

High Commission of India

Ottawa

Advisory for Indian Students in Canada

- The High Commission of India in Ottawa, as also our Consulates in Toronto and Vancouver are in constant contact with the Federal and Provincial governments and with the authorities of Canadian Universities and Colleges to discuss the well-being of Indian students in Canada, in the context of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- We have been assured by Canadian authorities and the administrations at institutions that international students on campus are a priority for them and that they are making all possible efforts to facilitate the students and minimize distress. The authorities are also trying to ensure that students can complete all courses in which they are currently registered and receive their evaluations and credits without any interruption.
- Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, a dry cough and difficulty in breathing. Should you experience these symptoms and if you or someone you have been in close contact with has recently travelled internationally to an affected region, avoid contact with others and immediately see your university/college designated health care professional or nearest hospital.

- The situation is fast evolving and new instructions and restrictions related to travel are being promulgated by governments, commercial carriers and airlines. Please keep yourself updated with the latest information, including the status of airline connections, to make the most informed choices.
- Please note that Canada has closed its borders to foreign travellers. Students are advised to ensure that they are receiving regular updates on the local situation from their host institution and stay informed on the latest Government of Canada Travel Advisories. These can be seen at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>
- Provincial governments in Canada have also issues advisories related to COVID-19 related measures including advisories for post-secondary students. Please go through the latest provincial government advisory for the province where you are located.
- The latest information and advisories issued by the Government of India related to COVID-19 are available at <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/>
- Indian students are encouraged to register with Government of India's MADAD portal to receive regular updates. You can register here- https://portal2.madad.gov.in/AppConsular/user/RegistrationBaseAction?request_locale=en&userType=Student

- Your host Universities and Colleges have put out useful information and advisories on their websites and all students are advised to go through them carefully and comply with the instructions and guidance provided by the institutions.
- So far, the Canadian Universities/Colleges have not closed their residences, where available, for international students and are encouraging international students to stay at the residences.
- Most Canadian Universities and Colleges have made changes to teaching methods and have transitioned to on-line mode of teaching. Instructions for how to access the online content/course and how they impact the overall academic curriculum are also available on the websites of your institutions.
- For individual/specific cases of Canadian visa and/or study permit extension and the impact of enhanced online studies on course credit and visa status, students are advised to approach their respective institutions for resolution.
- Students who have OCI Cards and have compelling reason to travel to India, may approach the nearest Indian Mission/Post for issue of an emergency visa as per prevailing regulations. They may, however, note that country-specific travel advisories and applicable health protocols, including screening/testing and/or mandatory

quarantine for a minimum period of 14 days will still be enforced.

- Some students facing resource constraints have also approached the Mission for advice. It is not possible to offer any blanket advice as the condition and situations differ from case-to-case depending on the visa/study-permit status health insurance, and financial status. In such cases, due prudence may be exercised by the individual concerned.
- Students who have enrolled for studies in Canadian institutions and have deposited their fees but have not yet travelled to Canada, may approach their respective institutions for redress as policies vary from institution to institution.
- For emergencies, students may call the help-line numbers indicated on the High Commission's website <https://www.hciottawa.gov.in/>

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17 March 2020