International Student Orientation Guide

Welcome Message

Welcome to Coastal Pacific Aviation! We are thrilled to have you join our diverse and vibrant community. Embarking on an educational journey in a new country is both exciting and challenging, and we want you to feel supported and prepared for this new chapter. Our institution is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment where you can grow academically, professionally, and personally.

At Coastal Pacific, you will find a wealth of resources, friendly faculty and staff, and a vibrant student body eager to connect and collaborate. This guide has been thoughtfully created to provide you with essential information that will help you navigate your transition to life in British Columbia, Canada. Whether you need guidance on academics, housing, cultural adjustment, or social activities, we are here to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you thrive and making the most of your experience here. Welcome to your new home, where learning extends beyond the classroom, and opportunities for personal growth are endless!

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1. Pre-Arrival Information

Before you arrive in Canada, ensure you are fully prepared by completing the following steps:

Study Permit & Visa

- Ensure your study permit and visa are valid for the duration of your program.
- Keep copies of your passport, study permit, and visa in both digital and physical formats.
- Visit the IRCC website to check for any updates regarding visa and permit regulations.

Accommodation

- Research and secure your accommodation before arrival. Options include:
  - **On-campus housing:** Currently not available.
  - **Off-campus rentals:** Websites like Facebook, Craigslist, Kijiji, and Rentals.ca can help.
- Be aware of rental scams; verify listings before making payments.

Health Insurance

- If staying in BC for six months or more, register for the **BC Medical Services Plan (MSP)** immediately upon arrival.
- Private insurance may be required for the initial waiting period before MSP coverage begins.
- Ensure you understand what is covered under MSP and private insurance plans.

Finances

- Open a Canadian bank account to facilitate transactions.
- Be familiar with international wire transfers and banking fees.
- Ensure you have sufficient funds to cover tuition, rent, food, and personal expenses.
- Consider setting up a budget to manage living costs effectively.

Packing Essentials

- Important documents: Passport, visa, study permit, health insurance details.
- Clothing: Prepare for BC's variable climate, including winter wear.
- Electronics: Bring a laptop, phone, and universal adapters.
- Medications: Carry prescriptions with proper documentation.

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2. Arrival in Canada

Navigating the Airport

- Follow signs for Immigration & Customs and declare necessary items.
- Have all required documents ready for inspection.
- Arrange transportation to your accommodation in advance (e.g., airport taxis, ride-sharing services like Uber/Lyft, public transit).

First Week Checklist

- Attend orientation sessions to familiarize yourself with academic expectations and student resources.
- Get your pilot essentials ready for training.
- Register for health insurance (MSP) if applicable.
- Locate grocery stores, public transit routes, and essential services near your residence.

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3. Academic Information

Program Requirements

- Review your program structure, credit requirements, and course schedule.
- Attend all classes and maintain academic integrity.
- Utilize online platforms like Skymaster, Talon for information and track progression.

Learning Supports

- Always talk to your instructor and learn actively.
- Reach out to the Program Administrator for inquiries.
- Seek assistance during office hours.

Attendance & Progress Monitoring

- Ensure compliance with attendance policies to maintain good academic standing.
- Full time students requirement: 4 sessions per week.
- Be aware of your training progress and visa status.
- Warning letters will be issued if long-term absence has been noticed.

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4. Student Life & Support Services

Campus Resources

- **Student Services Office (Admin):** Your go-to for visa concerns, cultural events, pilot supplies purchase and training support.
- **Dispatch:** For all flight training scheduling and learning space provided..

Employment Rights and Work Opportunities

- Understand your eligibility to work on or off-campus under your study permit.
- Familiarize yourself with Canadian workplace rights and taxation.
- Don’t let your work delay your training.

Health and Well-being

- Reach out to safety officer and program administrator for immediate help.
- Use mental health resources such as **Here2Talk** for 24/7 support.
- Know emergency contacts and healthcare options available in your area.

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5. Housing & Living in BC

Accommodation Options

- **On-campus housing:** Currently unavailable.
- **Off-campus housing:** Research rental costs and lease agreements carefully.

Cost of Living

- Estimated monthly expenses:
    - Rent: $800 - $2,000
    - Groceries: $250 - $500
    - Miscellaneous: $200 - $400
- Use budgeting apps to manage expenses.
- Figure out your transportation method ahead as school is located inside the air control zone, uber is not as convenient as other areas.

Tenant Rights

- Understand rental agreements and tenant rights in BC.
- Contact the **Residential Tenancy Branch** for dispute resolution.

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6. Safety and Crisis Management

Emergency Contacts

- **911** for police, fire, and medical emergencies.
- **Safety Officer:** Chris Brewer.
- **Admin**: 604-855-1112
- **Dispatch**: 604-855-1176

Discrimination and Harassment Policies

- Review institutional policies on harassment and discrimination on your contract.
- Know the process for reporting and seeking assistance.

Critical Incident Response

- Steps to take in emergencies (fire, accidents, natural disasters).
- Support services for crisis intervention and trauma counseling.

7. Complaints & Dispute Resolution

- Clear procedures for academic and administrative complaints.
- Contact information for the **BC Ombudsperson** for external resolution.
- Support services for mediation and conflict resolution.

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8. Post-Graduation Pathways

Employment & Work Permits

- Eligibility criteria for the **Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP)**.
- Job search strategies and career planning resources.
- Immigration pathways for permanent residency.

Further Education

- Pathways for master's and professional certifications.
- Scholarships and funding resources for graduate studies.

Final Notes

Your journey as an international student is about more than just training—it's about discovering new cultures, making lifelong connections, and stepping into a world of opportunities. We encourage you to take full advantage of all the resources available to you at Coastal Pacific. Our dedicated staff and faculty are here to support you in achieving your academic goals and making your time in Canada both fulfilling and memorable.

If you ever need assistance, have questions, or just want to connect with fellow students, visit the Admin Office during working hours. We are always happy to help!

On behalf of everyone at Coastal Pacific Aviation, welcome once again! We look forward to being part of your incredible journey.