



**SASKATOON
INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION** 🍏

STUDENT HANDBOOK



306-683-8425



sie@spsd.sk.ca

Table of Contents

Welcome	3
Important Contact Information	4
SIE Contact Information	4
Things to Do Before Arrival	5
#1 Getting Your Study Permit and/or Visa, Passport	5
#2 Choosing a School & Courses	6
#3 English Language Assessment	8
#4 Booking Your Flight/Sending Arrival Information	8
Health Insurance	9
Ingle Lower Health Insurance	9
Provincial Health Card	9
What to Do if You Get Sick	9-10
Student Wellbeing	11
Physical Health	11
Mental & Emotional Health	11
Dealing with Culture Shock	12
Personal Safety	14
Bullying, Harassment & Violence	15
Anti-Racism & Response to Racism	16
Sexual Harassment	17
Abuse & Reporting Uncomfortable Situations	17
Living in Homestay (for homestay students only)	18
Canada Homestay Network & SIE	18
Being Successful in a Host Family	18
Host Family Expectations	19

About Saskatoon	20
City & Province Information	20
Weather	22
Transportation	22
Money/Banking	23
Postal Services	23
Culture, Customs & Etiquette	24
Preparation for Travel	26
Documents	26
What to Pack	26
Arrival to Canada & Saskatoon	28
Navigating Airports	28
Port of Entry & Communication	29
Tips for Studying in Saskatoon	30
Our Top Tips for Success	30
Characteristics of Canadian Education	31
Student Life in Saskatoon	32
Daily Timetable	32
Extracurricular Activities	33
Program Rules & Expectations	
Participation Agreement	35
Student Discipline Policy	36
Program Termination	38
Personal Electronic Device Use	38
Internet Use & Academic Integrity	39
Important Dates	40

Welcome



Saskatoon International Education is so very pleased to welcome you to Saskatoon! Studying abroad is a remarkable and memorable experience. You will get to be immersed in another way of living, a new culture, and even new languages.

This handbook is designed to give you information as you prepare to move to Saskatoon. We hope you will read the information carefully, so you feel as informed and as ready as possible for your new adventure!

Don't hesitate to reach out to our team if you have questions as you are preparing to join us. We are always here to help.

We can't wait to meet you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Renée'.

Renée Clemens, Director, & the SIE Team

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Make sure to add the following contact information into your phone (those that apply):

1. Your new home address with postal code
2. New phone numbers for your family (if you are here with your parents)
3. Your homestay family's phone numbers and e-mail addresses
4. Your custodian's phone number, e-mail address, and home address
5. The Saskatoon International Education office phone number and e-mail address
6. The address and phone number of your new school

*For emergencies (medical, fire, police, poison treatment) in Saskatoon, dial **9-1-1**.

SASKATOON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONTACT INFORMATION

310 21st Street East
Saskatoon, SK
S7K1M7

306-683-8425
sie@spsd.sk.ca

Here is the contact information for our staff:

Director	Renée Clemens	306-683-8425 306-317-0200	clemensr@spsd.sk.ca
Homestay Coordinator		306-667-3825 Ext 2197	help@canadahomestaynetwork.ca
Admissions Officer	Sarah Laverty	306-683-8209	lavertys@spsd.sk.ca
SIE Advisor	Krista Schreiter		schreiterk@spsd.sk.ca
SIE Advisor	Laura Jorgenson		jorgensonl@spsd.sk.ca
SIE Advisor	Adam Gudmundson		gudmundsona@spsd.sk.ca
Admin Assistant	Pedram Kalhor	306-683-8213	kalhorm@spsd.sk.ca
Cultural Liaison	Maria Wang	306-683-8130	wangj@spsd.sk.ca

THINGS TO DO BEFORE ARRIVAL

#1 Getting your Study Permit and/or Visa, Passport



International students who wish to study in Canada for longer than 6 months will require a Study Permit issued by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). The process can take several weeks up to several months, so apply as early as possible.

Students are provided with an official Letter of Acceptance to Saskatoon Public Schools once tuition payment is received. **This letter and the tuition payment receipt are required to apply for a Study Permit.** You will also be asked for proof of financial support for the period of your stay in Canada. In some countries you may be required to complete a medical examination. For more details, please visit the [IRCC website](#).

Applying for a Study Permit

There are several options for applying for a study permit:

1. If you or someone you know has strong English skills, you can apply for a study permit by going [here](#).
2. You can visit your nearest Canadian Embassy, Consulate or High Commission. Make sure to bring [all your documents](#) with you when you go.
3. You may consider hiring a Certified Immigration Consultant to assist you. Please note there is a fee for this service, but it may ensure your application is completed accurately to avoid delays or rejection. You can do an internet search for Certified Immigration Consultants in your area.

According to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), only some people can charge a fee or receive any other type of payment to represent or advise you on a Canadian immigration proceeding or application. These are:

- lawyers and paralegals who are members in good standing of a Canadian provincial or territorial law society;
-immigration consultants who are members in good standing of the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council.

These are “authorized” representatives. IRCC will not deal with representatives who charge for their services and are not members of one of the above groups.

Visas

If you are studying for 6 months or less, you will need to learn about what visa you will need to stay in Canada for the duration of your study abroad experience. Requirements vary depending on your country of origin. For help on learning more about what visa requirements apply to you, please click [here](#).

Passport

You will need a passport to enter Canada, as well as for other services, such as banking or medical care. It is important to make sure your passport is up to date and will not expire while you are studying abroad. If you need to apply for a passport, the processing time can be lengthy, so it is important to apply as early as possible.

We recommend you make several photocopies of your passport and leave one copy at home with your family.

#2 Choosing a School & Courses



School Selection

School selection is determined by a variety of factors. These factors may include:

1. The school closest to your living address in Saskatoon
2. The best homestay fit, which then determines the closest school
3. If you require a special course or program offered in select schools only
4. Your academic and extracurricular interests

You would have provided your top three choices for schools in your application; however, please note that there is no guarantee you will receive your top choice. All schools offer rigorous academic programming, provide interesting elective courses, and have a large array of extracurricular opportunities. You will not be limited by the school choice as there are wonderful options in each of our schools for everyone.

Course Selection (High School)

Important Note: You may not get all your top choices of courses – our schools have large populations, and some courses fill up quickly. It is good to complete the course selection early and to provide several choices of courses so that we have lots of options when we build your course timetable. Approach course selection with an open mind and take some risks in choosing a variety of courses in many areas. We have lots of great academic and elective courses to choose from!

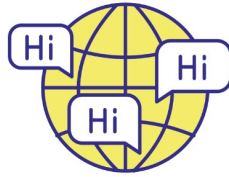
To select your courses, you will need to do the following:

1. Follow this link to the [SIE School & Course Selection Folder](#). You will find helpful resources here to assist you with choosing your courses.
2. Look at the course preference guide of your chosen school(s) found in the folder titled “Collegiate Course Selection Guides.” Take note of the course names and levels you would be interested in taking. (For example, *Creative Writing 20*.)
3. Fill in the SIE Course Preferences Sheet (located in the SIE School & Course Selection Folder) with the courses (course names and levels) you would like to take.
4. Make sure to list any courses you are required to take in your home country. *DO NOT SKIP THIS STEP* – it is up to you to know and communicate these requirements to us so we can ensure your transition back to school in your home country is smooth after your study period in Saskatoon. If there are no requirements for your return, you can write “No requirements in my home country.”
5. E-mail your completed SIE Course Preferences Sheet to sie@spsd.sk.ca . We use this sheet to begin building your course timetable in preparation for your arrival.

