

## What is a Port of Entry?

When you arrive in Canada, you will arrive at a Port of Entry. A Port of Entry (POE) is a place which is selected as an entry point into Canada by the Government of Canada. Usually the Port of Entry that you come through will be the first airport or land crossing that you stop at in Canada. For example, if your last stop is Winnipeg but you first arrive in Vancouver, your Port of Entry is Vancouver International Airport. At a Port of Entry, every person is subject to 'examination,' which means that you will be asked to present identification documents, and may be asked to answer questions and provide personal information to determine whether you are allowed to enter Canada. The examination will usually be done by a Border Services Officer (BSO) who is an employee of the Government of Canada's Canada Border Services Agency. Likely, you will also receive a stamp in your passport. If you do not receive a stamp in your passport, you may ask the BSO to put a stamp in your passport before you leave the POE.

## Prepare to enter Canada

You can prepare for your arrival in Canada by making sure that you:

- obtain all of the recommended supporting documents and carry them with you when travelling:
  - Valid Passport;
  - Letter of Introduction from the Visa Office that you received when your Study Permit was approved;
  - Valid Temporary Resident Visa (if required);
  - Valid Electronic Travel Authorization (if required);
  - Proof that you have enough money to support yourself during your stay in Canada;
  - Proof of Acceptance; and
  - Any other documents recommended by the Visa Office or by an ISS immigration advisor.
- compile a list of the personal items that you are bringing with you and an estimate of their value (provide 2 copies); and
- read the Canada Border Services Agency's (CBSA) customs regulations:  
<http://www.cbsa.gc.ca/publications/pub/bsf5082-eng.html#s2x1>.

## Am I guaranteed entry into Canada?

As an international student, you are not guaranteed entry into Canada, regardless of whether you are a new or returning student. Your eligibility to enter Canada is assessed by a Border Services Officer each time that you attempt to enter Canada. To be eligible to enter Canada you must demonstrate that you are in good health, have enough funds to support yourself while in Canada, will leave Canada voluntarily by the end of the period authorized for your stay (i.e.: Expiry date of Study Permit, Visitor Record or Visitor Stamp), and are not inadmissible.<sup>1</sup> The Border Services Officer will also assess if you are a genuine student who meets the requirements to pursue studies in Canada. To assess your intentions in Canada, the BSO may ask about your intended studies, previous studies, and ask to see your Letter of Acceptance and/or Enrolment.

## Bringing Items into Canada

As a visitor or temporary resident to Canada, you can bring personal items with you for your own use such as: personal computers, clothing, camera, vehicle, etc. When you are entering Canada by plane, you will be asked to complete a CBSA Declaration Card to state what you are bringing into Canada. You may also be asked to tell the Border Services Officer at the Port of Entry what you are bringing into Canada, declare that anything that you are bringing with you will be used by you and promise that you will take your belongings with you when you leave Canada. It is recommended that you prepare a list of all items that you are bringing into Canada and print two copies. This list should include the approximate value of each item as well as the make/model/serial

number (if applicable). Carry this list with you when entering Canada so that you can provide it to the Border Services Officer at the Port of Entry.

You may not be able to bring into Canada goods which:

- will be used by another resident of Canada;
- will be used on behalf of a business based in Canada;
- will be given as a gift to a Canadian resident;
- disposed of or left behind in Canada; or
- are prohibited or restricted.<sup>2</sup>

### What to Expect at a POE<sup>3</sup>

1. Pre-arrival: When arriving by airplane, you will be asked to complete a CBSA Declaration Card prior to meeting with a Border Services Officer at the POE. Usually, you will receive this card on the airplane or you can pick up a card when arriving at the Port of Entry. It is a good idea to bring a pen with you so that you can complete the CBSA Declaration Card while on the airplane. If you are arriving by land, you are not usually required to complete a CBSA Declaration Card.
2. First CBSA Examination: Present your Passport, Letter of Introduction, and CBSA Declaration Card to the Border Services Officer (BSO) at the POE. The BSO will ask you some questions about why you are coming to Canada and who you are. The officer may also ask you questions about what items you are bringing with you into Canada. Answer all of the questions that you are asked calmly and truthfully. You can receive service in English or French. If you have trouble understanding what is being asked, you may ask for an interpreter.
  - The Border Services Officer may ask to view your Letter of Acceptance and/or Proof of Funds. You may also be asked to present a list of the goods that you are bringing into Canada. For more information on the documents that you are recommended to carry when entering Canada, please see Page 1 of this document.
3. Baggage & Secondary Inspection: In most cases, after the first examination, you can pick up your baggage. After getting your bags, you will go to the next CBSA checkpoint where you will show your CBSA Declaration card. At this point, you will normally be asked to go to another area/room for 'Secondary Services and Inspection'.
  - At Secondary Inspection, you will be asked more questions. In some cases, your luggage may be examined or searched. You may be asked to present your Passport, Letter of Introduction, Letter of Acceptance, Proof of Funds, and/or List of Goods.
  - If the officer believes that you meet the requirements for holding a Study Permit<sup>4</sup> and are not inadmissible, you will be issued a Study Permit and allowed to enter Canada. If you applied for a Co-op Work Permit at the same time as your Study Permit and meet the requirements for this document, you should be issued a Co-op Work Permit at the same time as your Study Permit.
4. Exit the CBSA area: After completing all examinations you may board your connecting flight or leave the POE.

