

# School of Construction & the Environment

## International Exchange Program Information Package



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## Introduction

The British Columbia Institute of Technology is Canada's leading polytechnic institution. That means we offer career-focused technical education, and we grant credentials that span from trades certification to applied degrees. A polytechnic environment promotes extensive partnerships with business and industry, and dedicates significant resources to applied research and technology transfer activities.

The School of Construction and the Environment (SoCE) offers a substantial range of courses and programs that are concerned with the natural environment, the built environment and the relationship between them. Our goal is to provide students with the knowledge and skills required to address the issues of today and the future: sustainable development and environmental stewardship, housing and habitat technologies, natural resource management, building science and construction management.

The SoCE offers certificates, diplomas, bachelor's and master's degrees that lead to careers as skilled tradespersons, technicians, technologists, professional engineers, and managers. The focus on applied education and hands-on training, as well as industry partnerships, results in programs that are relevant, current, and that produce graduates who are truly job-ready.

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### *Master Degrees*

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- [Master of Applied Science in Building Engineering/Building Science](#)
- [Master of Engineering in Building Science](#)

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### *Bachelor Degrees*

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|---|---|
| • <a href="#"><u>Bachelor of Architectural Science</u></a>                    | • <a href="#"><u>Environmental Engineering Technology</u></a> |
| • <a href="#"><u>Bachelor of Civil Engineering</u></a>                        | • <a href="#"><u>Geographic Information Systems</u></a>       |
| • <a href="#"><u>Construction Management:<br/>Building for the Future</u></a> | • <a href="#"><u>Geomatics</u></a>                            |
|   | • <a href="#"><u>Interior Design</u></a>                      |

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### *Diplomas*

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- [Architectural and Building Technology](#)
- [Civil Engineering Technology](#)
- [Geomatics - The Art and Science of Spatial Measurement](#)
- [Interior Design](#)
- [Mineral Exploration and Mining Technology](#)

- [Fish, Wildlife and Recreation](#)

## The Application Process

If you are interested in attending the BCIT School of Construction and the Environment, you must contact your home institution's international exchange office to see if it is a partner school. Your home institution will be able to tell you about its selection procedure for the international exchanges and start you on the application process. Once your school has approved your nomination to apply, fill out and send in your [application form](#). You can request this from your home institution or from the [International Exchange team](#). We will be happy to help you and your home institution throughout the application and course selection process.

All exchange students will need to complete a learning agreement outlining the specific courses they will be taking in their semester abroad. Make sure you complete this before you come to BCIT. This allows you to receive credits at your home institution for the courses you completed at BCIT.

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### *Our Academic School Year*

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- Fall semester (September to December)
- Winter/Spring semester (January to May) - students enjoy spring break for one week in the middle of March each year.

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### *Visa and Study Permits*

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To study in Canada, international students usually require a temporary resident permit or a study permit. A temporary resident permit or visa is an official document issued by a visa office abroad. It's placed in your passport to show that you meet the requirements for admission to Canada as a temporary resident.

Students from many countries in the European Union do not need to apply for a visa for short term visits, but please visit the Citizenship and Immigration Canada web page for a complete list of exempted countries and requirements.

International students who will study in Canada for six months or longer require a study permit, and official document also called a student visa. Applying for a study permit may take between three weeks and six months, depending on the workload of the embassy, and if you require a medical examination.

## Student Life at BCIT

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### *Student Services*

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- [Obtaining a BCIT Student Identification Card](#)
  - [Library Services](#)
  - [Bookstore](#)
  - [Recreation Services](#)
  - [Student Health Services](#)
  - [Counselling & Student Development](#)
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### *International Student Centre*

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All students require medical insurance when living in Canada and studying at BCIT. Medical treatment and hospital care is not free in Canada. After residing in the province of British Columbia for over three months you will be eligible for the Medical Service Plan (MSP) of British Columbia, a government-funded program

Our International Student Centre (ISC) can arrange your application for [medical Insurance](#) through a reputable and local organization while you await your eligibility for BC Medical.

Furthermore, the ISC can help guide you through your experience [before you arrive, when you arrive, and during your education at BCIT](#)

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### *BCIT Student Association*

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The [BCIT Student Association](#) offers many services from a print shop, events, health and wellness activities, and student clubs.

## About Vancouver & Greater Vancouver

Greater Vancouver encompasses the city of Vancouver and its many surrounding municipalities. It includes Burnaby, which is approximately 30 minutes away by public transit from Downtown Vancouver. The city is surrounded by forests, mountains, and the Pacific Ocean, and rests on Canada's West Coast, in the province of British Columbia.

The area offers a world of recreational opportunities. Vancouver is in Canada's warmest weather zone, and is mild enough for sailing during the day and world-class skiing at night. In February and March of 2010, Vancouver hosted the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Whistler.

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### *Sightseeing Ideas*

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- [Capilano Suspension Bridge](#)



- [Vancouver Aquarium](#)



- [Stanley Park](#)



- [Granville Island](#)



- [Science World](#)



- [Grouse Mountain](#)



Visit [Tourism in Vancouver](#) or [Tourism in BC](#) for more sightseeing ideas.

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### *Shopping*

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[Metropolis at Metrotown](#) - It is the largest shopping mall complex in British Columbia, the 2nd largest in Canada. It is located in Burnaby and includes over 450 stores. To get there from BCIT, take bus #130.

## Transportation

### Getting from [Vancouver International Airport \(YVR\)](#)

- *Public Transportation*

Directions: Canada Line Sky Train is centrally located between the International and Domestic Terminals. