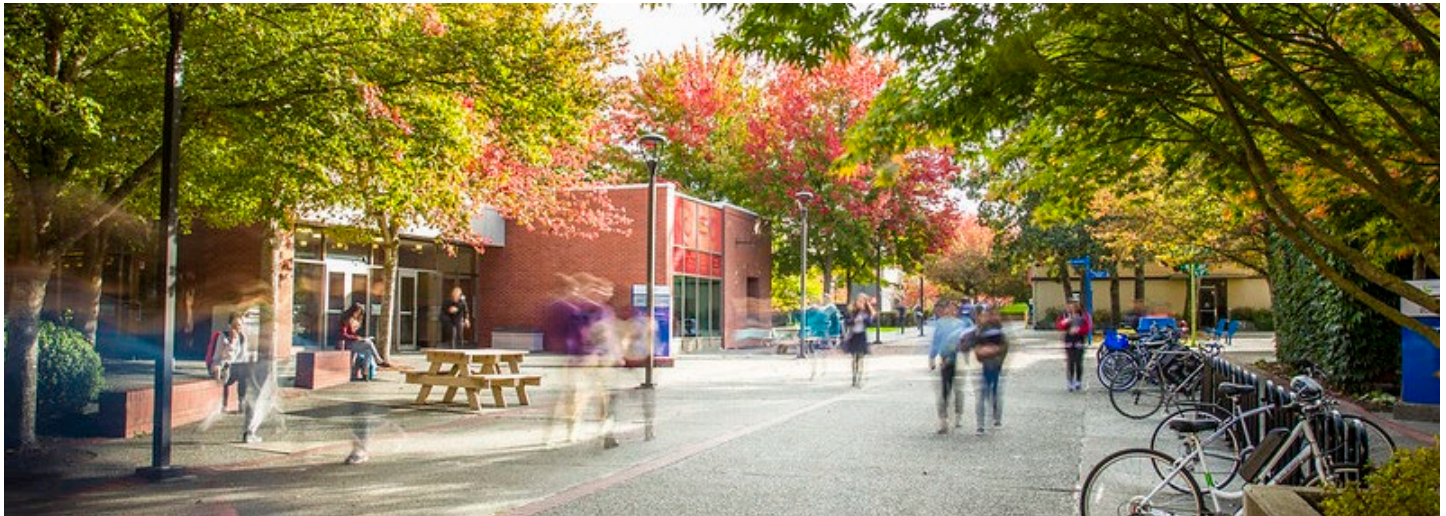


Camosun International Student Newsletter

Volume 41 | September 11, 2023 | WELCOME TO FALL 2023



Greetings from Camosun International!

Greetings from Camosun International! Welcome to the start of the 2023 Fall Semester. Here is some important information to help our new students get settled into their new life in Victoria and succeed in your studies. Returning students, welcome back! We hope that you find these reminders helpful.

One of your peers, Chellie, shared their recommendations about how to get the best out of your first term at Camosun. We totally agree with them and we could not have voiced these better. Furthermore, these would benefit all students regardless of where you are in your studies. Please read through, you will see the recommendations throughout our newsletter.

Having a discussion with my Academic Advisor, Jorge, and International Student Employment Facilitator, Karena, about my academic and career goals enabled me to plan my courses well for the succeeding terms.

Chellie

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First Semester Checklist

- Get your [Camosun ID and bus pass](#) with the library (they are all in one card)
 - * Changes coming to Camosun's U-Pass ([BC transit – Umo](#))
- [Open a bank account](#) in Canada
- Get a SIM card (phone) & Internet
- Apply for your [BC Services Card](#) (you do not need to carry your passport with you in Canada)
- Apply for [SIN number](#) (you will need this to work)
- Apply for your [Co-op Work Permit](#) as soon as possible, if internships/practicums are a mandatory part of your program, especially for Health programs (Practical Nursing, Early Learning & Care, Health Care Assistance etc).
- Apply for [Criminal Record Check \(CRC\)](#) immediately if your program requires this (for example, Practical Nursing, Health Care Assistance, and Sport and Exercise Education programs).
- Textbooks: Make sure that you purchase your textbooks at the [Bookstore](#) early. You will need to know your course codes and section numbers (e.g. ACCT 111-001 in order to find your textbooks).
- Log into [myCamosun](#) and view “My Program” under “Student Planning”. Check your program requirements in the [Academic Calendar](#) . You can also contact your International Academic Advisor for your Personal Learning Plan during your first semester.
- How do I log into Camosun’s online courses? All courses will use D2L (Desire to Learn) as the main platform to deliver the course. D2L enables your instructors to provide you with online content, activities, group collaboration tools, and assessment options.

