



Vernon International Student Program

Pre-Departure Information Package SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Vernon and teaching you about living in Canada. You will become an important part of our International Program “family.” Here is what we are working on right now:

- We are placing our new students in schools to create a community of international students. You can look forward to meeting students from Canada and various countries from all over the world!
- Our teachers and counselors in the schools are planning your class schedule to find a great combination of courses for your studies. Your school schedule (courses) is based on your application and your program.
- We are also reviewing your homestay profile to find the best homestay family match we can. All students will receive information about their new Canadian family at least one month before arrival.

When to Arrive in Canada

You should book your flight to arrive **between August 27 and 28, 2025**. Flights should arrive and depart to/from **Kelowna International Airport (YLW)**. Note: There will be additional costs of \$42.30 per day for students who arrive prior to **August 27, 2025**.

Please remember that you will now need an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) to fly to or transit through Canada. To avoid delays, it is best to apply for an eTA before booking your flight. For more information, and to apply for an eTA, please visit Canada.ca/eTA. Please ensure students with Study Permits, or students who are not requiring a study permit, but may want to extend their stay, give their biometrics at their point of entry into Canada.

Once you have booked your flight, please inform the International Student Program Homestay Coordinators and provide them with a copy of your travel itinerary – send to VernonHomestay1@sd22.bc.ca and VernonHomestay2@sd22.bc.ca. We will ensure that your host family or an available alternative is available to meet you at the Kelowna International Airport.

24/7 Connect with your Host Family

You will receive the profile and contact information for your host family in Canada at least **one month before your arrival**. Once you receive this information, contact the family, and start getting to know each other. Ask questions, share information, and get comfortable with your new host family. This is a chance to find out anything that will make your stay in Canada more comfortable.

Student Orientation – August 29, 2025

Orientation will include valuable information for your successful transition to your new school and life in Canada. We will discuss topics such as academic programs and expectations, course registration and school activities. You will meet the staff, other students, ask questions, and have fun! **Please bring your Passport, eTA, Visa and Study Permit to the orientation on the first day of school.**

Calendar and Important Dates for the 2025-2026 School Year *subject to change*

Below is a list of important dates to keep in mind when you make your plans to travel to Canada or are returning home for the holidays. **If you are travelling home for the holidays, your travel should not include days when school is in session.**

Event	Date
Semester 1 Arrival Dates	August 27, 28, 2025
Student Orientation for Secondary Students	August 29, 2025
Elementary Orientation (at your school)	Tuesday, September 2, 2025
Semester 1 begins for Secondary International Students	Tuesday, September 2, 2025
National Truth & Reconciliation Day (schools closed)	Tuesday, September 30, 2025
Thanksgiving Monday (schools closed)	Monday, October 13, 2025
Remembrance Day (schools closed)	Tuesday, November 11, 2025
<u>LAST</u> day before schools close for WINTER vacation	Friday, December 19, 2025
Schools <u>REOPEN</u> after WINTER vacation	Monday, January 5, 2026
Semester 1 Departure /Semester 2 Arrival	Jan 24-25 Depart / Jan 24-27 Arrival
Semester 2 Student Orientation Secondary Students	January 28, 2026
Semester 2 begins	January 29, 2026
BC Family Day (schools closed)	Monday, February 16, 2026
Last day before schools close for spring vacation	Friday, March 13, 2026
Schools reopen after spring vacation	Monday, March 30, 2026
Good Friday (schools closed)	Friday, April 3, 2026
Victoria Day (schools closed)	Monday, May 18, 2026
Last day before schools close for academic year	Thursday, June 25, 2026
Recommended departure dates	June 26-28, 2026
All students must depart	Prior to Monday, June 30, 2026
Medical coverage expiry date	Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Medical Insurance

As a part of your participation in the International Student Program, you are covered by our private medical insurance. We will automatically register you for the insurance program and the coverage will begin on the day you arrive in Canada. Please note the coverage only begins when you have left your home country. (While in your home country, you're covered by your family's traditional, local medical coverage.)

When you arrive and attend the orientation program, you will receive more information about the insurance program, including your insurance card.

Cell Phones

If you are bringing your own cell phone with you, please make sure to unlock the phone and that you purchase your SIM card in Vernon.

Departure

All students must depart no later than June 30, 2026. Medical coverage and homestay are not covered beyond this date.

More Questions? Wow! So much to think about! We are excited to welcome you to Canada in September and hope that this package answered your questions. If you still have questions? Please do not hesitate to ask! Email us at admissions@sd22.bc.ca or call us at 1-250-549-9263.