

Essential Travel for International Students

International Centre, Dalhousie University

International students are exempt from the travel restrictions and are able to enter Canada if they are travelling for an essential (*non-discretionary or non-optional*) purpose and

- they are an international student who has a valid study permit, *or*
- they were approved for a study permit on or before March 18, 2020, *or*
- they are coming from the United States

Due to the discretionary power of an immigration and border services officer, the onus is on the students to demonstrate that the purpose of their trip is for an essential reason:

- they are established in Canada (living in Halifax and studying at Dalhousie University).
- their presence in Canada is required by the university (Medicine, Dentistry, select Health professions, and the Veterinary Technology program in the Faculty of Agriculture).
- their presence in Canada is required for their student employment such as working as Teaching or Research Assistant, Residence Assistant, Lab Assistant, as well as other on/off-campus employment under the authorization of a study permit.
- their presence in Canada allows them to be active participants in their online classes and have access to the necessary resources to complete the required evaluations.
- their presence in Canada is necessary to address concerns related to international time differences, access to library resources and academic websites, and unreliable internet connectivity in the home country

In addition, they must demonstrate that they have an adequate quarantine plan. Information on the *Tracking Travelers to Nova Scotia* form (Self-Declaration form from the Government of Nova Scotia) provides important information to be included in your quarantine plan.

**The government defines “optional” or “discretionary” travel as coming to Canada for the purposes of tourism, recreation, and entertainment among others. This means your accompanying family members may not be able to enter Canada if the purpose of their travel is to help you settle in Canada.¹*

**Dalhousie University cannot guarantee your entry to Canada. While we support your travel by issuing an immigration facilitation letter, the final decision rests with a Canada Border Services Agency Officer when you arrive at a port of entry. Dalhousie University is not responsible for any financial or other losses due to you being refused entry to Canada.*

¹ Immediate family members of students who are traveling from a country other than the United States must obtain special permission from the government. Instructions are here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-covid19/visitors/immediate-family.html>