

International Student Policy

International education enhances British Columbia's education system, and contributes to the social, cultural, and economic development of the province. International engagement benefits student learning and growth, contributes to local access to education through expanded programming, and links institutions and communities across the province to the global knowledge economy.

The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (the Ministry) provides leadership and direction for post-secondary education and skills training systems in British Columbia. The Ministry expects all British Columbia Education Quality Assurance (EQA) designated post-secondary institutions that host international students to deliver the quality education experience and supports all students expect and deserve. International education programs are expected to provide positive education outcomes in a supportive environment for international students; social and cultural benefits to communities, schools, and institutions; and valuable intercultural learning for all students, with an overall commitment to quality education.

International education programming is expected to be delivered in a manner that supports the institution's work to respond to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

Marketing and Promotion

- Information about the Certificate of Visual Arts program at the Vancouver Island School of Art can be found on the school's website on the ['About'](#) page. Student information can be found on the ['Student Policies'](#) page.

Education Agents

- The Vancouver Island School of Art does not make use of education agents.

Offer, Enrolment, Contracts and Tuition

- Tuition and other fees can be found on the Vancouver Island School of Art website under ['Tuition and Fees'](#). Refund policy can be found on the website under ['Refund Policy'](#).
- The Vancouver Island School of Art limits and manages enrolment of international students within the Provincial Attestation Letter cap allocation to ensure sufficient facilities, services, and supports for all students.
- International students cannot transfer from another institution prior to the international student completing at least one session (eg., quarter/semester/term) of their initial academic program, or a minimum of 25% of a career college program unless one of the following apply:
 - the institution from which the student seeks to transfer (the "releasing institution") has ceased to maintain the EQA designation;

- the institution to which the student seeks to transfer (the “accepting institution”) verifies that the releasing institution is aware that the international student is seeking transfer and the releasing institution has directly confirmed that the international student is enrolled, attending, and is not on academic suspension at the releasing institution;
- the accepting institution verifies that the transferring student has completed a Designated Learning Institution (DLI) Student Transfer online showing that the student is now enrolled at the accepting institution.

Student Orientation and Support

- Students can make arrangements with the office upon arrival to Victoria for an in-person orientation and tour of the school.
- This document and the [‘Student Policies’](#) page contain additional resources for a virtual orientation.
- Students can email the office at info@vancouverislandschoolart.com for additional support.
- Information about facilities and resources at the school can be found on the Vancouver Island School of Art website under ‘School Info’ → ‘Information for Students’.

Progression, Attendance, and Academic Learning Support

- Requirements to achieve satisfactory program progress and attendance can be found on the [‘Student Policies’](#) page under ‘Academic Conduct’.
- Attendance and in-progress grades are collected to document and monitor program progress.
- An appointment to speak with the school Director for advisement is available upon request. See the [‘Student Policies’](#) page under ‘Student Support Services’.

Student Safety, Well-Being, and Health

- Public resources for health support:
 - [Island Health](#): Vancouver Island’s Public Health Authority.
 - 250-519-3485 (Victoria)
 - In the event of a medical emergency call 9-1-1
 - [Medimap](#): provides information on local walk-in clinics.
 - [Vancouver Island Crisis Line](#): provides phone, text, and online chat services.
 - 1-888-494-3888 (24 hours)
 - [AVI Health and Community Services](#): provides crisis response, harm reduction services, as well as queer and trans health support
 - 250-818-2454 (7:30am-12:30am)
 - [Here2Talk](#): all students currently registered in a B.C. post-secondary institution have access to free, confidential counselling and community referral services, available 24/7 via app, phone and web.
 - 604-642-5212, or toll-free 1-877-857-3397
- Security resources:
 - [Victoria Police Department](#): located at 850 Caledonia Ave.