You will get these detailed instructions and due dates via e-mail closer to your arrival.

You will also need to send your most up-to-date transcripts once you have reached mid-term of your current home country courses. We request transcripts when we send you the instructions for school and course selection.

#3 English Language Assessment



Before your arrival, you will receive instructions via e-mail for how to complete an online English language assessment. The purpose of this assessment is to determine if you need EAL (English as Additional Language) courses or support at your school. We have students who have beginning, intermediate, and advanced English, and all levels are welcome in our program.

NOTE: Student success is our top priority. English level may influence your course timetable. Course selections are made carefully to ensure students have the necessary pre-requisite skills in content and language to have success. Our collegiate counsellors and SIE advisors are exceptional at determining which courses are best for English language learners.

#4 Booking Your Flight/Sending Arrival Information



Investing time in booking your flights is worthwhile. If you begin your search early, you are more likely to find good prices and better flight times with more ideal layovers.

The airport in Saskatoon is called John G. Diefenbaker International Airport. The code is YXE. You will likely land in Canada in either Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, or Calgary and then take a connecting flight to Saskatoon.

Once you have booked your flights, please send your travel itinerary to sie@spsd.sk.ca. We track this information to know when you will be arriving and help arrange your airport pick up with your homestay family. It is also a good idea to confirm your accommodation details and let SIE know what these are if you haven't already done so.

LONG-TERM STUDENTS: You must collect your study permit at the first port of entry into Canada. The processing wait times can be long, so leave yourself a longer layover between your arrival point in Canada and your final flight to Saskatoon. [Check out this video for more information.](#)

HEALTH INSURANCE

Student safety and wellbeing are very important to us at SIE. We have devoted a lot of time in investigating the best options for student health insurance. This is why all students receive a comprehensive international student health plan for the entire duration of their studies in Saskatoon.



Ingle Lewer Health Insurance

Before students arrive, they will receive all their health coverage information. This includes:

- a virtual card with their policy number and information
- a copy of the benefits summary
- helpful information for logging into the online insurance portal

With private insurance, it is customary for the client to pay for any service received up front and then file a claim for reimbursement. Ingle Lewer has a simple and effective online claims submission process. A student or adult can submit a claim through the online portal. Our team can also assist with this.

We will offer additional information sessions about insurance once students arrive and settle in.

Provincial Health Card

SIE will submit a health card application for long-term students (studying multiple years in Saskatoon). Long-term students may require a Saskatchewan health card for other services such as Drivers Education.

All other students will only receive the Ingle Lewer K-12 Comprehensive Policy. This plan offers full coverage for hospital and physician visits and more, with a total coverage value of \$5,000,000.

What to Do if You Get Sick

1. Tell a parent, your custodian, your homestay host, or other adult that you are not feeling well and may need medical attention. Don't be shy; they will want to help you!
2. Make sure you have your Ingle Lewer virtual card and/or Saskatchewan Health Card. You need to take it with you to the doctor/hospital. If you can't find it, call SIE at 306-683-8425 or 306-317-0200.
3. For illnesses that are not emergent, it is better to go to a walk-in clinic. For illnesses that are emergent or happening in the middle of the night, you will need to go to a hospital.

4. You may have to pay for your medical service, so make sure to take a debit card or credit card with you to the clinic/hospital. (Some clinics will do direct billing to Ingle Lewer. Others will ask for payment and then you will need to get reimbursement). Your parent, your homestay host, or SIE Staff can help you with the reimbursement process.
5. If you are given a prescription for medication, you will need to get it from a pharmacy. Once again, you will likely have to pay for the prescription and then get reimbursement from Ingle Lewer. Alternatively, you can use the online pharmacy service available through Ingle Lewer called Pillway.



To find a walk-in clinic near you, [use this locator](#) or do a Google search.

Hospitals in Saskatoon:

Royal University Hospital (RUH)
103 Hospital Dr
(306) 655-1000
Open 24 hours

St Paul's Hospital
1702 20th St W
(306) 655-5000
Open 24 hours

City Hospital
701 Queen St
(306) 655-8000
Closes 9:00 PM

STUDENT WELLBEING

Physical Health



Here are the best tips for maintaining good physical health in Saskatoon:

1. Eat healthy meals and snacks. Don't be shy to ask the people you are staying with for healthy foods. You can also offer to cook to share some of your own cuisine.
2. Stay active by taking a Physical Education class in school and/or doing daily physical activities.
3. Maintain good personal hygiene. Canadians usually shower or bath every one or two days. *Regular handwashing is really important all year round* to prevent illnesses such as colds, flus, infections, and viruses. Brush your teeth at least twice per day.
4. Do laundry regularly so you always have clean clothes to wear.



Mental & Emotional Health

Experiencing the new culture in Saskatoon can be overwhelming, and you may go through stages of culture shock. You may also have other challenges and struggles from time to time. When this happens, make sure to take care of your mental and emotional health. Keeping a journal may help you to express your thoughts and feelings through writing. It is also a good way to record your study-abroad experiences. Talking to friends, calling home, or reaching out to supportive people in Saskatoon can help you feel supported, too. You are not alone: many people want to hear you, spend time with you, and support you during your study-abroad experience.



Dealing with Culture Shock

Culture shock is a very real psychological process everyone experiences upon arrival in a new country. There are four stages of culture shock, and they affect everyone differently. The key to coping with culture shock is to understand the stages and that the feelings associated with each one are *normal*. Some become frustrated with how different things are in Canada and how tired they become having to use English all day, every day. The good news is that almost all students get past these feelings and end up having a wonderful experience in Saskatoon.



THE HONEYMOON STAGE: When you first arrive in Canada, everything is new and different, and it is wonderful and interesting. This is the only stage most tourists experience because they never have to settle into a new culture long term. This stage can last a week to a month or more.

THE DISTRESS STAGE: The reality of being abroad for a longer period sinks in. Cultural differences that you found interesting earlier in your stay now become taxing. You may feel confused, isolated and/or overwhelmed during this stage. It can be exhausting, particularly if learning English is proving to be challenging.

THE TRANSITION STAGE: This is the most important stage to understand. During this stage, you may become angry or frustrated with Canadian life. You may find yourself constantly comparing it to your home culture and lament the differences. You could be feeling really homesick and find yourself thinking about returning home. Don't worry, this is *normal*. The key is to recognize the symptoms of this stage and not give in to them.

THE INTEGRATION STAGE: Cultural challenges and language issues begin to subside as you accept and embrace the differences that previously frustrated you. This is the stage when your study-abroad experience becomes everything you hoped it would be: you feel confident and relaxed in your community and your school (and your homestay).

While it is important to be aware of the stages listed above, it is equally important to point out that not everyone goes through every stage. Some students arrive and are immediately homesick. Others never experience the frustration of the transition stage and skip quickly to the integration stage. The key is to be aware of what is happening and to remember that people are available to help you: your SIE advisor, your teacher(s), your homestay host, the school counsellor...there are many people available to support you - and they *want to*, so don't be afraid to reach out.

