

At Saskatoon Public Schools every student is **Known • Valued • Believed In**



International Student Program Pre-Departure Guide 2022-2023 Saskatoon Public Schools

Welcome

Congratulations on your admission to the International Student Program with Saskatoon Public Schools. On behalf of Saskatoon Public Schools, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you!

Moving to a new country will be both exciting and challenging. We hope that you will enjoy your stay and the wonderful experiences ahead.

As you prepare for your departure, I would encourage you to read through this Pre-Departure Guide. You will find useful information about school holidays, orientation, what to pack, and your arrival at the airport.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Saskatoon!

*Lana Elias
Manager, International Student Program Saskatoon Public Schools*

Apply for your Study Permit

Depending on where you are from and how long you are planning to stay in Canada, you will require different documents. Please obtain the correct documents. Your agent, nearest Canadian embassy, consulate, or high commission should be able to assist you to obtain the correct documents. A study permit may take up to 12 weeks to process so please submit your application early!

Study Permit: This is a document issued by the Canadian government that allows you to study in Canada. It is only required for students who are pursuing a program of study longer than 180 days (six months). Those studying for less than 180 days do not need a study permit. We recommend a study permit for all students regardless of the duration of study. *This document is also necessary for obtaining free Saskatchewan government issued medical/health insurance (valid for the duration of student's stay).* [Here is a link for further information for How To Apply for a Study Permit.](#)

Visa: A Visa is a document issued by the Canadian government that allows you to enter Canada. Not all students will need a Visa; this is determined on a country-by-country basis. This information is available from the Canadian Diplomatic Mission or online at [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada](#) . **We recommend a multiple entry visa.** You are responsible for ensuring your travel documents are valid and appropriate.



Shane Skjerven, Director of Education

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Arrange Transportation to Saskatoon

Saskatoon is easily accessible by air via connecting flights in Vancouver, Toronto or Calgary or United States air connections via Minneapolis. Once you have scheduled your travel plans, inform our office (itp@spsd.sk.ca) of your arrival date and time. Students will need to arrange their own airport pick-up.

International Student Program Orientation and Language Assessment

Students must arrive in Saskatoon at least one day before their International Student Program Orientation or Language Assessment (whichever date is earliest). Students should contact itp@spsd.sk.ca to finalize the dates and times of their Orientation and Language Assessment. These may be scheduled on different dates. The Orientation will include information about how to apply for a Saskatchewan Health Card, completing a school registration form, checking documents (study permit and transcripts), and sharing information about what to expect at school. Parents of elementary students should attend the orientation and language assessment with their student. Parents of high school students may wish to attend the orientation with their student. Further information details will be provided as they become available. **Students will be required to bring the following to their Orientation meeting:**

- **Study permit**
- **Passport**
- **Original school transcript** (translated and notarized)
- **Proof of address in Saskatoon** (For example, the latest property tax statement/ a rental or lease agreement/ recent purchase agreement, OR a current utility/phone/cable bill)

International Student Program – Important Dates

There are several important dates to keep in mind during the school year. [Click here to see the Saskatoon Public Schools for the 2022/2023 calendar.](#) Below are important dates as you plan your arrival to Saskatoon.

High school students <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Orientation and Language assessment2. School tours and course scheduling	Monday, August 22, 2022: 9:00am-12:00pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">• contact itp@spsd.sk.ca to confirm Tuesday, August 23, 2022 - Friday, August 26, 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• this meeting will be scheduled for you
Elementary students <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Orientation2. Language assessment3. School tours and course scheduling	Monday August 8 – 30, 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• booked for 1 hour during the work day• contact itp@spsd.sk.ca to schedule Tuesday, August 23, 2022 or Wednesday, August 24, 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• booked for 1 hour, 9-10 am or 10-11 am or 12-1 pm• contact itp@spsd.sk.ca to schedule Tuesday, August 29-31, 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• this meeting will be scheduled for you

Saskatchewan

The province of Saskatchewan is in Western Canada. The name Saskatchewan comes from kisiskatchewan, a Cree word meaning "swiftly flowing river". Saskatchewan is referred to as the "Land of Living Skies" with breathtaking blue skies, more than 100,000 lakes and beautiful prairie landscapes.

Saskatchewan experiences four distinct seasons, allowing time to enjoy the hot sun and play in the snow. Spring is moderate and wet (April, May) Summer is hot and dry (June, July, August) Autumn is cool and comfortable (September, October) Winter is cold with snow (November to March). More information can be found at www.theweathernetwork.com

To enjoy our prairie winter, we suggest that you bring or plan to purchase a warm coat, knitted wool hat, gloves, scarf, boots and sweaters. Lightweight clothing, primarily cotton, is popular in the summer. In spring and autumn, when the weather is cool, sweaters and a lightweight coat are most comfortable. Canadian students normally dress casually for school - long pants or jeans are acceptable for both men and women. Homes, schools, buses, and public buildings are all properly equipped with heating or air-conditioning to provide year-round comfort regardless of the outside temperature.

Saskatoon

The city of Saskatoon is a rapidly growing city with a population of about 275,000. Saskatoon offers the services and facilities of a large city in the friendly environment of a small town. It is situated on the South Saskatchewan River which is crossed by eight bridges. The paved pathways of the Meewasin Valley Trail follow the river through the city. Pedestrians, cyclists, and skiers have full access to the trail system and the parks and natural areas that surround it. Saskatoon is a safe, calm city. It boasts a diverse population that provides excellent academic, artistic, and recreational opportunities. Galleries, festivals, sports events, and concerts provide year-round entertainment. Saskatoon is one of the sunniest cities in Canada, receiving an average of 2,381 hours annually.

Pack your Belongings

When packing, there are a few important things to keep in mind. Consider the length of your program and the varying temperatures you will experience. Also consider what you can buy in Canada instead of carrying it with you. Additionally, airlines will have strict regulations about how much you are allowed to bring with you. Be sure to check on the luggage restrictions before arriving at the airport!

In your carry-on bag (**not your suitcase**), you should have:

- Passport
- Study Permit
- Plane ticket/itinerary
- Saskatoon Public Schools International Student Program Letter of Acceptance
- Final official transcripts & translations from your school in your home country
- Emergency phone numbers including the contact of who is picking you up at the airport, your family back home and our office (phone 306-683-8425)
- Photocopies of all the above documents in your checked bag/suitcase (and be sure to leave the third copy of all documents with someone you trust in your home country too)
- Copies of any necessary medical information (for example, prescriptions)
- Small amount of currency (\$100 Canadian)

You should also consider bringing some of the following items (focused on high school students):

- clothing should include a good winter jacket, gloves, boots (which could also be purchased in Saskatoon)
- sports equipment or musical instruments for your hobbies
- t-shirts, shorts and athletic shoes for Wellness class or sports teams
- cell phone
- spare eyeglasses or contacts (if applicable)

At the Port of Entry

When you fly to Canada, you will arrive at one of the major Canadian airports prior to travelling to Saskatoon. Most people will fly into Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, or Minneapolis and then connect to John G. Diefenbaker International Airport.

If you are flying from Asia it is recommended that you arrange to fly to Vancouver International Airport (airport code: YVR) and then arrange a connecting flight to Saskatoon International Airport (airport code: YXE). Air Canada and West Jet Airlines both fly direct flights between Vancouver and Saskatoon. Other connections are possible, and your travel agent will have access to the best routing.

If you are flying from Europe, South America, the Middle East, Africa, etc. it is recommended that you arrange to fly to Toronto: Pearson International Airport (airport code: YYZ) and then arrange for a connecting flight to Saskatoon (airport code: YXE).

You will go through Canadian immigration and customs at the first point of entry into Canada. Upon entering the airport, you will proceed to the immigration officers who will want to know why you are entering Canada. *Long term students (longer than 6 months):* Present your passport and your documentation showing permission to enter Canada (your Visa and or Study Permit letters, where required) and your Saskatoon Public Schools International Student Program Letter of Acceptance. It is very important that you do not leave the immigration officer without obtaining your Study Permit.

Short term students (less than six months): You are not required to obtain a Study Permit as you may study in Canada for up to 180 days without this document. The immigration officer will stamp your passport, indicating you are permitted to enter the country.

Once you have left immigration, you will proceed to Customs. The Customs Officer will ask you questions about the items you are importing. For more information regarding what you are allowed to bring into Canada, please consult the Canadian government website: <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/>. The Customs Officer will return your customs declaration card (if required) to you. (Hold onto this card, you will need to present this card to the Canada Border Services Officer before you exit the luggage area.)

After customs, you will pick up your luggage and look for a sign that says “DOMESTIC CONNECTIONS”. At this point, you will give the Canada Border Services Officer your Customs declaration card and proceed to drop off your luggage and obtain a boarding pass for your next flight (if necessary).

The signage in all airports is very good and if you are not sure, there are many employees available to provide direction. Just ask!

Saskatchewan Health Card

International students with a study permit may apply for free Saskatchewan Health coverage as soon as they arrive in Saskatoon and be covered from the time that they apply. We will be taking time during the orientation meeting in August to apply for a Saskatchewan Health Card but if you wish to apply earlier you can apply online: [Apply for a Health Card \(ehealthsask.ca\)](https://ehealthsask.ca). It may take 4-6 weeks for your application to be processed. If medical services are needed during that time, you may bring your passport to request medical service, pay for the service, and then be reimbursed once the Saskatchewan Health Card arrives.

Services not covered by Saskatchewan Health include dental, prescription drugs, optometric services, and ambulance expenses. For additional coverage, you may wish to purchase top-up insurance.

Fees 2022/2023

Application	\$250
Tuition (10 months)	\$12,900
Tuition (5 months)	\$6,600

Possible Additional Fees

International Baccalaureate Program	\$1,000/year
Late Arrival Fee	\$500
Late Tuition Payment	\$200/month
Course Fees for specialty classes	varies

All Students Must Bring

- Original School Transcript (translated)
- Study Permit (long term students)
- Passport

International Student Program Contact Information

Program contact: Lana Elias, Manager
Phone: 306 683-8425
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