NOTE: The examination at the Port of Entry can take a long period of time. Expect to spend 1-3 hours at the Port of Entry for examination. We recommend that you allow plenty of time between connecting flights to allow for a long examination period at the Port of Entry.

### Issuance of the Co-op Work Permit

If you have applied for a Co-op Work Permit along with your Study Permit and you meet the requirements to be issued a Co-op Work Permit, you may receive a Co-op Work Permit when you receive a Study Permit at the POE. If the officer at the POE does not issue a Co-op Work Permit, you can politely ask whether you can get a Co-op Work Permit. Explain to the officer that you applied for a Co-op Work Permit with your Study Permit application. You may also want to show the officer your Letter of Acceptance and point out the section which lists your internship placement. If the officer is not willing to give you a Co-op Work Permit, do not worry. You

always have the option to apply for a Co-op Work Permit after entering Canada. Politely thank the officer for their time and consideration.

If you are issued a Co-op Work Permit at the POE, before leaving the POE carefully check the document to see if the conditions listed on the document are correct. You may wish to see the following words (or something similar) listed under 'Remarks/Observations' at the bottom of the permit: "Issued under R205(c)(1). Only for work forming an essential/integral part of the course as per University of Winnipeg instructions." The 'Occupation' may be listed as 'Student' or 'Internship'. If you notice that one of these conditions is not listed, you may politely ask the officer about whether any corrections can be made to the document. If the officer is not willing to correct the conditions on the Co-op Work Permit, do not worry. You always have the option to apply for a correction to these conditions after entering Canada. Politely thank the officer for their time and consideration.

DISCLAIMER: This document does not constitute legal advice, and should not be relied upon as a source of legal advice. It is a reference sheet designed to provide information on Canada Border Services Agency's (CBSA's) and Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada's (IRCC) requirements for arriving at a Port of Entry and entering Canada and describes existing requirements under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and the regulations made under that Act in general terms. The CBSA's and IRCC's regulations, policies and procedures are subject to change and may change without notice. For the most current information, please visit IRCC's website ([www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)) or CBSA's website ([www.cbsa.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa.gc.ca)). This reference sheet was prepared by a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant in good standing with the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council and is accurate as of March 21, 2017.

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<sup>1</sup> If you are 'inadmissible', it means that you are not allowed to enter Canada. There are many different reasons that someone might be inadmissible. For example, if someone has had a criminal conviction, lied on an immigration application, or has a serious medical condition, that person could be inadmissible and not eligible to enter Canada. To find out more about inadmissibility, please see this information page: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/inadmissibility/index.asp>.

<sup>2</sup> The import of alcohol and tobacco is subject to specific regulations. For more information, please see: <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/travel-voyage/ivc-rnc-eng.html>. For more information on goods which are prohibited or which have restrictions, please visit the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) website at: <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/travel-voyage/rpg-mrp-eng.html>.

<sup>3</sup> US Nationals, US Citizens, residents of Greenland/St.Pierre/Miquelon and people who have been lawfully admitted to the US for permanent residence are eligible to apply for a Study Permit at a Port of Entry. For more information on what to expect if you are applying for a Study Permit at a POE, please see ISS's information sheet, *Applying for a Study Permit at a Port of Entry*.

<sup>4</sup> To meet the requirements for holding a Study Permit you must demonstrate to the officer that you are a genuine student and convince them that you will voluntarily leave Canada by the end of the period authorized for your stay. Also, you must show that you have been accepted by a Designated Learning Institution (DLI) in Canada (UWinnipeg is a DLI), have sufficient funds available to pay for your tuition/living expenses, meet security requirements, are in good health, and are not inadmissible for any other reason. If you do not satisfy the officer that you meet these requirements, you may be denied entry into Canada or you may be allowed entry as a temporary resident without the right to study.