Tips & Tricks to Minimize the Effects of Culture Shock

- **Do your research.** Know as much as possible before you leave so that there are fewer surprises once you arrive. Use the internet and don't hesitate to e-mail the SIE team with as many questions as you like.
- **Be open-minded.** Try not to judge and compare. Canada is different from your home country - that's one of the reasons you chose it for your study abroad experience! Challenge yourself to learn about different ways of doing things rather than dismissing them as wrong or inferior.
- **Get involved.** Participate in school clubs and/or sports teams and become active in the community.
- **Be patient.** Give yourself time to adapt to your new surroundings and to make new friends. Don't put pressure on yourself; it takes time to acclimate.
- **Keep active!** Feeling good physically will help you to feel good mentally. Make physical activity part of your daily routine and/or your school timetable.
- **Relax.** Make sure your day includes time set aside for mental rest. Studying, speaking English, and navigating the day-to-day realities of a new country and culture require a lot of energy. Spend some "down time" each day listening to music, surfing the internet, or reading a book in your first language.
- **Maintain your connections to home.** Keeping in touch with family and friends is vital and supports you during your stay in Saskatoon. Too much contact, however, can be counterproductive. Keep in touch, but not at the expense of making new friends, participating in activities, and/or keeping up with your studies.
- **Stay healthy.** Eat foods that are good for you and make you feel good. Get enough sleep at night. Consider taking a vitamin supplement. Don't wait too long to visit a clinic if you are feeling ill.
- **Ask for help.** You are not alone in Saskatoon! If you are feeling sad, lonely, or frustrated, talk to someone.

Most important of all: remember why you came to Canada! It is supposed to be different and challenging. If Canada was the same as your home country, there would be no reason to come.

STUDENT SAFETY

Personal Safety

Saskatoon is a very safe place to live with very rare instances of violent crime. That said, it is still important to be mindful of your surroundings, know where you are going, track your belongings, and make safe decisions. Below are some tips for staying safe.

***If you find yourself in an emergency, dial 9-1-1 immediately. 9-1-1 calls are free on any phone (pay phone, cell phone, etc.)**



On the Street/Traveling in the City:

- **Always tell someone where you are at all times.**
- Plan your route – know exactly where you are going. Avoid shortcuts and dark or isolated places.
- Carry ID and limited money.
- If someone, male or female, approaches you in public and you feel uneasy, don't be afraid to be loud, make a scene, call for help, or duck into a public edifice for safety.
- Never accept rides from strangers or from someone who has been consuming alcohol or drugs.
- Be mindful of accepting rides from inexperienced drivers, even if they are your friend.
- When crossing the street, wait for traffic lights and for vehicles to stop; walk quickly – do not walk out into the road and expect traffic to stop for you.

Cycling:

- A safety helmet should be worn when cycling.
- Traffic rules for bicycles are the same as for vehicles. Observe signs and traffic signals.
- Don't ride on the sidewalk or on crosswalks.
- Always wear brightly colored, reflective clothing and a helmet.
- Front and rear lights are required for cycling at night.
- Always lock your bike – bicycle theft is somewhat common. Lock the frame and wheel onto the bike rack. A U-Lock is recommended.

Online Safety:

- Do not share your location with unknown online users. Do not allow social networks and apps to track you or your activity.
- Do not allow unknown online users into chat groups, group text messages, etc.
- Do not accept followers or friends online whom you do not know (even if it looks like they attend your school and/or you have mutual friends, etc.)
- Keep your passwords protected and be careful of sending personal information or credit card information to others.
- Keep your profile on social networks private and be mindful that your pictures, videos, and posts do not contain information about your location or your private information. Use your best critical judgment to assess what you post *before* you post it. For example, does the background of the photo give hints on exact address? Does your post have someone's license plate number in it?
- When posting something on social media or writing messages to others, ask yourself: "If my parents/a teacher/my future employer/my future university admissions officer saw this, would they think negatively about me?" Remember that all posts and written messages are permanent and can be shared widely without your knowledge or permission.

Scams / Fraud:

- Never give or loan money to a person who approaches you on the street. People will take advantage of your trust.
- When you buy something, make sure that you get a receipt and are charged the right amount.
- Make sure that your card is returned promptly.
- Never give your credit card information or copies of your card unless you are ready to buy something.

Bullying, Harassment & Violence

Any form of bullying, harassment, or violence towards others will not be tolerated by SIE or by any school in Saskatoon Public Schools. Staff, administration, and students recognize and value the importance of a safe learning environment. Our expectation for students is that every individual treats every other individual with respect, tolerance, and a sense of caring. Any instance of bullying, harassment, or violence should be reported to a staff member or administration immediately.

Students involved in these kinds of activities, either as a participant or a spectator, can expect consequences. These may include reprimand, suspension, or removal from the program involving immediate return home.

We know that conflicts may arise. Students must try to work out their differences in a reasonable, respectful, and peaceful manner. SIE advisors, in-school counsellors, administrators, and staff are

willing to help as mediators. Students are encouraged to seek support from adults to navigate these situations.

Anti-Racism & Response to Racism

Saskatoon International Education and Saskatoon Public Schools recognize the diversity of our school communities, commit to establishing environments open to all, and believe that all members of our community have the right to live and work in an environment that protects fundamental human rights and human dignity. We acknowledge that racism, in all its forms (including individual, institutional, cultural, structural), is embedded in our society and we support the ongoing commitment to the elimination of racism. Individual acts of racism between students will not be tolerated in Saskatoon Public Schools. These incidents will be reported to school administration who will follow up on all allegations of racism.

1. Reporting

All members of the school community - including students, staff, parents/caregivers/guardians – have a duty to report any racist act.

- Students and parents/caregivers/guardians should report to teachers, school counsellors, school administrators, or other school staff.
- Staff should report the racist act to school administration immediately.

2. Responding

Individual acts of racism, stereotyping, and discrimination are not tolerated in Saskatoon Public Schools. Our staff will respond in the following manner:

- All staff involved will support the student who experienced the racist act by centering and prioritizing their feelings, needs, and voice.
- Parents/caregivers/guardians of the students involved will be notified.
- Response by schools should include explicitly naming the act as racist, followed by taking necessary steps in accountability.
- Restorative and collaborative approaches to responding will be emphasized, but only after responsibility has been taken.
- School staff will extend efforts to provide learning for the student who committed the racist act on the impact of their actions, and/or observers to the incident, and support from central office can be provided if requested.
- The school-based administrator and/or SIE director will follow division discipline procedures when implementing any consequences required for racism.

A detailed outline of definitions, responsibilities, reporting and response procedures can be found in [SPS Administrative Procedure 372](#).

Sexual Harassment

Saskatoon Public Schools (SPS) is responsible for establishing policies for the protection of the human rights and dignity of employees and students. Sexual harassment of any employee or student by an employee or student is unacceptable and shall warrant disciplinary action, including the potential for immediate dismissal and return home of SIE students. SPS recognizes its responsibility to educate employees and students about sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Any of these behaviors need not be intentional to be considered sexual harassment. If any of the above are offensive or intimidating or make someone feel uncomfortable, they would be deemed to be sexual harassment and will not be acceptable behavior within our organization.

Students/parents are encouraged to report incidents of sexual harassment to SIE, the school administration, school counsellor, or a teacher as soon as is reasonably possible. Reports of sexual harassment will be dealt with in strict confidence and with respect.

For more information, please see [SPS Administrative Procedure 451](#).

Abuse & Reporting Uncomfortable Situations

Abuse means treating another person with violence, cruelty, hate, harm, or force. Abuse is never acceptable, no matter who is doing it or where it happens. And it is never the fault of the person who is being abused.

