

LAURIER

WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY



ASPIRE

Your questions answered!

The Q&As are in! Click below or scroll through the questions to find your answers.

Remember, when in doubt, connect with us at aspire@wlu.ca!

We hope to see you at the next [Laurier Crash Course](#).

Question topics:

[Housing and Accommodation](#)

[Work and Finances](#)

[Study Permits, UHIP, and Child Care](#)

[Academics](#)

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Please note that these responses are true as of June 26, 2024. For the most current information and details, it is best to reach out to the departments directly for confirmation.

Housing and Accommodation:

When do you find out your residence room assignments?

Please direct this question to housing@wlu.ca for Waterloo or brantfordresidence@wlu.ca for Brantford as they would be able to answer it the best.

Do you offer on-campus housing for graduate students?

Applications for On-Campus Residence is open to Graduate students only on the Brantford campus at this time.

Where can I go for residence application support?

Questions regarding residence applications should be directed to housing@wlu.ca for Waterloo or brantfordresidence@wlu.ca for Brantford.

Where can I get information and off-campus housing support?

Check out [our website](#) or email offcampushousing@wlu.ca with any questions or concerns.

Do I need a reference or credit check to sign a lease and how would I get that as an international student?

The header features a purple background with a repeating pattern of stylized white and yellow shapes. On the left, the Laurier logo includes a yellow maple leaf. On the right, the Aspire logo has a yellow dot above the letter 'I'.

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Some landlords may ask for one or both. In terms of references, you may have to contact people or organizations in your home country to provide these if needed.

A credit check may mean that you may have to open a Canadian bank account to prove that you have good standing credit / banking history in Canada, or some landlords will accept proof from international banks.

This all comes down to a per landlord basis and we highly recommend you explain your situation far in advance to landlord to make the process as smooth as possible.

Is it too late to secure housing in early August?

It is not too late, but we strongly recommend and encourage students to begin the housing process before then. Check out our website or email offcampushousing@wlu.ca with any questions or concerns.

Do I need a guarantor to sign a lease and how would I get one as an international student?

You only need a guarantor if the landlord asks you for one.

If you are asked for one you will need to provide the information of someone who can pay your rent for you if you are unable. That person must be someone who has a Canadian bank account or credit history in Canada.

Alternatively, you may need to open a Canadian bank account to prove to a landlord that you can pay rent.

When is the earliest I can move into my on-campus accommodation?

Move-In Day is typically the weekend before the first day of classes. Email Housing@wlu.ca for Waterloo and brantfordresidence@wlu.ca for Brantford for more info.

Does on-campus housing allow pets? Partners? Children?

As a rule, on-campus housing does not allow for any of the above. Email Housing@wlu.ca for Waterloo and brantfordresidence@wlu.ca for Brantford for more info.

Work and Finances:

Is remote work considered on-campus work?

No.

How many hours can I work off-campus?



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As of September 2024, you can work 24 hours off-campus during your regularly scheduled academic semesters for your program. You are permitted to work full-time off-campus during any regularly scheduled breaks (i.e. reading week) for your program (<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/work/work-off-campus.html>)

How many hours can I work on-campus?

There is no limit to the number of “on-campus” hours that you’re able to work.

How can international students open a Canadian bank account?

You can open a Canadian bank account right away. Just show up at a branch and they’ll explain how.

Can I get my Social Insurance Number (SIN) at the port of entry (POE) when I get my study permit?

You can get your SIN at the airport if you arrive during the hours the Service Canada booth is open. Otherwise, you can get one on campus at a SIN Clinic. You can check out the [International Student Support events page](#) for updates.

Do I need SIN to open a bank account after arriving in Canada?

No, you don’t need a SIN to open a bank account in Canada.

How do I show proof of tuition payment for my study permit and visa application when invoices are not available until August?

You can pay your tuition now using the CIBC student pay portal: <https://pay.cibc.com/payment/#/StudentPay>.

A few business days after your payment has been processed, you will receive a receipt via email from CIBC. You can use this receipt as proof of payment for the Study Direct Stream (SDS) Study Permit application if you are from a qualifying country.

Laurier will also issue a proof of payment document in your mylaurier.ca email a few days after payment is made. This document also satisfies the proof of payment requirement for SDS applications.

Will I need a SIN if I have a research/teaching assistantship offer?

Yes, if you want to get paid for any job, you’ll need a SIN to report your and claim your revenue.

When do we get our tuition invoices and when can I pay it?

Tuition invoices will be available in August and are due the first day of class. You can find details on your tuition fees, due dates, and payment options [here](#). Graduate students also have a Payment Plan option. You can find the details on the plan and how to apply [here](#).



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When do I need a co-op work permit and when should I apply?

As soon as you're admitted into the co-op program, you should apply for the co-op work permit. If you're admitted into the co-op stream of your program, you should apply for your co-op work permit when you apply for your study permit and visa.

