capable of eSIM, please refer to [Device Compatibility](#)

☒ I agree that I have an eSIM compatible mobile phone.

Tell us your location for a new phone number

Province City

British Columbia Nanaïmo (or Ladysmith)

Do you want to port in your phone number?
[You can only port in a Canadian phone number](#)

☐ Yes ☒ No

If you have a promotion code please enter it

TELUSOrientation2023

Plans

	COST	CALLING	MESSAGING	DATA
<input type="radio"/>	\$9CAD /7 Days	Unlimited Nation-wide Calling	Unlimited Nation-wide & International Messages	2.00 GB
<input type="radio"/>	\$19CAD /7 Days	Unlimited Nation-wide Calling	Unlimited Nation-wide & International Messages	5.00 GB
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	\$35CAD /30 Days	Unlimited Nation-wide Calling	Unlimited Nation-wide & International Messages	7.00 GB
<input type="radio"/>	\$45CAD /30 Days	Unlimited Nation-wide Calling	Unlimited Nation-wide & International Messages	25.00 GB
<input type="radio"/>	\$55CAD /30 Days	Unlimited Nation-wide Calling	Unlimited Nation-wide & International Messages	35.00 GB
<input type="radio"/>	\$65CAD /30 Days	Unlimited Nation-wide Calling	Unlimited Nation-wide & International Messages	45.00 GB
<input type="radio"/>	\$75CAD /30 Days	Unlimited Nation-wide Calling	Unlimited Nation-wide & International Messages	55.00 GB

All Plans Include Voice Mail, Call ID & Call Forwarding

When would you like to start using our service?

Starting Date

08/26/2023

Service will terminate on

September 24, 2023

We recommend that you choose an activation date for the **DAY YOU ARRIVE IN CANADA**

Step 3 – Student Finances

Please discuss with your bank advisor, family, agent and/or students who have previously travelled in Canada about the best student banking card options for international travel to Canada. Your country's bank card may not always work in Canada. (Several students from Türkiye, Spain, and Brazil have had issues with their bank card.) It is recommended that students use a chip-based debit card from Visa or Mastercard. Some services such as fitness gyms no longer accept cash and require students to pay with Canadian credit card. If your credit or debit card does not work in Canada, we can help you set up a Canadian bank account with a Canadian debit card once you arrive. This is free for students.

Step 4 -Packing

- Be sure to check with your airline on weight limits for your carry on and checked baggage.

You will need to bring the following things with you on the plane:

- ☐ Passport
- ☐ Cell phone and charger
 - ISE Contact Numbers in your cell
- ☐ Laptop/tablet (recommended)
- ☐ Wallet
- ☐ Change of clothes
- ☐ Hand sanitizer (travel sized - 100 mL or less - recommended)
- ☐ 4-5 masks (recommended)
- ☐ Disinfecting wipes (recommended)
- ☐ Visa, or eTA or 'Immigration Canada Letter of Acceptance for a Study Permit' OR Study Permit (if you are a returning student)
- ☐ Custodianship Documents
- ☐ 'Nanaimo Ladysmith International Program Official Letter of Acceptance'
- ☐ 'Travel and Arrival Checklist (found at the end of this guide)
- ☐ Host Family Profile with contact information
- ☐ Snacks (or money to purchase food/drinks)

Safe Travel Practices For All Students

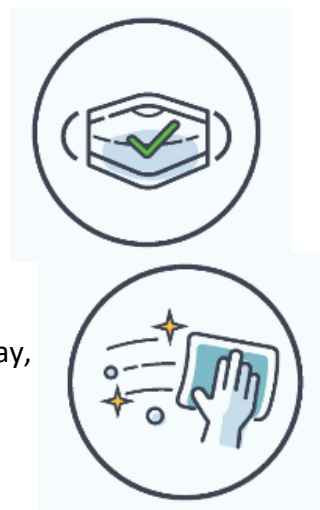
While travelling to the airport, in airports and during flights:

Wear a Mask and Wash Your Hands

It is recommended you wear a mask. Wash your hands before you board the airplane and continuously use hand sanitizer. Touch as few surfaces as possible.

Keep Safe

When you get to your airplane seat it is a good idea to wipe it, and your meal tray, with a disinfectant wipe. Keep your cell phone charged in case you need to contact your host family. Bring some snacks in your carry-on bag.



If You Become Ill While Travelling

If you become ill while travelling, please contact Rob Hutchins immediately via email rob.hutchins@sd68.bc.ca or WhatsApp +1 250-210-1471. The International Student Program will assist you!

Arriving in Canada

You finally made it! You will need to clear Canada Immigration and Customs before heading to your next flight on your journey to Nanaimo. Follow the passengers on your flight, as they are heading to Immigration as well. If you are uncertain where to go, ask an airport employee.

To prepare for Immigration, have the following documents ready:

- Your Passport, or eTA or Visitor Visa, or Immigration Canada 'Letter of Acceptance for a Study Permit' OR Study Permit (if you are a returning student.)
 - **If you have an Immigration Canada 'Letter of Acceptance for a Study Permit', this is where you will receive your Study Permit. The barcode on this letter MUST be scanned while you are at the Immigration area. It is very important you do not leave the Immigration Area until you have your Study Permit.**
- Your Nanaimo Ladysmith International Program
 - ☐ 'Official Letter of Acceptance'
 - ☐ 'Travel and Arrival Checklist'
- ☐ Custodianship Documents
- ☐ Host Family Profile with contact information

Please note: It is best to keep your travel documents in a plastic pouch separate from your passport.

