Exchange at

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY | NOVA SCOTIA CANADA

Fact sheet for international exchange students and partners

About Dalhousie University

Located on Canada's welcoming East Coast, with campuses in the vibrant oceanside city of Halifax and an Agricultural Campus in the town of Truro, Dalhousie welcomes 21,000 students from across the country and more than 115 countries around the world.

We are Nova Scotia's leading research-intensive university, with 13 faculties that expand understanding through teaching excellence and a drive for discovery resulting in more than $210 million in external research funding each year.

Dalhousie's blend of groundbreaking research with outstanding teaching makes for a unique and collaborative environment that empowers all our students, professors, researchers, and staff to achieve excellence and make a positive impact for our province, our country, and our world.

Nomination & Application

Nomination Procedure

- To nominate your students, please complete **this form**.

Deadlines

- No nomination deadline, but we do require the completed nomination form BEFORE your students apply.

Application Deadlines

- Fall/Full Year: May 1st. For students coming for the Full academic year, it is highly recommendable to apply earlier.
- Winter: October 1st
- Summer: February 1st

Admission Requirements

- Home university to nominate eligible inbound exchange students. Students must then apply to and be accepted by Dalhousie to officially confirm their exchange at Dalhousie.

Minimum GPA

- Not applicable

Language Requirements

- English B2 (no language proficiency test required)

Application Details

- Dalhousie's Exchange Office will email the student(s) with instructions on when and how to apply to Dalhousie with a copy to the home institution.

Supporting Documents

- Nomination letter can be submitted if the student is provided with one, but it is not required.
- Official transcript (PDF file only)

Acceptance to Dalhousie

- Students can expect to receive an acceptance letter via email 4-6 weeks after they have applied.

Academic Information

Academic Timetable

- **dal.ca/timetable**

Course Registration

- After an inbound exchange student has been accepted to Dalhousie, Exchange staff will email the student with information on how to register for courses. The earlier students can apply, the better their chances of getting into their preferred courses.

International Student Orientation

- Fall Term: Late August
- Winter Term: Early January
- Summer Term: No formal orientation. Students can meet with the Student Exchange Advisor upon arrival.

Semester Dates

- Fall Term: September to December (including exams)
- Winter Term: January to April (including exams)
- Summer Term: May to August (including exams)

Restrictions

- Faculty of Graduate Studies, Dentistry, Law, Medicine, Planning, and most programs/ courses in the Faculty of Health are all restricted from exchange students.

Course Load Information & Requirements

- A full course load is 5 courses or 15 credit hours per Term. Exchange students are required to take a minimum of 3 courses per semester but are permitted to take up to 5 courses per semester. Most single term courses are worth 0.5 credits or 3 credit hours.

Grade Scale

- **Dalhousie grade scale**

Accommodations for Students with Protected Characteristics

- **Dalhousie Student Accessibility Services**

Transcripts

- Transcripts are sent to the home institution via email 4-6 weeks after the end of the academic term.
- Students can also request an official transcript from DalOnline.
- If the student no longer has access to DalOnline, or if a hard copy is required, students can submit a request to be sent to them. **Directions for how to do so can be found here**.

Practical Information

Accommodation

- **Residence:**
  - There is limited residence availability for exchange students. Dalhousie offers a variety of residence styles and sizes – all are conveniently located and offer meal plans. Learn more about **Dalhousie residences**.
  - On-campus housing priority will be given to students coming to Dalhousie for the winter term (January–April) or the full academic year (September–April). Availability for students coming for the fall term only (September–December) is reduced, so off-campus housing options are highly recommended. Students who come may inquire with the Residence office (**residence@dal.ca**) directly about availability.
- **Off-Campus:**
  - There are many off-campus housing options within walking distance or along bus routes, and meal plans are also available to non-residence students if you choose to live off-campus. View listings on **Dalhousie's Off-Campus Living website**, which also includes tips to prepare students for off-campus living. Students can contact **och@dal.ca** for assistance.

Visa & Residence Permits

- **If the stay is longer than 6 months:** Students must apply for a Study Permit at the nearest Canadian visa office in their home country. In addition to the study permit, they may be also required to obtain a Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) which gives students permission to enter Canada. It is only required for citizens of certain nationalities. Please check the **list of countries and territories whose citizens require an entry visa**. NOTE: Study Permit processing time could take up to 14 weeks to be completed. Please submit your exchange application in advance and apply for the permit as soon as you receive the letter of admission from Dalhousie.
- **If the stay is less than 6 months:** Study Permit is not mandatory, but students may have to apply for a **Visitor Visa** or an **Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)**.
- For any case, Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada – IRCC encourages all visiting students to apply for a study permit for the following reasons:
  - It allows them to work part-time in Canada. A part-time job can be a great source of income while abroad.
  - It is easy to extend if they want to stay in Canada longer. Some students love it here so much they want to stay longer. It is much easier and less expensive to apply for a study permit before they begin studying in Canada, than after.
  - It allows them to access cell phone plans and other utilities much easier. If they are simply a visitor to Canada, they may not have access to a lot of great utility plans and other business options that students with study permits can take advantage of.
- For further information about Study Permits, please visit the **Immigration Refugee and Citizenship Canada-IRCC website** and/or book an appointment with an International Student Advisors by using our **online booking system** or by calling **+1 902-494-1566**.

Practical Information

Incidental Fees and Health Plan Opt-out Option

- Exchange students must pay the following incidental fees to Dalhousie:
  - Dalhousie Student Union – DSU International Student Plan: $1328,84 per year or $442.95 per term (pro-rated for the duration of a student's exchange).
  - DSU Health and Dental Plan: $491.89 per year (flat fee applicable for all students)
  - Public Transport Pass (UPass): $177.90 for students coming during the fall term and full year, or $87.67 for students coming during the winter term only.
  - Students arriving in the fall term will have an orientation fee of $130, of which they can opt-out.
  - Students living in Dalhousie residences (on-campus) will have to pay for a meal plan.
- All students at Dalhousie must have valid health insurance for the duration of their studies. The Dalhousie Students' Union (DSU) administers a health and dental plan (all students) and an international student health plan (international students). International students are required to accept and pay for the DSU insurance plans unless they already have comparable health insurance coverage. In this instance, they may be able to opt-out of the DSU insurance coverage. The **DSU Student VIP website** has information on how to opt-out and what the requirements are.
- There are strict requirements in order to opt out. It is important for students to know what is required before purchasing insurance from home as otherwise they risk having to pay for insurance from their home country as well as insurance from Dalhousie.
- Note: If students start school in September, they are automatically billed and enrolled in both insurance plans. If students start school in January or May, they are only enrolled in the International Student Health Plan and so they must opt-in to the Health and Dental Plan should they wish to have the coverage.

Estimated Living Expenses

- Estimated cost of living in Halifax, in Canadian dollars (CAD), for a full year: *All prices are subject to change.
  - Books: $35-$300 (per book)
  - Accommodations: $800-$1,400/month
  - Utilities: $100-$300/month
  - Meals: $300-$400/month
  - Phone plan: $20-$60/month
  - Spending: $225-$335/month
- Other costs to know:
  - Overnight stay in a hostel: $40-$57
  - Overnight stay in a hotel: $150-$250
  - Sales tax on most consumer goods: 14%
  - Tip for most services: 15-20%
  - Movie ticket: $7-$20
  - Dinner at a restaurant: $20-$80 per person
  - 1 Litre of gas: $1.60 (November 2024)
- Visit **dal.ca/money-matters** for more information

Contact Information

Dalhousie International Centre

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  Canada
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- Email: **exchanges@dal.ca**
- Website: **dal.ca/cometodal**

David Rodriguez

International Exchange & Mobility Advisor

- Phone: +1-902-494-2722
- Email: **exchanges@dal.ca**
- Overall program administration, student support and advising, partnership development and promotions, and agreement/negotiations support.

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