Need help with D2L? Please check our tutorials <https://elearningtutorialscamosun.opened.ca/d2l-tutorials/d2l-for-students>. Sign up for [Office 365](#)
- *Have technical issues or trouble with your password?* Camosun’s Information Technology Services department is here to help! Visit our [ITS department](#) and speak with someone through the online chat.
- **MEDICAL INSURANCE:** During your studies at Camosun College and your time in Canada you must have medical insurance at all times.
- ❖ **MSP:** As soon as you arrive in British Columbia (whether coming from another country or another province), you must apply for BC the public health insurance, MSP. Click here to apply online: [MSP: How to apply](#). MSP will start in your third month living in BC and it costs \$75 per month for international students. During the first two to three months living in BC, you must have a private insurance while you wait for MSP to start.
- ❖ **Guard.Me:** Camosun College offers coverage for international students through the insurer guard.me, and you are required to have guard.me medical insurance until MSP coverage starts. There might be some exceptions to this rule. For more information, please check [here](#). This is also a reminder to all our students who have been in British Columbia. Please make sure you renew your MSP and do not let it expire. This is of utmost importance!

Please check our website for more information: [Medical Insurance and Healthcare for International Students](#)

Consultation with Keri Norrie, our program leader and one of my professors, as well as other professionals (through webinars and in-person sessions) provided me with helpful information on what I need to do to prepare for a career as a CPA and to start networking.

Chellie

Know Deadlines & Important Dates

It is your responsibility to know the important dates and deadlines. [Important Dates & Fee Deadlines 2023/24](#). There are a variety of start and end dates for different course sections. Find your class schedule and exam dates under "Plan & Register" in [myCamosun](#). Deadlines vary depending on start and end dates; and the length of the course.

Please see table below for the different deadlines for each course length.

Credit programs Fall 2023: Sep-Dec

Length	14 weeks
Start	Sep 5
End	Dec 9
Tuition & Fee Payment Deadline <i>Non-payment of fees may result in de-registration</i>	Aug 15
100% Refund Deadline	Sep 4
Course Add/Drop Deadline <i>Courses added after this period require School permission</i>	Sep 11
80% Refund Deadline <i>Courses dropped after this date are ineligible for refund</i>	Sep 11
Deferred Tuition & Fee Payment Deadline <i>For courses added after Aug 16 and students on approved tuition & fee deferral Tuition & fees for registrations occurring after Sep 19 are due immediately</i>	Sep 18
Last Day to Withdraw without Academic Penalty	Dec 9

Other lengths: If your courses don't start on the standard dates below, refer to the [list of non-standard course sections](#).

Dropping a Course after the Fee Refund Deadline

The deadline to drop a course with 80% fee refund is **September 11, 2023**. After the deadline, there will be no more fee refund for courses dropped. The deadline to withdraw from a course without academic penalty for Fall 2023 is **December 9, 2023**. Please see [How to Drop Your Courses](#) and [How to Register in Courses](#)

Waitlisted Courses

- Familiarize yourself with our [Waitlist Process](#).
- If you are on a waitlist, attend the classes and inform the instructor about your interest so you do not lose content. It is important to check your email daily to find out if a seat has become available for you. You will only have 24 hours to register, or the seat will be given to the next student on the list. If you are waitlisted for an online class, it's your responsibility to contact the instructor to let them know you are still interested.
- **After classes have started**, if you are still on a waitlist for your preferred course section, and there is a chance you will get in (e.g. you're in the top 5, not 40th on the list), be sure to attend the first day of class or you might be removed from the waitlist for not being there. Each instructor may handle things a little differently, so when in doubt, contact them.

