

Granville College



STUDENT RESOURCE GUIDE

Guide



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WELCOME to Granville College!

All of us at Granville College are excited to welcome you to our beautiful city and to get you started on your academic journey here in Canada.

We are here to support and assist you to ensure that you are successful on this next step in your career. From our instructors to our administration team members, think of us as a home away from home.

We wish you the best with your time with us and look forward to your graduation day!

culture

Vancouver is a cosmopolitan and ethnically-diverse city full not only of West Coast Canadian culture and history, including that of the local First Nations, but also the culture of its many ethnically diverse populations.

As of the last census in 2016, the city of Vancouver's population was recorded at 631,486. The population of Greater Vancouver's surrounding areas came in at 2,463,431. As one of the most densely populated cities in Canada, Vancouver is home to many people and all of those people come with their own histories, heritages, religions, and ethnicities.



Food

One of the best things about Vancouver besides its culture is the amazing choices we have for food! Vancouver is known for its diverse food scene. We have SO many great restaurants and dishes to munch on but with so many choices and only so much space in your stomach...it's a pity not to enjoy the best of what Vancouver has to offer.

Coming from another country, you will be surprised at the choices available to eat food from your native country. It will take time for your system to adjust to the new tastes so be prepared to take it slow and be open to trying new dishes.

From the website 604now - <https://604now.com/> - here is a selection of the best cheap eats in Vancouver:

La Taqueria Pinche Taco Shop

Where else can you get 4 tacos for \$10.50? Let's "taco" bout the best bang for your buck when it comes to tasty tacos. La Taqueria offers all sorts of surprises, like Braised Beef Tongue Tacos. Veggie lovers are welcome, too. Located at 322 West Hastings Street and 2549 Cambie Street in Vancouver, and 1305 Welch Street in North Van.

Hawker's Delight Deli

This little gem is a popular spot with the locals. They specialize in Malaysian cuisine that won't cost you an arm and a leg! In fact, their Spring Rolls will only set you back .85 cents. Most of their dishes average around \$7 - my favourite is the Chicken Curry Rice. Located at 4127 Main Street.

Sal Y Limon

Pronounced "Sal E Leemon", this fabulous Mexican joint has so much to offer, without breaking the bank. Tacos are only \$2.25 each, and every dish on their menu is under \$10. I personally adore the Pollo Pibil Burrito - it's huge! Located at 701 Kingsway Street.

Zamzam Grill Vancouver

ZamZam Grill is an authentic Middle Eastern restaurant located in Vancouver. Their menu includes delicious rice plates, shawarma wraps, and vegetarian options. Many of their menu items are priced at under \$10! Located at 2128 Kingsway.

The Factory

Every single food item on their menu is only \$4.95. If you're looking for the best place to have some drinks before a night out on the town, this is it. We all get the munchies after a few too many pints, so why not take advantage of the cheap menu that offers everything from burgers to Shephard's Pie. My favourite is the Antojitos. Located at 1017 Granville Street.



Food

Stepho's Souvlaki Greek Taverna

If you're looking for delicious Greek food at an affordable price, look no further! Stepho's Souvlaki is the perfect place to pick your favourite meat on a stick and chow down! For a large Souvlakia (your choice of chicken, lamb, beef, pork or prawns), you'll pay less than \$12. And a side of Pita Bread is less than \$1! Located at 1124 Davie Street.

Bon's Off Broadway

Where else can you get a burger for just \$3.50? Bon's Off Broadway has a variety of treats to satisfy any of your foodie cravings - and your wallet won't take a massive hit while doing so! Located at 2451 Nanaimo Street.

The Capital

Similar to The Warehouse and The Factory, The Capital is Davie Streets' hidden gem. The food menu starts at just \$3.95 with unique items to choose from. My favourite is the Szechuan Alfredo Penne with Chorizo and Basil - it's Alfredo with a kick! Located at 1178 Davie Street.

Legendary Noodle

I absolutely love a big plate of saucy noodles. Legendary Noodle is as good as their name boasts! And with most menu items under \$10, this is by far one of the best Asian restaurants in the neighbourhood that will get you a good bang for your buck. Be sure to order the Creamy Peanut Sauce Noodles - they're legendary. Located at 1074 Denman Street.