Arriving in Nanaimo

Welcome to Vancouver Island!

- You will be greeted at the Nanaimo Airport or BC Ferry Terminal by a member of your Homestay family or an ISE staff member. Please keep your Homestay family updated on the status of your arrival. It will be easy to find your family or the ISE staff member as we have a small friendly airport.
- Gather your luggage, sanitize your hands, and get ready to say hello!

Participate in New Student Orientation Activities!

New Student Orientation Activities will take place during the last week of August 30th – September 1st. All new students will participate in an ISE Program Orientation and a School Orientation. Students will get to

meet their Homestay Coordinator, School Advisor, and program staff. Most importantly, students will get to meet each other! Important information will be shared, and social connections will be encouraged.

New Student Orientation

The ISE Program Orientation: August 30th and August 31st – learn about our schools, community, and Vancouver Island. Other topics will include International Student activities & excursions, transportation, health services & safety, and program rules. Students and their homestays will be given specific date and time of the ISE Program Orientation session upon arrival in Nanaimo and Ladysmith.

School Orientation: – learn about your assigned school, your course schedule, school expectations and culture, our computer systems (Google Classroom, Learn68, etc.) and school activities. Times and details about School Orientations vary based on the students' school, but most will take place on Friday, September 1st.

If your flight is delayed, Do Not Worry! We will ensure you will receive the Program and School Orientation at an alternate time and date.

Other Important Information:

Playing Community or Club Soccer in Canada

Many of our international students who love to play soccer have asked how they can continue to play soccer while in Canada. The good news, in addition to school soccer, the Nanaimo Ladysmith communities have great soccer organizations that provide opportunities for you to play soccer during your stay in Nanaimo Ladysmith.

There are two great soccer organizations in our communities offering recreational and competitive soccer for all students, from September to March and a May/June Season as well.

Nanaimo United Football Club offers competitive and recreational soccer opportunities for boys and girls..

<https://www.nanaimounitedfc.com/>

BC Surf Soccer has room for ages 14+ for girls and boys interested in playing competitive soccer.

<https://surfsoccercanada.com/>

Both clubs are governed by FIFA regulations and students need to obtain an **International Transfer Certificate**. This process can take anywhere from 2 weeks to two months, and students are unable to play in games with NUFC or BC Surf Soccer until the forms have been approved by Canada Soccer.

Step 1 Visit the two websites above and discuss with your parents if you want to apply to play club soccer while in Canada. If the answer is Yes, proceed to Step 2.

Step 2. Notify our department at ise@sd68.bc.ca of your intention and which club you would like to join. **The DEADLINE for this notification is July 10th, 2023!**

Step 3. Start preparing your application package:

- a. Compile the information to complete the following table:

First Name(s):	
Surname:	
Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY):	
Nationality / Nationalities:	
Current Address:	
Country of Last Registration:	
Club Played for in that Country:	
Date of last match played:	
Club Registering for in Canada:	

- b. Obtain a colour scan of Player's Passport (photo page)
c. Obtain a colour scan of Player's Birth Certificate
d. Obtain a colour scan of both Parents' Passport (photo page)
e. Obtain a letter from Home Country Football Association stating whether the player has ever been registered with a member club, and if yes, was the player amateur or professional. This letter is required even if the student never played club soccer in their home country.

Step 4. All students who notified our office that they were interested in playing community soccer (Step 2) by July 10th, will be contacted by our offices no later than Monday, July 17th with how and when to submit your application to play soccer.



Travel and Arrival Checklist

We look forward to welcoming you the Nanaimo Ladysmith International Education Program in August 2023! To ensure that your travels and arrival to Nanaimo and Ladysmith go smoothly, please follow all the directions of this Arrival Guide. **Please print this page and bring it with you as you travel.**

Pre-Departure

- Read this Arrival Guide carefully and make sure you understand expectations
- Contact your Homestay Family and ensure they know your flight number and arrival time at Nanaimo Airport
- Provide arrival information and exchange contact information (cell number, WhatsApp number, email)
- Determine what phone plan you will use when in Canada (example: [PhoneBox](#))
- When you are travelling, carry with you:
 - ☐ Passport
 - ☐ Visitor Visa, or eTA or 'Immigration Canada Letter of Acceptance for a Study Permit' OR Study Permit (if you are a returning student.)
 - ☐ Custodianship Documents
 - ☐ 'Nanaimo Ladysmith International Program Official Letter of Acceptance'
 - ☐ 'Travel and Arrival Checklist (this page)
 - ☐ Host Family Profile with contact information
 - ☐ Hand sanitizer, masks, and disinfectant wipes - Recommended
 - ☐ Change of clothes
 - ☐ Snacks – in case your flight is delayed. (Or bring money to purchase snacks)

At the Airport – Departing your Home Country

- Wear a mask - Recommended
- Wash hands frequently and use hand sanitizer
- Keep your cell phone charged
- Bring your own snacks and refillable water bottle (Or bring money to purchase snacks)

Arrival in Canada

- Before boarding your last flight to Nanaimo, contact your Homestay family and confirm your pick-up time and point
- Wear a fresh mask in the airport (recommended)
- **Email or text a photo of your Study Permit to Devon Slater and be entered to win a prize!**
devon.slater@sd68.bc.ca / Cell phone: (250) 668 - 5017 (+1 if using WhatsApp)