Study permits, UHIP, and Child Care:

If my study permit approval is delayed, what is the last day I can wait for approval before I must defer my program start date?

You can't start in-person classes after the last day to add/drop, September 18 (ref. [Graduate Academic Calendar](#)). You can reach out to your program coordinators as some programs will offer a winter intake or remote start in the fall.

Does the university have daycare/childcare availability or supports?

The university itself does not provide childcare, however the university does have agreement with reputable centres in Waterloo and Brantford. You can find the information and registration details on the website [here](#). Alternatively, if you are in Waterloo, you can find licensed child care providers on the Waterloo Region's OneList [here](#).

When do I have access to my health insurance (UHIP) and how can I access it?

UHIP access and coverage begins August 10, it is not advised to arrive early unless you have alternative insurance coverage. Your UHIP number and card will be emailed to your student email account the first week of September. If you need the information sooner, please connect with International Student Support at laurierinternational@wlu.ca.

What is covered by health insurance?

You can find the coverage details of your GSA Health and Dental Plan as well as UHIP on the [website](#).

Academics:

For questions specific to your program, courses, course requirements, or course approvals, please connect directly with your program coordinators or program assistants for clarification and supports.

How can you get a Verification of Enrolment?

You can find your VOE on your LORIS account under the "Student" tab.

How and when will I know whether my transcripts and documents have been received by the university?

A confirmation email, indicating that your conditions have been cleared, will be sent after all documents have been received.

Can I email my transcripts to the university instead of mailing a hardcopy?

Yes, we accept transcripts electronically. In most cases the issuing institution will have Wilfrid Laurier's secure upload email address. In instances where that is not available, we will accept transcripts sent directly from the Registrar's Office to gradadmissions@wlu.ca.

How do we know if we are eligible for or received an entrance scholarship?

Entrance scholarships are included in your offer of admission.

When do I get my TA assignments?

As per the PSAC Collective Agreement for Fall 2024 Graduate Teaching Assistants, August 25th is the final deadline for departments to give notice of assignments to GTAs.

Can I still get a TA position if it wasn't in my offer letter?

The department chairs will provide students in their program with a list of the GTA positions that are available for the coming term.

Can I change from one stream (course work, co-op, thesis/MRP) of a program to another?

No, if you want to change streams you have to re-apply for that stream and wait for an offer to start at another time.

When is the last date to register for courses?

The last day to add courses for the Fall 2024 and Fall/Winter 2024-25 courses is September 18. You may need special request and approvals if you add courses after the first day of class. Please refer to the [Graduate Academic Calendar](#) for details and important dates.

When will we find out what our textbooks and readings are for our courses?

Usually, the course syllabus and textbook information is released on MyLearningSpace the first day of class. You can check the [Hawk Shop](#) as well to see if your course texts are available.

What does it mean if I am waitlists for a course?

If a course's registration is full, students may be added to a waitlist. Sometimes, programs will be able to find a classroom with larger capacity that's available to open more space. Most of the time, being on the waitlist means, that you're waiting for others to drop the course, to free up space for you to register.

Where can I find a tuition and living expense breakdown to accurately plan and apply for external funding?

You can see an estimate of tuition and living expenses break down on the [Tuition Breakdown](#) and searching the city you'll be in on [Numbeo](#).

Parking, OneCard, Accessibility Supports:

How can I get a parking pass?

Please visit the [Student Parking Permit](#) site for details on the types of parking passes, applications and parking maps for Waterloo, Kitchener, and Brantford.

Is there accessibility or disability support at the university?

Yes! Please visit the [Accessible Learning Centre](#) for information and details on registration, supports, and accommodations.

What is the OneCard for?

Your OneCard will give you access to the gym and bus/transit system as part of your student fees.

	Kitchener-Waterloo	Brantford
Gyms/Athletics	Athletic Complex	LB YMCA
Transit	Grand River Transit (GRT)	Brantford Transit
Campus Access	Buildings and rooms specific to your program and student status.	Buildings and rooms specific to your program and student status.
Student ID	Variety of student discounts on and off campus!	Variety of student discounts on and off campus!

For further questions or details, please connect with the [OneCard Office](#).

When and how can I get my OneCard?

You can find information on how to upload your photo and get your OneCard [here](#). You'll be able to pick up your OneCard when you arrive on campus in September. If you're an online student, you get a digital OneCard emailed to you.

Graduate Student Orientation and Other Supports:

Will there be any "in person" sessions or orientation?

Yes! We are holding three Graduate Student Orientations (GSO), two of which are in-person.

Kitchener and Waterloo students' GSO Tuesday, September 3

Brantford students' GSO Wednesday, September 4.

More details will be posted on the [Incoming Student Website](#) at the end of July.

Who can I contact if I have any other questions?

Please email aspire@wlu.ca with any further questions. If we can't answer your question, we'll refer you to the appropriate department or people who can.