Wakwak Burger

With burgers starting at just \$3, we can see why this food cart always has a line. Wakwak flips up Japanese-style burgers that won't hurt your piggy bank. Their featured burger, the Mentchi-katsu Burger, is absolutely perfect with Ground Beef Cutlet topped with fresh lettuce for only \$4.95. Sorry McDonald's, I've found a better burger. Located at 511 Granville Street.



top 10 things to do in vancouver

01



stanley park

Stanley Park is Vancouver's largest urban park and one of the biggest urban parks in the world, even bigger than the famous Central Park in New York City. Stanley Park spans over 1000 acres and is surrounded by the seawall which stretches 8.8 km and makes for an enjoyable walk, roller-blade or bike ride. The park has lots to offer for the whole family, including Canada's largest aquarium. This magnificent oasis in the heart of the urban core should be number 1 on your list, you won't be disappointed.

02



capilano suspension bridge

There is a good reason why this is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Vancouver. The bridge was originally built in 1889 and has subsequently been replaced with cables strong enough to hold up a fully loaded 747 airliner - just in case you were worried about the safety of the bridge. The bridge is 137 meters long and hangs 70 meters above the Capilano River. There are loads of others things to do here too, including Cliffwalks, Treetop Adventures, History and Nature Talks and loads for the kids, all set in the impressive forests of Capilano.

03

granville island

In 1970 Granville Island began its transformation from a desolate, industrial space to the much-loved area it has become. Known as Vancouver's premier artistic and cultural hub, it's central waterfront location is one of the most visited places in the region. The famous Public Market is open daily and has more than 50 independent vendors. The Net Loft Shops and Railspur District showcase some of Canada's best artists and designers. Granville Island also hosts many festivals and events so check their website frequently for updates.



04

grouse mountain

Grouse Mountain is a great stop if you want to get epic views over Vancouver. The 8 minute cable car is a fun way to get to the top or if you're feeling energetic you can hike the 2.5km trail, but be warned - it's a steep and strenuous climb. Grouse Mountain is only 15 minutes from the city's downtown core and is a favourite four-season destination. Once you get to the top you can visit the wildlife refuge and say 'hello' to the bears, enjoy various dining options or take part in some of the activities.



05

vancouver aquarium

A firm favourite and one of Vancouver's top attractions. This is more than an aquarium, it's a rehabilitation and conservation facility where guests can learn about the marine life around the shores of British Columbia. The site has 166 display tanks as well as a number of galleries throughout the aquarium. Enjoy various exhibits including the giant 260,000 litre tank housing the marine animals from the Strait of Georgia. You'll get to enjoy dolphins, seals, otters and porpoises across their many other exhibits and you can even experience some of the creatures in the unique touch pools.



top 10 things to do in vancouver

06



canada place

Canada Place is an iconic building on the shoreline in downtown Vancouver, built to resemble the sails of a giant ship. Featuring in many photographs the centre is home to a convention space, a hotel, a cruise ship terminal, restaurants, shops and entertainment spaces, including FlyOver, one of the area's hottest attractions. FlyOver is a multi-sensory 4D experience taking you on an epic virtual flight over Canada. The 30 minute flight will ensure you get the best virtual experience including the sights, sounds, winds and even smells of Canada!

07



whale watching

Getting onto the waters around Vancouver is another must-do and there's no better way than by enjoying a Whale Watching Tour. Your guide will help you search for orcas, seals, porpoises and eagles and of course, Whales! The waters around Vancouver offer a 90% success rate for whale sightings, so get this on your must-do list and tick it off your bucket list! There are a number of different tour operators so find one that suits your time and your budget and prepare for an epic experience.

08

sea to sky gondola

The ten minute ride up in the gondola affords you sweeping views of Howe Sound, the coastal forests and majestic mountains! The 8 person gondola's have floor to ceiling glass windows ensuring you don't miss a single minute of the unfolding scenery on your 2800 feet ascent. Once at the top you will have access to a wide array of outdoor experiences that will ensure you make some good memories and take some fantastic photographs. Check the website for updates and plan your trip according to the weather!