- Emergency: 9-1-1
- Non-emergency: 250-995-7654
- [Themis Security](#): security for the Maynard Court building.
 - 250-884-1946
- On-site building supervisor:
 - Kent Embree: 250-883-6541
- Resources specific to sexual misconduct can be found on the '[Student Policies](#)' page under 'Sexual Misconduct'.
- Under the Medicare Protection Act, enrolment with Medical Services Plan (MSP) is mandatory for all eligible residents and their dependents. International students in British Columbia with a study permit valid for six months or more are deemed residents of British Columbia and required to register for MSP.
 - [Medical Services Plan on Government of British Columbia website](#)

Local Community Integration Supports

- [Victoria Newcomers Club](#): activities group for women new to Victoria.
- [Victoria New in Town Meetup](#): activities group for all people new to Victoria.
- [Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria](#): supports the full integration of newcomer immigrants and refugees into the social, economic and civic life of the Capital Region of British Columbia.
- Local Churches:
 - [United Commons Church](#): 2SLGBTQIA+ friendly
 - 932 Balmoral Rd
 - [St Andrew's Cathedral](#)
 - 740 View St
 - [St Andrew's Presbyterian Church](#)
 - 680 Courtney St
 - [St. John the Divine Anglican Church](#)
 - 1611 Quadra St
- Local Mosques:
 - [Masjid Al-Iman](#)
 - 2218 Quadra St
- Local Synagogues:
 - [Congregation Emanu-El](#)
 - 1461 Blanshard St

Housing Assistance

- As a small school the Vancouver Island School of Art does not provide student housing. We recommend searching for short-term rentals on local housing listings:
 - [Used Victoria](#)
 - [Craigslist](#)
- Information on tenancy rights:
 - [BC Residential Tenancy Act](#)

Daily Life Information

- Transportation Services:
 - Bus: [BC Transit](#)
 - Taxi: [Blue Bird Cabs](#)
 - Taxi: [Yellow Cab of Victoria](#)
 - Taxi: [Victoria Taxi](#)
- Child Care Services:
 - [Child Care Resource and Referral](#)
- Communications:
 - [Rogers](#)
 - [Telus](#)
- Banking:
 - [Scotiabank](#) Nearby location: 702 Yates St
 - [Vancity](#) Nearby location: 1280 Douglas St
 - [Bank of Montreal](#) Nearby location: 1225 Douglas St
 - [Royal Bank of Canada](#) Nearby location: 1079 Douglas St
 - [CIBC](#) Nearby location: 1175 Douglas St
- Library:
 - [Greater Victoria Public Library](#)
 - VISA also maintains a library, students may sign out books at the office.
- Eateries Near the School:
 - [Macchiato Caffe](#): 780 Johnson St
 - [Tim Hortons](#): 1410 Blanshard St
 - [Habit Coffee](#): 808 Yates St
 - [Stir It Up](#): 760 Yates St
 - [Yates Coffee Bar](#): 733 Yates St
 - [Sushi Time Express](#): 735 Yates St
 - [Dosa Paragon](#): 735 Yates St
 - [Soupa Café](#): 735 Yates St
 - [Empire Donuts](#): 735 Yates St
 - Local Grocery Stores (see store's website for location near you):
 - [Save-on-Foods](#)
 - [The Market on Yates](#)
 - [Thrifty Foods](#)
- Art Supply Stores:
 - [Opus](#): 512 Herald St
 - [Artworld](#): 860 Yates St
 - [Monk Office & Art](#): 905 Fort St

Post-Graduation Employment Information

- Graduates of the Certificate of Visual Arts program are **not** eligible for a post-graduation work permit.

Complaints, Harassment, and Dispute Resolution

- The process for receiving and resolving complaints can be found on the Vancouver Island School of Art's '[Student Policies](#)' page under 'Dispute Resolution'.

- Related [Student Policies](#) include 'Code of Conduct', 'Harassment' and 'Sexual Misconduct', as well as the 'Statement of Student Rights'.

Critical Incident and Crisis Management Policy

- See '[Student Policies](#)' page under 'Critical Incident and Crisis Management'.