Important Settlement Tasks

International Student Services

University of Calgary
Applying for Important Identification Documents

- Social Insurance Number (SIN)
- Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP)
- Pick up your UNICARD
- Driver’s Licence and/or Alberta ID Card (optional)
Social Insurance Number (SIN)

• The first and the most important document to apply for after your arrival

• Why do I need a SIN?
  • Required if you are seeking for a job in Canada
  • Makes you eligible to receive benefits and services from government programs (e.g., income tax)

• Where and how to apply?
  • Can apply online / By mail / In person
  • Service Canada Offices
  • Check the required documents before applying: https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/sin/apply.html

• It is important to keep your SIN save and do not provide the number when it’s unnecessary!
Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP)

• Some students may not be eligible to apply
• Why do I need a AHCIP?
  • It covers some medical services. E.g., medical appointments, counsellor visits, hospital stays, etc.
  • For more information and benefits, please watch “Healthcare & Medical Insurance in Alberta” welcome webinar.

• Where and how to apply?
  • Find an authorized registry office: https://www.alberta.ca/ahcip-registry-locations.aspx
  • Check the required documents
  • The physical AHCIP card will be mailed to you
Get Your Unicard

• All students at the UCalgary need a Unicard!
• You can apply for Unicard once you’ve registered for classes and have an eID.
• Where and how to apply?
  • Apply online by submitting a photo now
  • Pick up in person – bring government-issued photo identification
Alberta Driver’s License

• One of the recognized government issued identification card.

• Where to apply?
  • Find an authorized registry office: https://www.alberta.ca/ahcip-registry-locations.aspx

• How to apply?
  • Depending on your country of residence, you might be able to use the international driver’s license plus your country’s driver's licenses in exchange of Alberta driver’s license
  • Pay the associated fees
  • Take a drivers test to obtain the Alberta driver’s license
Alberta Identification Card

• Another recognized government issued identification card you can get if you don’t drive.

• Where to apply?
  • Visit any authorized registry office: https://www.alberta.ca/lookup/find-a-registry-agent.aspx
  • Closest registry is “Registry Express” 1841-1632 14 AVE NW

• How to apply?
  • Proof of Alberta residency (utility bill, bank statement, credit card statement)
  • Proof of temporary residency status (study permit, work permit)
  • Enrolment Verification Letter from UCalgary https://www.alberta.ca/get-id-card.aspx
Applying for Cellphone Plan and Opening a Bank Account

Canadian Cellphone Plan

Canadian Bank Account
Canadian Cellphone Plan

• Where to apply
  • The big three cell-phone providers: Bell, Rogers, and Telus.
  • Smaller providers such as Koodo, Freedom Mobile, Virgin Mobile, etc.

• How to apply
  • Some service provider will ask for your SIN, but you don’t need to provide your SIN to the service provider.
  • Understand what are the required documents

• Things to consider
  • Types of plans: Post-Paid Plans or Pre-Paid Plans
  • How much data is available per month
  • Calling and texting
Canadian Bank Account

• Where to apply
  • Bank of Montreal (BMO); Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC); Royal Bank of Canada (RBC); HSBC Canada; Scotiabank; TD Canada Trust

• How to apply
  • Visit a bank in-person. (Book an appointment in advance)
  • Bring all the required documents
  • Some banks may offer services in your preferred languages
  • Bring your student ID card with you for student deals
  • Make sure you understand the associated account costs

• How to use your bank account
  • Saving and chequing account
  • Credit card (must be 18 years old or above)
Thank you for listening!

- Contact ISS team if you have additional questions or require additional assistance/support.
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