09

sea plane experience

Enjoy the city from a different perspective. Taking a Sea Plane to a neighbouring island or just enjoying a scenic flight will give you a bird's eye view of the harbour and a true perspective of this magnificent city nestled between the bounties of the ocean and heights of the mountains. Flights vary in duration and there are a number of tour companies to suit your budget!



10

gastown

Gastown is one of Vancouver's oldest neighbourhoods, steeped in history and interesting tales. It's now become one of the most vibrant districts with its cobbled streets and Victorian architecture it completes any trip to Vancouver. Enjoy a meal at one of the many trendy restaurants and bars or just a casual drink at one of the hip bars. There are guided walks and unique tours to enjoy in Gastown and it is only a few blocks away from our campus!





weather

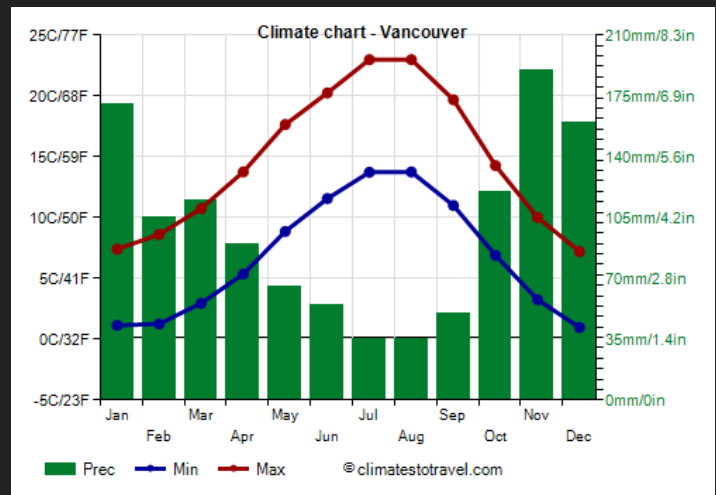
In Vancouver, the largest city of British Columbia, the climate is oceanic, cool and humid, with relatively mild, rainy winters and cool, fairly sunny summers.

The west coast is the only part of Canada in which the average temperature remains above freezing (0 °C or 32 °F) even in winter, and Vancouver is the only major city not having a freezing winter.

Things to pack

As you can see from the weather temp chart, our springs can be cool and rainy. Summers can be very warm. Winters can be cold and rainy - we even get snow!

As such, what you pack to bring is up to each of you. We would suggest being prepared for any kind of weather and buy a good rain jacket and umbrella!



You should also be prepared to go to job interviews so a good suit jacket / suit is a good thing to bring. This could happen at any point of your studies so we would suggest you are ready to go!

medical insurance and well-being

Comprehensive health and accident insurance is mandatory in British Columbia. It is mandatory that all students attending Granville College enroll in both our provincial medical service plan (MSP) and with a private insurance provider prior to you leaving your home country, such as:

- Study Insured - <https://www.studyinsured.com/>
- GuardMe - <https://www.guard.me/>

About the provincial Medical Services Plan (MSP)

MSP is the BC Provincial Government basic medical insurance plan for all BC residents - including Temporary Residents such as international students. After residing for three months in the Province, international students holding a study permit valid for more than six (6) months are entitled to medical and hospital benefits through the government Medical Services Plan (MSP) - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/msp/bc-residents>.

The BC Medical Services Plan Insurance will cover: doctors consultations, hospital treatments, x-rays and laboratory work. The BC Medical Services Plan Insurance will not cover: prescription costs, ambulance journeys, alternative therapies, contact lenses, glasses, physiotherapy, chiropractor, dental and orthodontic treatment.

IMPORTANT:

If you are not feeling well and think it is serious - go to emergency at your local hospital. If you are not able to go to emergency, call 911 and request an ambulance.

In Canada, you only call 911 or go to the hospital when it is a serious medical emergency.

If your case is not serious, you can go to a local medical clinic but need to call to make an appointment. There are clinics that accept WALK-IN patients but call before to make sure they can see you.

The best information can be found at:

<https://medimap.ca/clinics/walk-in-clinics/bc/vancouver>

ALWAYS have your medical insurance or MSP card with you. If you have private insurance, you will need to pay for the visit and get reimbursed by your medical insurer.



banking basics

Moving to a new country can be difficult. Thankfully if you're relocating as a student, there are plentiful support networks that can assist you with your transition. There are generally several essentials you need to settle upon arriving, one of them includes most critically a student bank account in Vancouver, BC.

We hope to help you by suggesting a few recommended student bank account out of the five major banks in Vancouver. We hope this summary of information will enable you to make your decision better; helping you find an ideal student bank account to support and facilitate your daily banking needs throughout your studies and beyond.

banks

Here's a summary of the best student banking plans in Canada:

- CIBC (Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce) - Apply for FREE unlimited student banking plan here
- Scotiabank - Apply for FREE unlimited student banking plan and earn free movies here
- RBC (Royal Bank of Canada) - Apply for FREE student banking plan in Canada here
- TD (Toronto Dominion) - Apply for a FREE student banking plan here

SOURCE: <http://www.vancityasks.com/best-student-banking-in-vancouver/>



social insurance numbers (SIN)

What is a SIN Number?

To work in Canada or access government programs and benefits, you need a 9-digit number known as a Social Insurance Number (SIN).

Your SIN is private, and it is illegal for anyone else to use it. You are responsible for protecting your SIN. Service Canada is responsible for issuing SINs, which comes in a paper format (Confirmation of SIN letter). If you have a plastic SIN card that has not expired, it is still valid.

How to apply

You can apply in two ways:

- Online
- In person

Online

You will need to access to this link and follow the instructions: <https://sin-nas.canada.ca/en/Sin/>

To apply, you will need to have these documents in digital format:

- Passport
- Study Permit
- Work Permit

They will also ask for your physical address here in Canada. The letter can take up to 10 business days to receive.

In Person

You will need to bring your documents with you and go to the Sinclair Center located downtown at: 757 W Hastings St, Vancouver, BC V6C 1A1

Be prepared to wait about 2 up to 3 hours and with this method, you will receive your SIN number on the spot.



internet providers

- Shaw - <https://www.shaw.ca/>
- Telus - <https://www.telus.com/>

cell phone providers

Freedom - <https://www.freedommobile.ca/>
Fido - <https://www.fido.ca/>
Rodgers - <https://www.rogers.com/>



accommodation

The rental prices in the city are relatively high, especially for popular neighborhoods. According to the January 2023 Vancouver report from liv.rent, the average rent for an unfurnished one-bedroom unit in Metro Vancouver is around \$2,227. While the price has dropped slightly compared to previous months, it is still the highest among other cities in Canada.

There are a variety of rental options available in Vancouver, including student residences, apartments, townhouses, and houses. The type of rental property you choose will depend on your budget, preferences, and needs.

The majority of our international students will have made accommodation arrangements on their own but if you are coming here for the first time and do not have a place to stay, here are some recommendations for the short term until you are able to make your own permanent home.

local accommodation options

- Cypress Accommodations - cypressaccommodations.com
- University Living - <https://www.universityliving.com/>
- Arbutus Residences - <https://arbutusresidences.com/>
- GEC Living - <https://gecliving.com/>
- Airbnb - www.airbnb.com/ca
- Casita - <https://www.casita.com/>
- Nestpick - <https://www.nestpick.com/>



safety in Vancouver

Is Vancouver Safe?

Vancouver is considered one of the safest cities of all major cities in North America. Serious crimes are very rare, but petty crimes like pickpocketing and unkind acts do occur. The overall crime rate across the city is low, making it a top choice for students looking for a safe and fun Canadian city to study in.

Like all big cities, some areas are safer than others. Downtown Vancouver, the city's heart, is busy for most of the day with entertainment and attractions and therefore fairly safe, particularly the West End. Other districts considered safe are South Granville, a pretty and peaceful residential area; Davie Village, an inclusive, accepting and friendly LGBTQ+ hub; West Point Grey; Kerrisdale; Kitsilano; and the Marpole neighbourhood.

Dodgy districts, such as the Downtown Eastside, may be unpleasant to stroll through, however, even these neighbourhoods are not dangerous. Avoid walking alone and at night.

Though Vancouver is a safe destination for visitors, practice common sense and awareness when here. Always stay aware of your surroundings.