Physical abuse is when someone hits, beats, shoves, shakes, or chokes a person. It also includes hitting someone with an object, throwing an object at someone to injure them, or entering a person's space to threaten or make them feel unsafe.

Emotional abuse is when someone uses harsh or cruel words. This can tear people down or make them doubt their worth. Emotional abuse can look like someone acting mean or possessive, using fear or threats, or shaming. A person may be targeted because of their appearance, race, gender expression, or sexual orientation. Emotional abuse can happen in person or online.

Sexual abuse is when an adult (or much older teen) forces, pressures, or tricks a young person into performing sexual acts of any kind. Sexual abuse can also happen in person or online.

(Source: <https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/family-abuse.html>)

In Canada, citizens, residents, and visitors (international students) are all protected from these kinds of behaviours by Canadian law. No one has the right to abuse another person.

The best thing to do if someone makes you feel uncomfortable is to trust your feelings. If someone has said or done something that makes you feel uncomfortable, **tell someone you trust**. People who are ready to support you are your SIE advisor, the SIE director, your homestay coordinator, your school counsellor, your teachers, etc. Our number one priority is to protect our students!

LIVING IN HOMESTAY (For living in SIE Homestay or with a Private Homestay)

Canada Homestay Network & SIE

The Canada Homestay Network is a family-run, non-profit society. Over the years they have served tens of thousands of students from more than seventy countries. CHN manages programs in over forty communities across Canada, from Charlottetown to Victoria.

The Director of Saskatoon International Education, our local CHN Homestay Coordinator and our SIE staff and advisors all work together to support students and host families during the homestay experience. We are a proactive team that communicates regularly to ensure student wellbeing and safety. Our priority is that each student has the best, most memorable study abroad experience; our dynamic homestay team plays a big part in achieving that goal.



Being Successful in a Host Family

You will have an orientation with our homestay coordinator once you arrive, but here are some helpful points to think about in preparation for arrival to your homestay:

- Be polite and courteous with your host family. Talk to them about your day and ask them about theirs. Use “please” and “thank you.”
- Treat the home and its possessions with care and respect. Be careful to close and lock doors and windows as requested by the family.
- Be sure you understand house rules and ask questions if anything is unclear.
- Come home at agreed upon times after school. If you want to miss a meal, ask your host family and give as much notice as possible.
- Follow curfew rules and be sure to communicate immediately if you are delayed or something comes up.
- Make sure to follow CHN and host family rules about visiting friends’ homes, staying overnight, and out-of-city travel.
- Keep your room clean and tidy and share household chores such as cleaning the bathroom and kitchen, vacuuming, etc. It is nice to help with household chores.
- If you are lonely, worried, or sick, be sure to talk to your host parents – they want to help!
- Eat at least one meal per day with your host family. This is a great way to build a bond with your host family. Ask questions about their day and tell them about your day.

- You are an ambassador of your home country: do not use alcohol/drugs, drive motorized vehicles, or participate in activities that could be considered dangerous. If you are unsure about an activity, check with your host family, homestay coordinator, or SIE advisor.

Host Family Expectations

Your homestay is your “home away from home.” We encourage you to participate in all family functions and be part of the daily activities of the home. Eating meals together and asking to be part of activities is really important. Here are some things your host family will probably expect.

Host families expect students

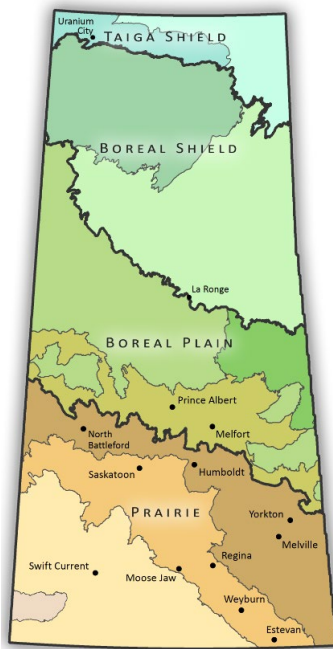
- to become part of the family.
- to talk with them every day. They want everyone in the household to greet each other and interact regularly.
- will want to learn about Canadian/Saskatchewan culture and participate in new experiences.
- will be interested in learning to speak English. They expect students will spend time talking with family members and engage in other language-learning opportunities at school by participating in SIE and homestay events, school clubs, and sports, etc.
- want to be successful at school. They expect students will go to school and work hard on their homework.
- to learn the homestay family rules and guidelines and follow them.
- to tell them if there is a problem in the homestay. Problems cannot be solved if your host family is not aware of them. You can always ask your homestay coordinator or SIE advisor for support in planning how to communicate about a problem.



ABOUT SASKATOON

City & Province Information

Saskatoon is the largest city in Saskatchewan. It is located almost directly in the center of the province. The South Saskatchewan River runs through our city, with our many bridges giving us the nickname of *Bridge City*. There are 320,000 inhabitants spread over 228 square kilometers. The city is vibrant and fun through all four seasons with festivals, activities, and celebrations. You can choose from hundreds of restaurants and activities related to different cultures. Popular attractions for international students include our many performing arts theatres/groups, art galleries, movie theatres, shopping centres, concerts, parks, and sports teams.



- Legend**
- Taiga Shield Ecozone
 - Selwyn Lake Upland
 - Tazin Lake Upland
 - Boreal Shield Ecozone
 - Athabasca Plain
 - Churchill River Upland
 - Boreal Plain Ecozone
 - Mid-Boreal Upland
 - Mid-Boreal Lowland
 - Boreal Transition
 - Prairie Ecozone
 - Aspen Parkland
 - Moist Mixed Grassland
 - Mixed Grassland
 - Cypress Upland

The province of Saskatchewan is an amazing place to explore! Saskatchewan is known as the province of 100,000 lakes and the *Land of Living Skies*. We have breathtaking prairies with mind-blowing sunsets, rolling hills and valleys, lush forests, rushing rivers, and sand dunes. The north of the province is comprised of boreal forest and the Canadian shield where you can experience tall forests and clear lakes with views all the way down to their rocky floors.

There are adventures to behold all over Saskatchewan. The most popular activities are hiking, camping, canoeing/kayaking/rafting, fishing and hunting. Check out [Tourism Saskatchewan](#) to learn about the amazing places you can visit!

(Note: one of Canada's most beautiful national parks, [Prince Albert National Park](#), is only a short two-hour drive from Saskatoon!)





Saskatoon Public Schools is the largest school district in Saskatchewan with 28,000 students in over 58 schools. Several post-secondary institutions exist in our city, including the University of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Polytechnic. There are many post-secondary opportunities across the province as well: University of Regina, Great Plains College, Cumberland College, Parkland College, Northwest College, and Southeast College.

Saskatoon is truly an ideal setting for international students with excellent year-round school activities, community recreation, shopping, and dining.