Engaging in volunteer activities in and outside Camosun gave me opportunities to connect with people from different backgrounds, which contributed to my personal growth. It was also fulfilling to know that even as a newcomer, I can be of value to the community.

Chellie

How can you contact International Student Services?

We have a team of International Student Experience Advisors (ISEAs) who can assist you with general questions and help with referrals to Academic Advisors, International Counsellors, and Employment Facilitators within the college.



In-person: Come see us at the front desk:

Monday-Thursday: 9am-4pm

- Interurban campus: Liz Ashton Campus Center, CC251 (by the Bookstore)
- Lansdowne campus: Isabel Dawson, C201

Friday: 9am-4pm, Virtual services only. No in-person service. Please call us with questions.



Virtual services: Both offices will be offering virtual services only on Fridays.



Phone our office: +1-250-370-4812, Monday-Friday 9am-4pm



Please email your question to international_advisors@camosun.ca **Include your name and Camosun ID#.**

Academic Advising

Booking Appointments (Tuesdays 9:30-11:30am and Thursdays 2:00-4:00pm)

You can book 30-minute appointments with an Academic Advisor. Topics you can discuss in these sessions include:

- Building your own learning plan
- Academic success and support service discussions
- Graduation and completion requirements
- Program change
- Transfer credits evaluation
- Transferring to universities

Please email international_advisors@camosun.ca if you wish to book an appointment with an advisor. Include your name and Camosun ID#, your program and the questions you have.

Drop-ins (Mondays 2:00-4:00pm and Wednesdays 9:30-11:30am)

You can come to the office for a 15-minute drop-in. Drop-ins are for quick questions. You don't need to book appointments in advance. The first-come, first-served policy applies.

Co-operative Education and Career Services

[Co-op & Career Services](#) helps students and organizations engage in meaningful ways through a variety of work-integrated learning and career opportunities. [Contact us](#) at educationthatworks@camosun.ca | [250-370-4181](tel:250-370-4181)

Karena Daschel is our Employment Facilitator for International student. Karena can assist you learning more about how you can complete work terms (co-op for example if you are interested).

- **Lansdowne Career Lab**
Fisher 128 - 3100 Foul Bay Rd, Victoria BC V8P 5J2
- **Interurban Career Lab**
Career Lab (between Jack White & Urban Diner) - 4461 Interurban Rd, Victoria BC V9E 2C1

Counsellors

[Counselling Services](#) provides personal, Career and Educational Counselling. Counselling appointments are confidential and are provided at no additional cost.

Phone the Camosun College Counselling Centre at **250-370-3571** (open Monday to Friday, 9:00-4:00pm), to schedule a counselling appointment with an International Student Counsellor.

Additionally, for students who need support during evenings and weekends, or who are currently outside of Canada, we encourage you to seek help by contacting [Here2Talk](#).

U-Pass Changes are Coming!

BC Transit is launching a new electronic fare system. Starting September 5, students will have the **option** of using the new electronic fare system, Umo, instead of their Camosun ID Card to access bus services. **All students will need to transition to Umo for January 2024.**

How does this work? **Easy as 1,2,3!**

1. Download the Umo Mobility app from Apple App or Google Play Stores or Pick up a reloadable Umo card from a BC Transit vendor.
2. Obtain a Benefit Code from [myCamosun+](#)
 - a. Select Manage your U-Pass
 - b. Select Get Benefit Code
3. Use your Benefit Code in [Umo](#).

Visit bctransit.com/umo for more information and to get started or call **877-380-8181** toll-free for support.

Need help accessing your [Benefit Code?](#)

2023 Study in BC Writer's Award: Applications Now Open!

Study in BC (SIBC) is excited to announce the launch of its 2023 Study in BC Writer's Award. The goal of the award is to document and celebrate the international student experience in BC through student generated content. Award recipients will receive \$1,000 and work with SIBC to write content and share photos that documents their personal educational journey as an international student in BC.

