



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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1.0 | GENERAL INQUIRES

1.1 | Where is St. Clair College located?

St. Clair College campuses are located in Windsor, Ontario, Canada and Chatham-Kent, Ontario, Canada.

- *COMFORTABLE CLIMATE* - Located in the most southerly part of Canada, our campuses align in the same latitude as Northern California, Madrid, Spain. and Rome, Italy
- *INTERNATIONAL BORDER* - Detroit, Michigan is just across the bridge in the USA, giving immediate access to all major league sports, the stage, shopping and nightlife
- *SAFE, CLEAN COMMUNITIES* - No matter which campus you choose, you can be confident your stay here will be pleasant and secure
- *GREAT CHOICES* - 3 unique campuses with 90+ program options that provide hundreds of career opportunities!

1.2 | Why choose Canada for my international study?

- *ACCREDITED COLLEGE*- St. Clair is an accredited institution offering high education studies recognized globally.
- *TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES* - From the wilderness of the north, to the shopping, theatre and major league sports of the big city
- *PEOPLE AND CULTURE* - Distinct multicultural communities and events enhance quality of life - more than 100 languages are spoken
- *STRONG ECONOMY* - Industries range from farming, and healthcare, to manufacturing and technology, to creative arts and tourism

- *ONTARIO HAS IT ALL!* - It's no wonder that one in three Canadians choose to call Ontario home!
- For more information about Canada you can visit www.canadainternational.gc.ca

1.3 | Is there support for the needs of international students at St. Clair College?

St. Clair College promotes and facilitates services for International Students. Areas of regular assistance include but are not limited to:

- Seek advice relating to academic, social, or cultural issues
- Seek assistance regarding immigration questions
- Health Insurance inquiries

Alex Wu - International Recruitment Manager
email: awu@stclaircollege.ca

1.4 | What languages are spoken in Canada?

Canada is considered a bilingual country with both English and French speaking populations. Canada is also a multicultural country and therefore has a multitude of languages spoken.

1.5 | English as a Second Language Studies (ESL)

St. Clair College offers the English as a Second Language Program for those who require assistance improving their English language skills.

ESL Program Details:

- Focus is on conversation, reading, writing, grammar, listening and pronunciation skills
- Small class sizes provide students with ample opportunity for individual attention and participation
- Highly-trained professors and technicians provide supportive, personal instruction, and language labs
- Interaction with English-speaking people
- There are 3 official intakes per year occurring in: January, May and September however intake for this program is offered year round.
- Availability of computer labs and other facilities such as: a Library, Internet Lab, Learning Centre, Audio-Visual Centre, pool, gym, etc.

Four Levels of English Studies:

- Foundations
- Introductory
- Intermediate
- Advanced

ESL Admission Requirements

- Open to all students 18 years and older (or high school graduates).

Custodian is required for students younger than 18 years old)

- Students will take a Placement Test and be assigned to the appropriate level, according to the test results
- Advanced students may have the opportunity to take the Institutional TOEFL test if interested in applying for Post-Secondary studies at St. Clair College.

1.6 | Do I need a study permit/visa to attend institutions in Canada?

If you are not a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant, you will need a Canadian Study Permit to study in Canada and a Letter of Acceptance - issued by the College - in order to apply for the permit.

1.7 | Will credits and diplomas from my home country transfer to St. Clair College?

Yes, it is possible that based on prior education students may qualify for credit transfers. It is up to the student to consult first with the International Department for guidance and direction.

1.8 | Is Health Insurance Mandatory & How Do I Get It?

St. Clair College includes health insurance with a Canadian Medical Insurance Provider as part of your tuition costs and during the academic dates indicated on the student's letter of acceptance. **If students arrive prior to their academic start date it is up to the student to arrange their own health insurance for that period of time. IT IS MANDATORY FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HERE ON A STUDY PERMIT TO HAVE MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE.**

2.0 | APPLICATION PROCESS

2.1 | What Documents Do I Need to Apply for Post-Secondary Programs?

General documents that are required for post-secondary programs:

- High school diploma/graduation certificate and transcript or equivalent in original language and English translation.
- English proficiency requirement: TOEFL iBT 61, IELTS (overall band) 5.5
- India students wishing to benefit from the Student Partners Program (SPP India), will need to provide IELTS 6.0 with no band lower than 5.5. All English proficiency tests must have been taken within the previous two years from the date of submitting application.

2.2 | **What English Requirements Are Needed for Admission Into a Post-Secondary Program?**

English proficiency requirements differ depending on your country of origin. Please refer to our admission's policy site for details specific to your region:

<http://www.stclaircollege.ca/international/admissionpolicies.html>

2.3 | What reputation does St. Clair College have?

St. Clair College is a public college that embraces the very best in a college education - excellence in teaching, applied learning in our state-of-the-art labs, numerous student support services to help you succeed, and an amazing campus life experience.

St. Clair provides all of this and more for 8500 full time students who participate in over 90+ advanced diplomas, diplomas, degrees and graduate certificates focused in Health, Technology, Business, Media Arts and Social Services.

2.4 | What programs are available at St. Clair College for international students?

St. Clair provides International students with full time courses in over 90+ programs focused in Technology, Business, Media Arts and Social Services. Programs in the Health Sciences field are considered "high demand" programs and are typically not available to International Students. If you are interested in one of these courses please consult the department for assistance.

2.5 | How many International Students attend St. Clair College?

St. Clair has over 8,500 full-time students including 400 international students from over 40 different countries.

2.6 | How can I get more information and enroll?

A great resource available is St. Clair's international student section on our website found here:
<http://www.stclaircollege.ca/international/>

Our "**How to Apply**" link will assist students with the process of applying, with the inclusion of both our student application form and departmental contact information.

<http://www.stclaircollege.ca/international/howtoapply.html>

2.7 | How Much Time Do I Need to Give Myself to Apply for a Student Visa?

The time it requires to get a study visa varies depending on each Canadian Embassy. Generally, you can count on it taking 2-4 months. So you have to look at when your courses begin and give yourself enough time to obtain a visa.

2.8 | How much is tuition, fees, and housing cost?

The tuition cost for international students varies depending on the program choice of the individual. However, for most programs the estimated cost for one year's tuition is \$12,500.

The estimated textbook cost is \$1000 per year or \$500 a semester.

Housing accommodation costs vary as well depending on where the student chooses to live as homestay, apartments, and residence all charge different rates (anywhere from \$600 to rent an apartment to \$800 for Homestay with food).

2.9 | Where will I live while I study? When should I find housing?

While it is up to the student to decide where they will live during their studies, the international department can assist you with suggestions for accommodations.

College Residence: Windsor & Chatham

Apply online or in person at residence

Residence fees include: utilities, local telephone access, cable television, access to internet, and fully furnished suite.

Rates vary based on academic, summer, or winter semesters (approximately \$5000 CDN September– April) check updated rates at:

<http://www.stclairrez.ca/rates.html>

Apply online for residence in:

Windsor: <http://www.stclairrez.ca/>

Chatham: <http://www.stclairrez.ca/thames/>

The Canada Homestay Network

Founded in 1995, the Canada Homestay Network has served tens of thousands of international students

- fill out the online application and St. Clair's agent will arrange a personalized match with a Canadian host based on mutual interests, lifestyles, and educational goals
- approximately costs are \$6,400 CDN September-April (\$800 per month) **including food**
- **apply online at :** <http://canadahomestayinternational.com/studentsapplication.html> (**choose "adult student"**)

Housing and Apartment Rentals

If you choose to rent an apartment or house during your stay you may want to consider asking other students to become roommates and share the cost of rent. Below are a few resources you can use to find apartments and rental homes in Windsor and Chatham-Kent:

TIPS: (select "**Windsor and Area**" or "**Chatham-Kent**" and search "**student housing**" or "**student rates**")

- **Canada Homestay Network:** <http://canadahomestayinternational.com/>
- Kijiji Website (www.kijiji.ca)
- GottaRent website: (www.gottarent.com)
- St. Clair's Student Housing Portal: <http://www.stclair-src.org/services/housing.html>

3.0 | AFTER ACCEPTANCE

3.1 | What should I do next?

Once you are accepted into your program at St. Clair College and you have received your official letter of acceptance it is important that you also pay the confirmation fee indicated on your Letter of Acceptance and follow the instructions provided to you by the recruitment officer

It is also important that you begin applying for your visa as soon as you receive your letter of acceptance. Once your visa is approved you should then begin to secure housing accommodations prior to arrival

3.2 | How do I obtain my study permit/visa for Canada?

Please refer to CIC's website for further information regarding study permit/visa issues:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/index.asp>

3.3 | How will I arrive at St. Clair College?

We ask that you provide the International department with your arrival information at least one week prior to your departure date.

We offer our international students a pick-up and drop-off car service from the airport or train station, to a designated drop-off point within the city.

4.0 | OPPORTUNITIES BEFORE AND AFTER GRADUATION

4.1 | What Happens After I Graduate?

Canada is a vast and industrious country full of opportunity for educated professionals in a variety of industries.

4.2 | Can I work during my studies?

Yes you can work both on or off Campus during your studies for up to 20 hours a week. During Summer Holidays you can work full time up to 40 hours a week.

Working On and Off Campus:

To work you must:

- Apply for a Social Insurance Number (SIN)
- Have a valid Study Permit
- Be enrolled in a full time program (not ESL)

4.3 | Can I work in Canada after Graduation?

Yes, you can apply for your Post Graduate Work Permit.

You can apply for Post Graduate Work Permit when you meet these conditions:

- Have a valid Study Permit
- Completed a full time 8 months+ program
- Gain degree, diploma or certificate
- Receiving final transcript indicating your degree, or written confirmation of graduation
- Apply within 90 days of the written date
- **For more and accurate info, please visit www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/work.asp.**

4.4 | What scholarships and bursaries exist for international students at St. Clair College?

Universal Retention Scholarships - \$600 & \$1000

Criteria:

- Enrolled for 3 semesters in a full time academic program
- Paid off full international fee
- Cumulative GPA of first 2 full time semester 3.0 - <3.5 (\$600)
- Cumulative GPA of first 2 full time semester 3.5 - 4.0 (\$1000)
- Students should have their SIN numbers

Campus Care Scholarship - \$500

Criteria:

- Enrolled for 3 semesters in a full time academic program
- Paid off full international fee
- Nominees can be self-applied/nominated, nominated by academic department, nominated by international office, or others
- The minimum 2 semesters cumulative GPA is 3.5
- Other achievement such as leadership, community contributions, etc.

5.0 | ST CLAIR COLLEGE ADDITIONAL SERVICES

5.1 | Services on Campus:

St. Clair offers a number of dining and food facilities. Chartwell's food service offers healthy options as well as vegetarian options for meals. There is also Griffs Tavern and Tim Horton's, both serving food options to serve all dietary needs.

5.2 | Can I get involved in school activities and clubs?

All students are encouraged to get involved in campus activities that go beyond the academic realm. The Student Representative Council (SRC) at the college is a great place to seek answers to student questions on clubs and various volunteer opportunities available to students wishing to make the most of their college experience.

5.3 | I would like to play a varsity sport. Who do I contact?

Varsity sports on campus is extremely active which means the Student run Saints Athletics Association is always involved in

one of the 18 varsity sports available to students. As well, the SAA oversees intramural activities and with the new **SportsPlex** open for students, there will be ample space to get involved in a number of athletic pursuits.

PLUS... if you play varsity sports, you can receive a \$1,250 scholarship per sport semester as one of our Varsity Saints Athletes

5.4 | Does St. Clair have social events for students?

Throughout the school year, St. Clair College hosts numerous social events and welcomes students to participate. There are specific events that are offered to our international students and when these arise, emails are sent out for event and ticket information. Additionally, international students are able to sign up for the Toronto-Niagara Falls trip that takes place at various times throughout the year.