Links to Services & Spots in Saskatoon:

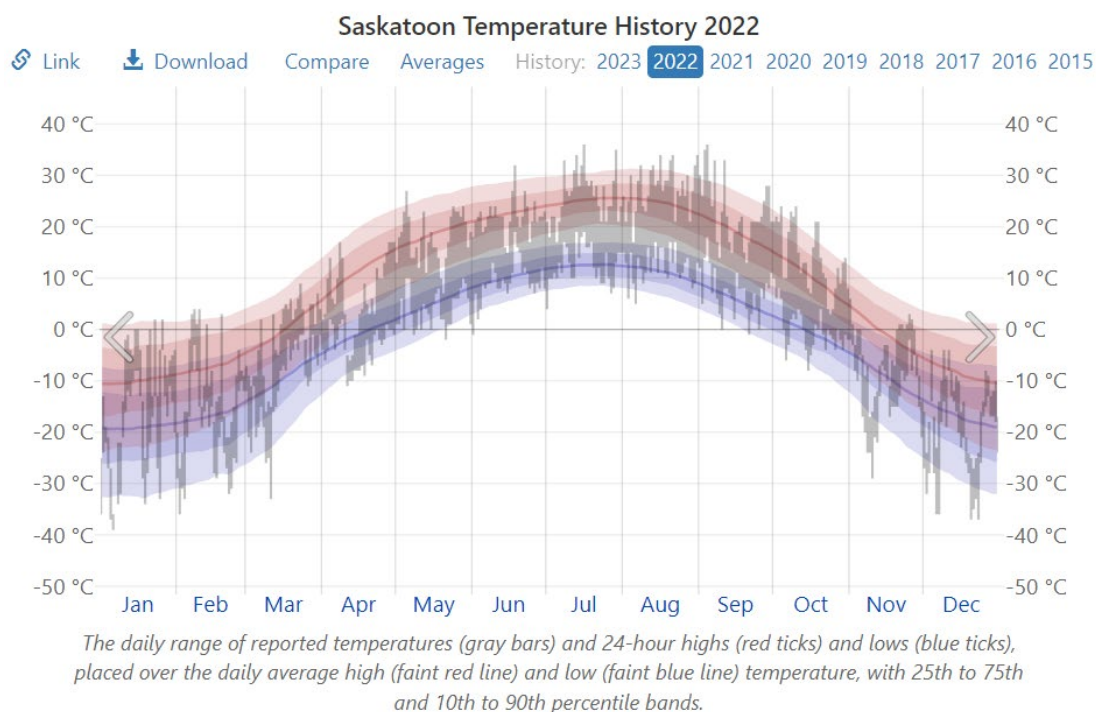
- [Saskatoon International Education](#) • [Saskatoon Public Schools](#)
- [City of Saskatoon](#) • [Discover Saskatoon](#) • [Saskatoon Public Library](#) • [Saskatoon Leisure](#)
- [Saskatoon Transit](#) • [Saskatoon Airport \(YXE\)](#) • [Saskatoon Weather](#)

Weather in Saskatoon

Saskatoon's weather is always changing, and the temperature can change rapidly in just a few hours. It is important to always pack and wear layers, so you can add and remove clothing as necessary.

There is central heating in all Saskatoon homes, schools, and buses to ensure you are always comfortable. Air conditioning is available in most places but not all.

You can check current and forecasted Saskatoon weather anytime on [The Weather Network](#).



[Here is a great video about Winter in Saskatoon!](#)

Communication

It is a program expectation that all students have a data plan for their mobile device. It is essential to always have access to telephone communication and GPS. Students are expected to keep their host family or guardians informed about where they are and with whom they are spending time. Mobile device data is an essential part of this as free public Wi-Fi is not accessible in all locations.

Transportation

Students usually get to school using [Saskatoon Transit](#) (the city bus system) or by cycling, scooting, or walking. Student bus passes are available for purchase in every high school for \$59/month. Families may acquire a bus pass through school or may use the website to obtain a more economical family pass.

Neighbourhoods in Saskatoon are cyclable and walkable. There is also the [Meewasin Trail](#), a system of trails covering more than 105 kilometers that takes you all around our city! This is a great trail system to use for leisure as well since it runs along many of the most scenic areas of the city. The trail connects to many of our conservation areas that are great for hiking, cycling, and exploring. In the winter, some of the trails are groomed for cross-country (nordic) skiing and snowshoeing!

Many families in Saskatchewan have personal vehicles since many people travel the province and country by driving. Your host family may use a car for most of their transport.

Saskatoon also has taxis and Uber if you are ever in a bind and need a ride. Homestay students are not permitted to drive with anyone under the age of 25.

Money/Banking

Saskatoon has the following banking institutions: Bank of Montreal (BMO), TD Canada Trust, Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), Scotiabank, CIBC, HSBC, Canadian Western Bank, National Bank of Canada (NBC), Concentra, ATB Financial, as well as many credit unions.

We recommend opening an account at a bank close to where you are living so that you can conveniently get to your branch if you need face-to-face service. You will need to bring appropriate identification with you to open an account (passport, proof of address of where you are living, etc.). There are many types of accounts, but you will most likely need a personal chequing account, a savings account, or a hybrid. Be sure to ask about charges, rates, and transaction limits so you can make the best choice.



*The penny is now out of circulation, but you still may come across one – and it is a superstition here that if you find one on the ground, you should pick it up for good luck!

Postal Services

If you are expecting a parcel or letter, it will come to your home. If you are not home when a parcel is delivered, you will often find a notification left on the door with pickup details. A parcel or letter can be posted at any postal outlet ([find the one nearest you](#)). Any letter or card can be dropped in a red Canada Post box (so long as you already have the appropriate stamps on it). Canada Post boxes are scattered throughout neighbourhoods in Saskatoon.



CULTURE, CUSTOMS & ETIQUETTE

Canadians are generally easy-going and fun-loving. We don't take ourselves too seriously and we aren't easily offended. There are, however, some cultural expectations and standards to be aware of. Use common sense and keep the following *Dos and Don'ts* in mind:

Dos

- Knock before entering a home, office, or room (and wait to be invited inside).
- Remove your shoes before entering someone's home.
- Say "excuse me" if you bump into someone.
- Make requests using "please" and "thank you."
- Offer to help with household chores or with classroom tasks (Canadians love helping).
- Offer to hold the door open for someone else (even strangers) when entering a building.
- Say "Good Morning" when you see family members, friends or school staff at the beginning of the day (enter spaces with greetings).
- Say "Good Night" when going to bed (use a greeting before leaving a space).
- Remove your hat or hood before entering the school or someone's home.
- Use a tissue to blow your nose (sniffing in public may be considered rude).
- Arrive on time for events (if you are late, it is considered to be rude).

Don'ts

- Don't burp or spit in public.
- Don't slurp your food or chew with your mouth open.
- Don't ask about someone's age, salary/wealth or weight (unless you know them very well).
- Don't reach across people while eating at a table; instead ask for items to be passed.



Other Customs & Norms

Canadians generally get up early (6:00 to 7:00am), eat dinner early (around 6:00pm), and go to bed early (10:00 to 11:00pm). Dinner is at a scheduled time; it is important not to be late and to respect the dinner hour.

Doors to bedrooms are generally kept open unless a person wants privacy. A closed door means that you must knock and wait for an invitation to enter. Canadians will think it strange if you always stay in your room with a closed door. Bathroom doors are kept open when no one is inside.

Canadians value honesty and are usually quite direct. Apologize quickly when you make a mistake and try to solve the problem, making eye contact with the other person. Eye contact means honesty and sincerity and is very important in Canada.

Canadians speak quietly in public places; lower your voice level or laughter. Talk quietly on cell phones because loud phone conversations are annoying to Canadians.

Canadians eat quietly (don't make sounds when eating, such as slurping). Do not eat with your mouth open, as this is offensive in Canada. Canadians brush their teeth often to get rid of bad odors. Clothing should not give off unpleasant smells, so change your clothes often and use deodorant. Canadians shower or bathe every day or every second day.

Tipping in restaurants and for other services is usually 15%-20% of the purchase value.