All full or part-time international students currently enrolled at a BC post-secondary institution are eligible to apply. The deadline for application is **Tuesday, October 17, 2023**, at 11:59 pm PT.

For more information, visit the Study in BC website or contact communications@bccie.bc.ca

Study in BC and the Study in BC Writer's Awards are administered by the British Columbia Council for International Education.

Peer Wellness Programming

Camosun College's Counselling and Student Wellness office would like to increase health and wellness services to students by working with student input to design peer-to-peer style programming. They would love to hear from you via [this survey](#). The survey should take you approx. 15 minutes to complete. It asks you questions about what services, resources, and events you would like to have access to, how you would like them delivered, and what would be most accessible to you.



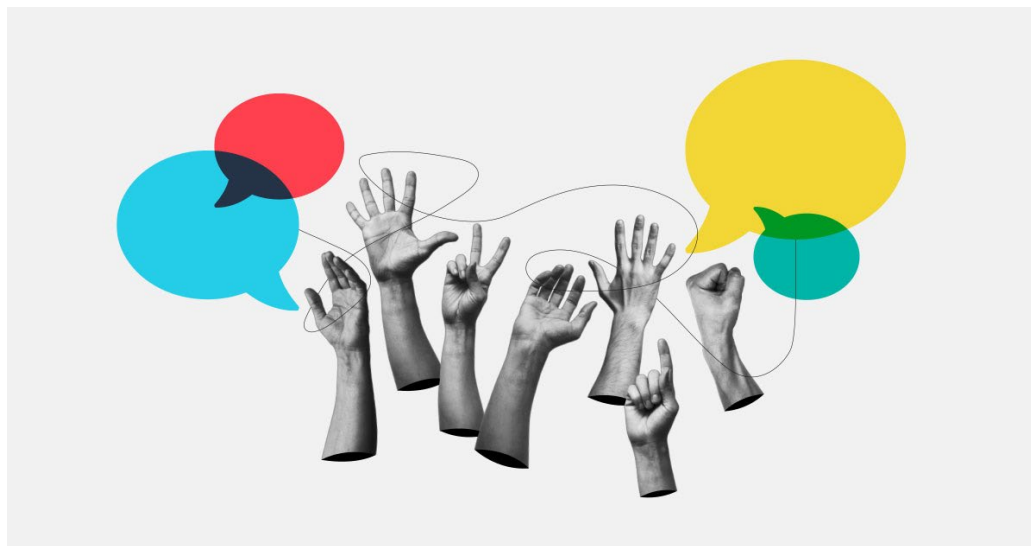
» Camsoun Students!

PEER WELLNESS PROGRAMMING SURVEY

- Camosun is looking into creating more peer-to-peer wellness programming for students
- Fill out our survey to have your input on what wellness and support services could look like for you and your peers



Webinar for Newcomers: Looking for Your First Apartment or Home in Canada?



When it comes to renting in Canada, there are many ways to do it! Join Planning for Canada with special guests from Prepare for Canada to explore your options and find support where you need it. Register [here!](#)

- **Date and time: Wednesday, September 13 from 04:00 AM to 05:00 AM PST**

If you are a primary visa applicant within the economic class who will be moving to Canada within the next 6 months this webinar is designed to help you!

- Learn how to search for rental apartments and how to find the best location to rent.
- Identify what to do before you move.
- Discover basic landlord and tenant rights and responsibilities.
- Get tips for renting without a credit history.

Plus, you'll learn three practical housing solutions to help you navigate Canada's rental market and find your first rental home! This free webinar is part of a new series for newcomers and international students organized by Planning for Canada.

Keep in touch through social media!

Follow us on Instagram [@camosunintl](#), [Friends of Camosun Facebook](#) page and our [Camosun International YouTube](#) channel to see college news, events, contests, students photos and videos, testimonials and more! You can share photos and videos with us. Please tag us and add #camosunintl when sharing some of your student life!

Previous Newsletters can be viewed at our [website](#). Or scan our QR code below.



International Student Services

Camosun International



international_advisors@camosun.ca | 250-370-4812

CAMOSUN COLLEGE | Victoria, BC | camosun.ca/international

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lekwungen and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.