

As a *Designated Learning Institution (DLI)*¹, VFC can consider applications from international students. If you are not a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident, **you cannot study at a DLI for more than six months without a Study Permit.**

For more information about our present ability to intake international students, please contact our customer service desk (info@flyvfc.com, +1-250-656-2833).

How to Obtain a Study Permit

Send an application to Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).²

In general, your online application will require at least these documents:

- **Application for a Study Permit & Family Information** forms, both available through your online IRCC application portal,
- A copy of **your passport**,
- **Proof of Financial Support**, to show you can fund your studies and living expenses. Use the estimated costs on the following pages to help you budget. For living expenses, you could budget for about \$1500 per month for rent and utilities.
- a **Letter of Acceptance** from your chosen DLI,
- and as of the 22nd January, 2024, a **Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL)**, created by the applicable *provincial* government, and provided by your DLI. Presently, the BC government provides three PALs to VFC per year, thus we can only intake three international students per year.

Once an international student has completed their *Commercial Pilot License* or *Instructor Rating* courses with us, they are eligible to apply for a *Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP)*³.

Preparing For Your Move

- **Complete an Aviation Medical Exam.**
Find a Canadian Civil Aviation Medical Examiner (*CAME*)⁴ in your country.
- **Become a VFC Member**⁵
- Read IRCC's *Pre-Arrival Services*⁶
- **Find somewhere to stay.** *ASAP Aviator Suites*⁷ is only a 5 minute walk from the Club, but if they don't have available rooms, websites like Kijiji, Airbnb, Rentals.ca, and even Facebook Marketplace are a good place to start looking for rentals. Remember to learn your *tenancy rights*⁸.
- **Improve your English Language skills.** Those who are not Canadian Citizens need to do an *Aviation Language Proficiency Demonstration (ALPD)*⁹ before they can obtain a Student Pilot Permit. If English is not your first language, you may want to take an English language test. Although VFC does not require it, we recommend that you aim for the IELTS Level 7, or equivalent, standard.

If you can, the best way to prepare is to come see us, and Canada, in person on a 6-month *Visitor Visa*¹⁰. It's easier to find a place to live, *work*¹¹, and to apply for a study permit when you're here. You may even have time to take part in our ground school and, if all your ducks are in a row, start flying!

¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/prepare/designated-learning-institutions-list.html>

² <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/portal-application-process-study.html>

³ <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/work/after-graduation/about.html>

⁴ <https://www.wapps.tc.gc.ca/saf-sec-sur/2/came-meac/l.aspx?lang=eng>

⁵ <https://flyvfc.com/apply-today>

⁶ <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/settle-canada/pre-arrival-services/prepare-live.html>

⁷ <https://asapsuites.ca/>

⁸ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/residential-tenancies/during-a-tenancy/tenant-rights>

⁹ <https://tc.canada.ca/en/aviation/licensing-pilots-personnel/getting-aviation-language-proficiency-demonstration>

¹⁰ <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/about-visitor-visa.html>

¹¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/work.html>

When You're Here

To start your new life in BC, you'll need to:

- Get a **Social Insurance Number (SIN)**¹²
- **Set up a bank account.** Feel free to research local names like RBC Royal Bank, Scotiabank, CIBC, TD Bank, BMO, and Coast Capital, as well as online offerings like Tangerine and Wealth Simple.
- Apply for a **BC Medical Services Plan (MSP)**¹³.
- **Secure a method of transport.** This could mean local transit, via **BC Transit**¹⁴, obtaining a BC driver's license from **ICBC**¹⁵, or even purchasing a second-hand bicycle through Facebook Marketplace.

Once these steps are complete, come to the Club where a written Orientation Package will be provided and reviewed. This package is inclusive of resources available for all new students. A tour of the club will also be provided. A Pilot Training Record will be initiated to confirm full time attendance and compliance with academic learning standards. At this time the VFC does not provide financial assistance, scholarships, bursaries, or awards.

Our **Human Resources Policies**¹⁶ are the same for all members and students. They include a Harassment, Violence, and Anti-racism policy, as well as a **Complaints and Dispute Resolution policy**¹⁷. The **Critical Incident & Crisis Management Policy**¹⁸ will be reviewed with you upon enrolment.

Employment Opportunities

This link¹⁹ provides a list of government funded newcomer services, including information on securing employment, though the VFC does offer

on-campus employment. Please inquire with our customer service desk about our presently open jobs.

Completing our Class IV Flight Instructor Rating course also gives you the ability to work for us as in instructor.

Emergency Medical & Mental Health Support

Some students may find it difficult moving to another country. If you are having any issues, for example issues regarding mental health, your first step should be to find someone to talk to. If you don't have anyone, come to the Club and meet our members and staff.

In addition to 911 emergency services, you may also find the below mental health services useful:

- **310 Mental Health Support** - 310-6789
- **Crisis Centre**²⁰ - 604-872-3311
- **Here2Talk**²¹ - 1-877-857-3397
- **Suicide Crisis Helpline** - 988
- **Wellness Together Canada**²²
- **Talk Suicide Canada**²³

Addiction & Overdose Support

For those at risk of, or who are likely to witness, an overdose, BC's Take Home Naloxone (THN) program makes available free **Naloxone Kits**²⁴ through services such as:

- Pharmacies
- Public health units
- Community health centres
- Shelters
- Overdose prevention sites

¹² <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/sin/apply.html>

¹³ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/msp/bc-residents/eligibility-and-enrolment/how-to-enrol>

¹⁴ <https://www.bctransit.com/victoria/>

¹⁵ <https://www.icbc.com/driver-licensing>

¹⁶ <https://flyvfc.com/assets/files/mediahandler/documents/p1jff5s6mtmlq1o461gegsai3134.pdf>

¹⁷ <https://flyvfc.com/assets/files/mediahandler/documents/p1jffo0cpbg.tifhc1u2t1oobp694.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://flyvfc.com/assets/files/mediahandler/documents/p1jk6at3ni96h1ecgjo25qrnfr4.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://ircc.canada.ca/english/newcomers/services/index.asp>

²⁰ <https://www.crisiscentre.bc.ca/>

²¹ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AEST0048-001658>

²² <https://wellnesstogether.ca>

²³ <https://talksuicide.ca>

²⁴ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/overdose/naloxone-kit>