Gifts are not necessary but appreciated. Gifts given on special occasions like birthdays and holidays are great and do not need to be expensive to be special. Gifts given outside of special occasions are taken as grander and even more heartfelt. Homemade gifts and items from your own culture/country would be particularly special for Canadians to receive.

More tips on etiquette can be found [here](#).

PREPARATION FOR TRAVEL

Documents

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

- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)
- Study Permit approval letter
- Saskatoon Public Schools International Student Program Letter of Acceptance
- Final official transcripts & translations from your school in your home country
- Travel itinerary & plane tickets
- Money (enough local currency for food while en route, phone use, in the event you miss a flight during your journey, if you know you need to take a taxi on arrival, etc.)
- Medical information, prescriptions or medications
- 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)
- Contact information of your homestay family and homestay coordinator (if applicable)
- Leave photocopies of all the above documents:
 - in your checked bag/suitcase
 - with your family or someone you trust in your home country

What to Pack

In Saskatoon, we dress for all seasons and for rapidly-changing weather. What is usually new to international students is how to dress for *winter*. For some, winter clothing may be entirely new and the words we use for them may be unfamiliar. You can check out the diagram here to understand what clothing will be needed.

The Essentials

Here are some essentials for dressing for the winter weather:



Fun fact: In Saskatchewan, we call a hooded sweatshirt a *bunny hug* or a *hoodie*. *Hoodie* is a more common term used across Canada, but *bunny hug* is a term specific to Saskatchewan.

Here is a list of clothing items to pack based on our seasons! Keep in mind many basic items can be purchased in Saskatoon, so do not overpack your suitcase. If you are planning to purchase clothing here, make sure you bring enough with you to get through the first week to ten days.

WINTER (November – March)

- Warm winter jacket
- Warm winter boots, socks
- Jeans, sweatpants, leggings, long underwear
- Thicker long-sleeved shirts, hoodies
- Toque, warm hat, headband
- Mittens or gloves
- Scarf, balaclava or face covering
- Warm pajamas, slippers

SUMMER (June – August)

- Shorts, cropped pants, skirts
- Light sweaters & hoodies
- T-shirts, tank tops
- Jeans, light pants
- Good walking shoes
- Bathing suit, sun hat, sunglasses
- Sandals

SPRING (April–June)

- Light sweaters & hoodies
- Jeans
- Long-sleeved shirts
- Short-sleeved shirts
- Pajamas
- Umbrella
- Sunglasses

FALL (September – November)

- Rain jacket, umbrella, warm coat
- Long-sleeved shirts
- Hoodies, sweaters
- Jeans, sweatpants
- Light mittens or gloves
- Light headband
- Warm pajamas, slippers

Other items you may want to pack for studying abroad:

- Journal
- Reading books
- Pictures from home
- Extra glasses/contact lenses
- Backpack (for daily use, day trips)
- Laptop & charger/cables
- Cell phone charger/cables
- Headphones (for home & school use)
- Adapters (changes the shape of the electrical plug
 - Items/equipment for your hobbies and reduces or increases voltage to Canadian standards)



ARRIVAL IN CANADA & SASKATOON



Navigating Airports

When you fly to Canada, you will arrive at one of the major Canadian airports prior to travelling to Saskatoon: Vancouver, Calgary, Montreal, or Toronto. You will then connect to John G. Diefenbaker International Airport (airport code: YXE).

If you are flying from Asia, it is recommended that you arrange to arrive at Vancouver International Airport (airport code: YVR) and then take a connecting flight to Saskatoon International Airport.

If you are flying from Europe, South America, the Middle East, or Africa, it is recommended you arrange to fly to Toronto Pearson International Airport (airport code: YYZ) and then connect to Saskatoon.

Air Canada and **West Jet Airlines** both fly direct flights between Vancouver-Saskatoon and Toronto-Saskatoon. Other connections are possible, and your travel agent will have access to the best routing.

Port of Entry

Upon entering the airport at the first port of entry into Canada (in other words, your first stop on Canadian soil), you will go through Canadian Immigration and Customs. You will proceed to the border services officer who will want to know why you are entering Canada. He/she will direct you to where you need to go to complete your study permit application. Some airports have a special processing area for international students arriving in Canada.

[Video: Your Arrival at the Airport \(What to Expect\)](#)

[Video: Documents Required Upon Arrival in 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), your Saskatoon International Education Letter of Acceptance and tuition fee receipt, proof of funds to support your stay, and medical examination paperwork (if applicable). Once you receive your study permit, verify all information and correct any errors *before you leave the student processing area*. It is very important that you do not leave without obtaining your Study Permit.

Short-term students (less than 6 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.

After you have left Immigration, you will proceed to Customs. The Customs Officer will ask you questions about the items you are importing. The Customs Officer will return your customs declaration card (if required) to you. (Hold onto this card, you will need to present it to the Canada Border Services Officer before you exit the luggage area.) 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 at all airports is very good, but if you are not sure, there are many employees available to provide directions. Just ask!

Communication

Make sure you keep your important contacts up to date on your journey. Check in with them regularly to let them know where you are. You should keep them up to date if you run into any problems such as missed or delayed flights.

Airport Pick Up

If you are in the SIE homestay program, you will be picked up by your host family. If you are not in a homestay and need a ride, you can contact SIE ahead of time to help you with arrangements.

TIPS FOR STUDYING IN SASKATOON

We will talk about more specific information and tips for studying in your school when you come for your orientation, but here is a helpful list for you to think about as you prepare to begin your studies abroad:

- **Don't be afraid to ask questions if you don't understand.** Teachers expect this and want to help you! Make sure you understand the teacher's instructions regarding content and assignments. If you're quiet, that will be taken as a sign of understanding. Teachers are usually available outside of class time for questions and extra help, but it is always best to ask during class and right away. If you aren't sure how to ask for help or need support, your SIE advisor can help you.
- **Be on time for class.** If you can't attend or be on time, notify the school in advance and explain the reason. If you arrive late, make sure to find out what you missed.
- **Attend school regularly.** Not only is this an expectation of the program, but it is also the key to success! Missing classes and content make studying more stressful. Students achieve their best results when they attend class and receive regular instruction and English practice. If you miss classes, see the teacher the next day to find out what was missed.
- **Your time and schedule may be different.** You will have a timetable to follow during school, but you will have to organize your own time since you won't be given a schedule to cover non-class time. Plan your time carefully, balancing schoolwork, English practice, socializing, and relaxation.
- **Hand in assignments on the day they are due.** If you are not able to finish your assignment on time, talk to your teacher before it is due. If you miss an assignment/quiz/exam/lab/class curricular trip, see the teacher and ask if there is a way to make it up.
- **Organize your notes.** Keep all the handouts from your teachers. It is helpful to put them in a binder in the order they are received.



Characteristics of Canadian Education:

You will find some differences between the educational value/system in your home country and that in Canada. It is essential for you to understand the appropriate and accepted roles for students in the Canadian education system. Here are some of the general characteristics of the Canadian educational system:

- Students are encouraged to ask questions for clarification, to challenge information, or to extend their thinking. The philosophy of Canadian education is that students should be *involved* in an interactive learning process; that is, they should not sit passively and accept or memorize what the teacher says.
- Teacher-student relationships tend to be relatively informal compared to other countries.
- Group work is an important part of learning; it values cooperation, tolerance, and compromise. It is expected students do their fair share in any group work setting.
- Discussion is often used as a means of teaching. Students are expected to be able to participate in discussions to develop their ideas and opinions and to present them. One of the main objectives of a discussion is to arrive at a mutually satisfactory understanding or a solution to a problem.
- Students don't just learn content, but they also learn to arrive at conclusions, to solve problems, and to analyze. As part of this process, students are often asked how they got an answer, rather than just what the answer is.
- Plagiarism (submitting the work of another person as your own, copying the work of another person/copying information from books, websites or other sources and submitting it as your own) is a serious offence and may lead to dismissal. It is an expectation in Canada that all work submitted by a student is of their own doing. Any ideas used from other sources must be cited to give credit to the original author(s) or source(s)
- Using artificial intelligence or translating full sentences, paragraphs, or texts are forms of academic cheating and are not tolerated in Saskatoon Public Schools. As previously stated, all work submitted by a student must be of their own doing.



STUDENT LIFE IN SASKATOON

Students take five classes per day taught in specific blocks of time. Blocks typically last about 55 minutes, but some subjects may be offered during larger blocks of time. Students have several teachers for instruction in subject areas (five classes per day = five different teachers.)

In most high schools, the academic year is divided into two semesters, with final exams and assessments being written at the end of each semester:

Semester 1: September to end of January/beginning of February

Semester 2: End of January/beginning of February to June

Most high schools have a cafeteria. Students may purchase lunch, bring lunch to school, or go home for lunch. Teachers or designated supervisors are responsible for all students who remain on school property during the lunch hour. There is a fee of \$50/year for students to stay at school for lunch. Students are encouraged to join activities and clubs offered during the lunch hour.

[VIDEO: A typical school day as an international student](#)

Daily Timetable

Students attend 5 classes per day in the same order each day for the whole semester. There are two semesters in each school year. A student studying for a full year will complete 10 classes.

There are early dismissal days one or two times per month to allow staff to have meetings. On early dismissal days, each period is shortened. Below are examples of schedules for regular days and shortened days.

Regular school day schedule:

Arrive at School	8:40 – 8:50 a.m.
Period 1	8:50 - 9:54 a.m.
Period 2	9:59 - 11:03 a.m.
Break	11:03 - 11:13 a.m.
Period 3	11:13 a.m. - 12:17 p.m.
Lunch	12:17 - 1:07 p.m.
Period 4	1:07 - 2:11 p.m.
Period 5	2:16 - 3:20 p.m.

Early dismissal day schedule:

Arrive at School	8:40 – 8:50 a.m.
Period 1	8:50 - 9:30 a.m.
Period 2	9:35 - 10:15 a.m.
Period 3	10:20 - 11 a.m.
Homeroom	11 - 11:25 a.m.
Break	11:25 - 11:40 a.m.
Period 4	11:40 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.
Period 5	12:25 - 1:05 p.m.

Extracurricular Activities



There are so many exciting activities and opportunities where students can get involved outside of the classroom. Participation in extracurricular activities is encouraged and provides a great environment for students to learn conversational English and make friends from Canada and around the world.

An extensive extracurricular program enables students to deepen their interests while developing new ones, along with learning new skills that will carry forward with them in work and in life.

We recommend students investigate extracurricular options offered in their school and in the community. Community activities are plentiful and provide another setting for students to meet new people and learn new skills.

Competitive Athletics

Students in Grades 9-12 can participate in a variety of activities involving local and provincial competition.



Fall

Football
Cross Country Running
Soccer
Volleyball
Dance Groups/Pom

Winter

Curling
Basketball (starts November)
Cheerleading/Pom
Wrestling

Spring

Badminton
Track & Field
Golf

At the high school level, recreational athletics and games (often called *intramurals*) are often available during lunch hour.

Clubs & Other Extracurricular Options

The list provided below are examples of the many clubs that run in our schools. You are likely to find many more than this because clubs and activities are student-run. The options offered in each school will vary, and groups may go by different names (for example, a club about Social Justice may be called *The Bear Ambassadors* or *Allies for Action*). When you are in school, it is important to look around carefully for announcements and follow relevant posts on Edsby and the school's social media platform/website to know when/where things are happening.

- Art Club (e.g., painting, sculpting, drawing)
- Book Club
- Community Service
- Debate Club
- Yearbook/Newspaper/Media
- Weightlifting/Fitness
- Gaming/Fandom
- Fine & Performing Arts
- Tech/AV Club
- Marching Band/Drumline
- Math Club/Competition
- Photography
- Creative Writing/Poetry
- Student Representative Council (SRC)
- Outdoor Education Club
- Environmental Club
- Social Justice Club
- GSA (Gender & Sexuality Alliance)
- Chess Club
- Model United Nations



PROGRAM RULES & EXPECTATIONS

Participation Agreement

Below is the Saskatoon International Education Participation Agreement. Each of you should have reviewed and signed this document at the time of your application. If you signed a previous version of it, that is ok. You must adhere to the most up-to-date policy, which is printed below:

SIE Participation Agreement

I. Terms of Participation

Saskatoon Public Schools is committed to providing a high-quality educational program to all students. To help our staff and students reach their goals, we ask parents and students to read the following terms on which the student is accepted into our program.

As a student in the Saskatoon International Education program, I agree to abide by the following rules and terms:

- I will obey national, provincial, and local laws and refrain from illegal activity.
- I will not possess, purchase, or consume alcohol; I will not possess, purchase, or use cannabis or illegal drugs while enrolled in the program.
- I will obey the rules of Saskatoon International Education and the school I attend.
- I will reside with a parent (elementary), a custodian or a host family (secondary). I understand that participation in the international student program means I must live with an appropriate adult for the duration of my participation as outlined in the [SIE Living Arrangements package](#).
- I will obey the rules of my homestay, make every effort to participate in family activities, and be an active part of the host family. This includes helping with chores, obeying curfews, and respecting other rules of their household.
- I will maintain full-time academic status throughout the duration of the program. This means attending five in-person classes/day.
- I will attend school every day on time, actively participate in classroom activities, submit assignments, and make full academic effort. I understand reports about my participation (grades, attendance, behaviour) can be sent to my parents and agent anytime.
- I will adhere to the standards of personal technology use as outlined in the SIE Student Handbook and school handbook.
- I will adhere to the standards of academic integrity as outlined in the SIE Student Handbook and school handbook.
- I will not drive motorized vehicles (including motorcycles, scooters, or any watercraft) except within the context of a formal driver's training program (only available for long-term students graduating in Saskatchewan). Driver's training may only be taken with written permission of my parents and with the approval of my school.
- I understand that travel outside Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, or Canada must be supervised by an adult 25 years or older and requires written approval from my parents.

- I will not travel without the proper authorization forms completed and signed before the applicable deadline. Forms to complete may include school or SIE permission forms, homestay travel authorization forms, etc.
- I will report any travel longer than 5 days to SIE and the school using the appropriate forms. (Extended leave from school of 10 days or more must be cleared by SIE and the school's administration with a meeting being held.)
- I will advise SIE/homestay/my school of any travel at least two weeks before departure.
- I understand my program fees cover my monthly expenses for room, board, medical insurance, and tuition. Some schools charge all students additional fees for items such as lockers, general student body activities, project-based elective courses (i.e. photography, woodworking, special physical education, etc.), participating in clubs or sports, etc. It is my responsibility to pay these fees.
- I will maintain a valid study permit and provide renewed/extended permits to Saskatoon International Education as soon as possible. I will also provide other documentation as requested by SIE.
- I will keep all contact information updated, including changes of phone numbers and addresses for me, any parent, emergency contacts, or adults I am residing with.
- I will maintain consistent, respectful, and honest communication with SIE staff, parents, my host family, teachers, and in-school administration on all matters.
- I understand once I am enrolled as a student, I remain in the program for the duration of my studies only. I cannot return to the program and live on my own or with a friend.
- I confirm the information provided in my application is factual, including any medical, academic, or dietary information relevant to my participation.

Student Discipline Policy

Students are required to follow the rules and expectations of the SIE Participation Agreement. Additionally, students are required to follow the rules and policies of Saskatoon Public Schools and our homestay program, as well as Canadian laws.

When a student is not following rules and expectations, SIE staff will initiate a response. Responses are levelled, based on the type and severity of the infraction. Responses are designed to support the student in being successful in the program, as well as to ensure the safety and well-being of the student and others.

STAGE 1 – Minor Infraction

At this stage:

- A verbal and/or written warning is provided and documented by SIE staff.

Minor Infractions:

- are a breach of SIE guidelines, SPS policies, or homestay rules.
- do not compromise student safety.
- do not involve illegal activity.

- result in a warning (verbal, written, or both).

Academic Examples: skipping classes, school tardiness, excessive cell phone use, not submitting assignments, failing a class, etc.

Homestay Examples: unclean bedroom, not participating in homestay family activities or household responsibilities, breaking curfew, etc.

STAGE 2 – Major Infraction or Second Minor Infraction

At this stage:

- A formal written warning is provided and documented by the program.
- A Conduct Agreement is put in place with copies sent to natural parents, host family, and the agent.
- A meeting is held with the Director to discuss and sign the Conduct Agreement. Parent(s) must also sign the agreement and return it to SIE via e-mail.

Major Infractions:

- are a breach of SIE guidelines, SPS policies, or homestay rules.
- may compromise the safety of the student, other students, or the host family.
- are infractions that, if repeated, would result in dismissal from the program.
- could, if severe, involve moving immediately to Stage 3 and would result in immediate dismissal.

STAGE 3 – 2nd Major Infraction or Illegal Activity

At this stage:

- The agent and/or natural parents are contacted to explain the reason for dismissal and arrange immediate return of the student to their home country.
- A formal Dismissal Letter is provided with copies sent to natural parents, host family, and the agent.
- A final meeting is held with the Director and/or other SIE staff to inform the student and provide instructions and support for departing the school and host home.

Stage 3 Infractions include but are not limited to:

- illegal activity involving the police and/or criminal charges (theft, assault, vandalism, possession or distribution of drugs, cyberbullying, etc.).
- serious physical or emotional violence against another person.
- suicidal or self-harming behaviour, resulting in the student being deemed unfit to continue in the program.
- repeated negative activities outlined in a Conduct Agreement.

Program Termination

The points below describe the basis on which a student may be dismissed from the program:

- A student's failure to abide by the terms as described above may result in disciplinary actions including, but not limited to, verbal & written warnings, conduct agreements (probation), or dismissal from the program.
- SIE reserves the right to terminate participation for the violation of program participation terms. Students who are dismissed from SIE will not be given a refund or transcript and will be sent home at their own expense.
- If a student's homestay or academic needs are greater than disclosed in the application process, SIE reserves the right to terminate participation in the program and send the student home at their own expense.
- SIE reserves the right to terminate participation if a student's mental or physical health is in jeopardy, rendering the student unfit to continue in the program.

Personal Electronic Device Use

In August 2024, Saskatchewan's Ministry of Education directed all Saskatchewan school divisions to develop procedures that prohibit the use of personal electronic devices during instructional time in K-12 classrooms. Accordingly, Saskatoon Public Schools has updated its related procedure: AP 139 – Use of Personal Electronic Devices.

Summary of the updated administrative procedure:

- Personal electronic devices shall be out of sight and on silent mode during instructional time. Smart watches may be visible but not accessed during instructional time.
- Exemptions may be approved by the principal for students who require a personal device for a specific medical condition or documented accommodation related to additional needs.
- In Grades 9-12, teachers who wish to use personal electronic devices for a specific instructional purpose with students must request an exemption and gain approval from the principal.
- Principals maintain the right to make decisions about the use of personal electronic devices during non-instructional time (eg. lunch).
- All school staff will continue to model appropriate use of their personal devices to support student safety, classroom learning, assessment, and communication with families.

Teachers will develop norms and procedures for the use of technology in their classrooms. Students who do not follow procedures may lose the privilege of having their cell phone on school property.

It is critical to know the rules about electronic usage in your classes and to check with your teacher or another school staff member if you are unsure.

Internet Use

- Access to the Internet is an individual privilege, not a right. Any student who violates these guidelines will have their access removed for such a period as is deemed appropriate by a teacher or school administrator.
- Generally, a student's conduct on the Internet is governed by the same expectations that guide their behavior at school.
- Access to the Internet will only be provided while a student is under the supervision of a teacher or responsible adult who is present in the room where the student is accessing the Internet.
- Students may not be given access to any passwords necessary to access the Internet.
- All incidents of accessing inappropriate material will be handled according to the Saskatoon Board of Education Internet Acceptable Use Procedures and Centennial School guidelines.
- Students will not use the Internet for purposes other than those requested by a teacher.
- Students will not create, distribute, download, or save any text, sounds, graphics, or other material which are obscene, harassing, racist, malicious, fraudulent, libelous, or which may affect the integrity of a computer or computer network.
- Students may not attempt to read, copy, or change files or passwords belonging to other people, either locally or on the Internet, unless authorized to do so by the individuals.

Academic Integrity

1. If a teacher discovers that a student has plagiarized, the teacher will follow through with an Academic Honesty Conference, which may result in a consequence, some of which are outlined below.

- A student might be asked to write another version of the assignment for a partial mark.
- If a student has copied the work of another person directly and the teacher can trace the original source in whole or in part, then the student may receive a mark of zero.
- If a student is found copying homework, the work may be confiscated by the teacher, and the student may receive a mark of zero for the homework; the student who lent homework for copying may also experience consequences dependent upon the degree of collusion.
- If students copy one another's work and submit this for individual evaluation, then these students may both receive a mark of zero for the assignment.
- If a student resubmits an evaluated work in whole or in part without prior teacher consent, then the student may receive a mark of zero for the assignment.

2. Until the situation is resolved, the student(s) involved may receive a mark of zero for the assignment.

3. If the student has plagiarized, then she/he may not be eligible for a subject award in the academic year in which the plagiarism occurred.

4. A copy of the academic violation will be kept on record.

IMPORTANT DATES



Here are some important dates for September 2025-June 2026:

<p><u>August 26-27</u> <u>August 28-29</u> September 1 September 2 September 30 October 13 November 1 November 11 December 22-January 2 January 5 January 28 or 29 February 16-20 March 1 April 3 April 6-10 May 1 May 18 June 25</p>	<p><u>Students should arrive in Saskatoon</u> <u>SIE Orientation & School Visits</u> Statutory Holiday – Labour Day First Day of Semester 1 Classes No School – Truth & Reconciliation Statutory Holiday - Thanksgiving February 2026 SIE Applications Due Statutory Holiday – Remembrance Day Holiday School Break School Resumes First day of Semester 2 Classes Winter School Break SIE Renewal Applications Due Statutory Holiday – Good Friday Spring School Break Fall 2026 SIE Applications Due Statutory Holiday – Victoria Day Last Day for High Schools</p>
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