



November 8, 2021

Good day,

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) would like to provide an update related to the boarding of international students seeking entry to Canada to study.

Firstly, it is important to note that the guidance has not changed – Foreign nationals must meet all entry requirements before being authorized to enter Canada. All foreign nationals must either be fully vaccinated with a Health Canada approved vaccine and meet all pre-conditions (ArriveCAN completion and in possession of a valid pre-arrival COVID-19 molecular test) or they must be asymptomatic, seeking entry for a non-discretionary purpose, and meet the public health obligations and requirements outlined in Orders in Council, including having evidence of a valid COVID-19 molecular test result and using ArriveCAN to submit mandatory information.

Fully vaccinated foreign nationals are not required to demonstrate that their travel is for a non-discretionary purpose, as long as they meet all the requirements under the Order in Council to be considered fully vaccinated.

Foreign nationals who are considered not fully vaccinated, must demonstrate a non-discretionary purpose of travel. Entering Canada for the purpose of studying at a designated learning institution is considered a non-discretionary purpose of travel so long as studying is the **primary purpose** for seeking entry to Canada. This means that the time between a student's entry to Canada and the start date of their studies exceeds what would be considered a reasonable amount of time. For example, this could include the timeframe for that student to complete their 14-day quarantine (if applicable); as well as prepare themselves for beginning their studies (for example, move in to a residence or get vaccinated). If the timeframe is not deemed reasonable, the primary purpose of travel may no longer be considered for study purposes and would therefore be deemed discretionary in nature.

Effective November 3, 2021, the CBSA would like to advise all air carriers that, unvaccinated students who are seeking to travel to Canada to study at a designated learning institution for the winter (January) 2022 semester, will be permitted to enter Canada, so long as they meet all other requirements under the Orders in Council and the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

Please note that this information is accurate as of today however, future changes to the Orders in Council may change this information.

Thank you,

Aviation Security Directorate