- Opt for taxi or public transport or ride-share rather than walking home in poorly-lit areas.
- Don't carry large amounts of money. There is no need to take a lot of cash everywhere you go as almost everywhere takes card. Carry cash and valuables in a front or inside pocket.
- Never leave your belongings unattended.
- Vancouver is a safe city for women. They don't get pestered here. But, of course, be cautious when at bars at night: never let your drink out of your sight, don't accept drinks or rides from strangers, and take a taxi, the bus or metro back home instead of walking even if a short distance.



getting around

Metro Vancouver's transportation network, serving residents and visitors with public transit, major roads, bridges and Trip Planning.

It is one of the easiest and convenient ways to travel and includes:

- SKYTRAIN
- CANADALINE
- BUS
- SEABUS

You can find out about the options that are best for you here: <https://www.translink.ca/>

compass cards

Compass Cards are convenient, reloadable fare cards that can be used when taking transit within Metro Vancouver. Compass Cards can be loaded with Stored Value, or with prepaid passes (such as Monthly and DayPasses).

How Compass Card Works

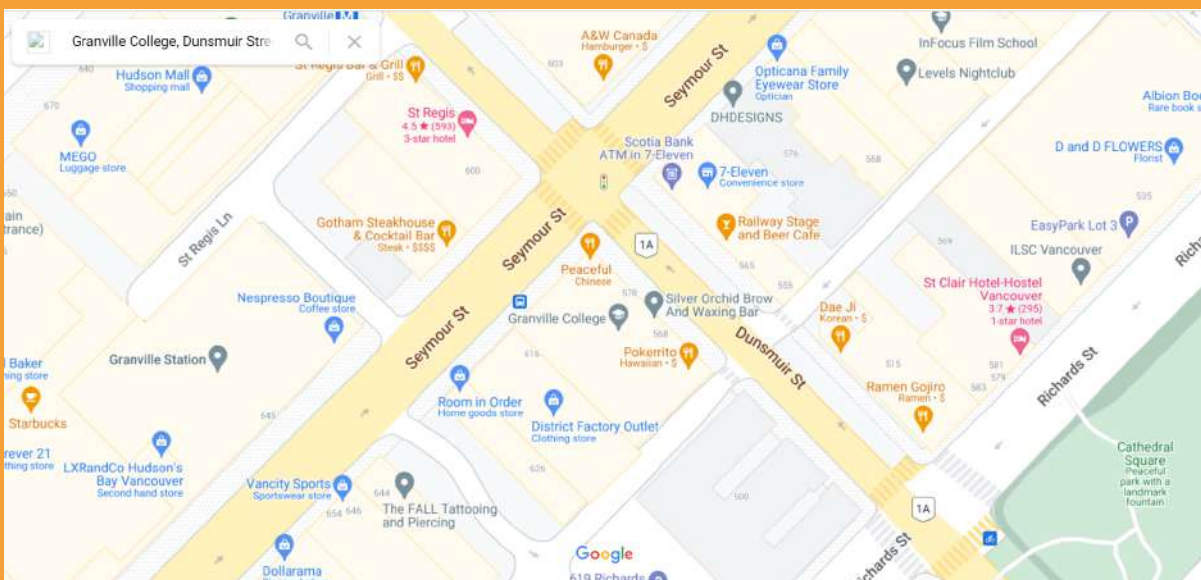
- Tap your card on the reader when entering buses, HandyDART, and at the gates when entering and exiting SkyTrain stations or SeaBus terminals.
- The fare is automatically deducted from the stored value on your card.
- Monthly Pass and DayPass riders tap in to validate their prepaid journey.
- You cannot pay for two fares on the same journey with one card – each rider needs their own form of payment. You can use the Stored Value on your Compass Card to purchase a Compass Ticket for another rider at a Compass Vending Machine (CVM).

SOURCE: <https://www.translink.ca/transit-fares/compass-card#compass-cards-and-products>



campus map

Granville College is conveniently located in the heart downtown Vancouver.



contact us

Vancouver Campus

- Telephone: (604) 683-8850
- Email: info@granvillecollege.ca
- 725-570 Dunsmuir Street Vancouver, BC V6B 1Y1, Canada

Our administrative office hours are:
Monday - Friday, from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm