Seneca POLYTECHNIC

This way to Seneca

This checklist is for applicants who have received their Letter of Acceptance (LOA) for the Summer (May) 2025 term.

Section 1 of 2: Pre-Departure

If you need help with any of the steps outlined here, contact us at **theservicehub@senecapolytechnic.ca**.

Travelling to Canada to Study

This document details what you need to know before you travel. Please also visit our **THIS WAY TO SENECA: ARRIVAL** resource to help you prepare for your arrival in Canada.

For the latest updates about travel to Canada please visit the Government of Canada website.

International Students Enrolling in the May 2025 Term

To be eligible for a post-graduation work permit (PGWP), you must:

- Complete the duration of your program inside Canada.
- Complete at least 50% of your program in class.
- "In class" includes: in-person, hybrid, and flexible delivery format.
- For flexible delivery you must plan to attend on campus.
- Time spent studying outside Canada after September 1, 2024 will be deducted from the length of your PGWP.

In addition, on Sept. 18, 2024, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) announced a policy change regarding PGWP eligibility for international students.
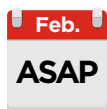
- If you applied for a study permit before Friday, Nov. 1, 2024, you will be eligible for a PGWP if you meet the minimum language proficiency for college graduates, which is Canadian Language Benchmark 5 (CLB5)

- If you apply for a study permit on or after Friday, Nov. 1, 2024, your eligibility for a PGWP will depend on your program of study, along with meeting the minimum CLB5 language proficiency.

To ensure you are eligible to apply for a Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) upon graduation, please refer to this list of Seneca programs that aligns with IRCC's new requirements. This list may be updated with additional programs, so please check back often.

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01 Preparing for Class
IMPORTANT TO-DO'S

Feb. ASAP

To complete as soon as possible before your first day of class on May 5, 2025:

- ☐ Login to Student Home to confirm your program choice and update us about your study permit and PAL requirements by following the Tip Sheet.
- ☐ To reserve a seat in your program and be eligible for a Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL), you must pay a minimum $2,000 deposit by the due date in your fee notice.
- ☐ Once we receive your PAL from the Ontario government, we will email it to you along with your Letter of Acceptance (LOA).
- ☐ Apply to IRCC for a study permit.

REMEMBER: Keep Seneca updated about your study permit processing by following the Tip Sheet.

NOTE: Some programs require you to complete a **Skills Assessment Test**. The test must be completed before you can proceed with building your timetable.

01

Preparing for Class
CONTINUED

Mar.
ASAP

Connect to a Peer for Pre-Arrival Support

☐ At Seneca we want you to have the best start possible. By joining the Peer Mentoring Program, you will be connected with an upper year student who will share tips that helped them when arriving to Canada, introduce you to important resources and answer your questions. Join pre-arrival mentoring before March 14. After March 14, you can register here to connect to a peer mentor.

Apr.
9

Enrolment opens

☐ If you have paid your tuition fees and your account is in good standing, you can select your class schedule starting on April 9, 2025. Instructions can be found online. When possible, select courses that have an in-class component (e.g. in-person, hybrid or flexible). If your courses are only available online, the time you spend studying in Canada will still count towards the length of your Post-Graduate Work Permit (PGWP) provided it accounts for no more than 50 per cent of your studies.

Apr.
14

International Virtual Orientation

☐ **Attend INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL ORIENTATION**
Don't miss this important introduction for international students from 8:00am to 12:00pm EST. If you cannot attend, watch the recorded version online. You can also join us for Campus Welcome Day on May 1, 2025.

May
1

Campus Welcome Day

☐ Join us on campus on May 1, 2025 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm connect with peer leaders, fellow students, Athletics & Recreation and the Seneca Student Federation (SSF) on campus. Enjoy enrolment support, a campus tour and much more to help welcome you to Seneca.

May
2

All Student Virtual Orientation

☐ Join all new students at Seneca on May 2 for a virtual orientation from 8:00am to 12:00pm EST. Your program may also host a Program Orientation session. Visit this website to find your program session.

May
5

CLASSES BEGIN

02

Before You Travel

Before you travel to Canada as an international student, you must have:

- Study Permit, or valid Letter of Introduction
- Passport with a valid VISA or eTA (electronic Travel Authorization)
- Seneca LOA, and PAL
- Proof that you have enough money to support yourself and any family members who come with you to Canada

NOTE: You will not be allowed to enter or begin your studies in Canada without the necessary authorized documentation.

NOTE: Keep Seneca informed: upload a copy of your Letter of Introduction in Student Home.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ❯

Important Details on Travel

To help us best support you, please make Toronto, Ontario your first port of entry in Canada.

Travel rules and arrival procedures can be found in our Arrival document.

Pre-departure checklist:

- You must provide your travel plan through the **Seneca MOBILE App** available for Apple and Android.
- Seneca provides transportation from the airport to your place of residence or accommodations by private taxi, at no cost, based on the travel plan you submitted through the **Seneca MOBILE App** available for Apple and Android.

03 Technology

☐ All students who are attending Seneca need to ensure that their technology (hardware, software and network access) meet all requirements for accessing Seneca online. These requirements can be found online. Visit the ITS website for resources on getting access to technology at Seneca.

04 Downloads

Please add these downloads to the mobile phone or tablet you will be using in Canada. You will need access to these apps prior to travelling to Canada and when you arrive in Canada.

☐ **Seneca's App Suite**

☐ Seneca has an app suite to help you stay up to date on the latest Seneca news and access resources including your class schedule, grades, fees and more through **SENECA MOBILE**. You can also submit your travel plan and schedule airport pickup.

☐ For students with in-person learning activities on campus, **SENECA NAVIGATE** will help you find classrooms and washrooms easily thanks to detailed maps of Newnham and Seneca@York campuses.

☐ **SENECA SAFE** enables you to receive important safety alerts directly to your smartphone if an on-campus emergency occurs.

☐ **ArriveCAN App**

The ArriveCAN App was created by the Canadian government to help you minimize wait times and delays upon arrival and to help you share your travel plan with customs and immigration.

☐ **Seneca Virtual OneCard**

The Virtual Seneca OneCard is your student I.D. You will present it to access various campus facilities such as library resources or the inter campus shuttle. You can also use it to make purchases on-campus, manage your student account and more.

☐ **The MORCARE Medical App**

Access to health care and dental services in Canada may be quite different from what you are used to at home. A summary of services can be found online and you can download/print your MORCARE Medical Card at the Seneca International website.

NOTE: New students will not be able to access your medical card until after Day 10 of classes.

NOTE: Wi-Fi is available at the airport. If you do not have a Canadian SIM, you will still have access to online services.

05 Plan and Arrange for Accommodations

- ☐ For housing options and resources, visit Seneca's Housing Hub.
- ☐ Our Housing team is here to share valuable insights and resources to help you navigate the process of finding accommodation that fits your needs and budget. You can also book a one-on-one housing advisement appointment with our housing team.
- ☐ If you require short-term accommodation while searching for long-term housing, view options on 4Stay.
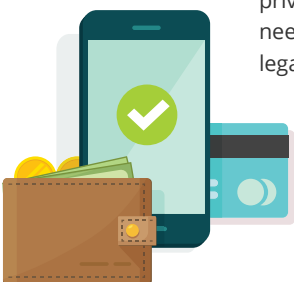
06 Book Your Seneca Transportation from the Airport

- ☐ Seneca provides complimentary transportation from the airport to your place of residence or accommodations by private taxi at no cost based on your travel plan submitted through the **Seneca MOBILE App** available for Apple and Android. To confirm your pick up, your travel plan must be submitted at least 72 hours prior to arrival.

07 Plan Your Finances

- ☐ Have a plan for how you will manage your finances, pay for groceries, rent, etc.
- ☐ Visit our Finances in Canada website for helpful information on banking, working in Canada, fraud awareness, and personal tax filings.
- ☐ Seneca campuses are cashless. For students coming on campus, you will be able to use your debit, credit or the Seneca OneCard for purchases and payments.
- ☐ You may be eligible to work on or off-campus if your study permit includes this privilege. Before starting work, you will need a Social Insurance Number (SIN) to legally work in Canada. Apply online.

08 Plan for Groceries, etc.

- ☐ Upon arrival, it is important to plan on how you will obtain groceries and essentials. Most grocery stores and pharmacies will deliver to your front door. Check online to find an option in your neighbourhood.

09 Plan Your Travel

- ☐ Remember, if you are travelling to Canada, you will not be home for months — plan and pack carefully. View the Life in Canada video for an introduction to living in Canada and helpful tips on what you can expect when you arrive.
- ☐ Plan and arrange for accommodations.
- ☐ Review important things to bring in your carry-on luggage:
  - Study Permit, or Letter of Introduction
  - Passport with a valid VISA or eTA (electronic Travel Authorization)
  - Seneca LOA, and PAL
  - Proof that you have enough money to support yourself and any family members who come with you to Canada
  - Remember to submit your travel information through the **Seneca MOBILE App** available for Apple and Android.

> **NOTE: Be sure you have in your carry-on any snacks, medication, toiletries and any other items you may need.**

10 Keeping Seneca Informed of Your Travel Plans

- ☐ Seneca requires all travelling students to download and submit your travel information through the **Seneca MOBILE App** available for Apple and Android.

  FROM THE AIRPORT - OR SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER ARRIVAL
  Please confirm your arrival through the **Seneca MOBILE App** available for Apple and Android.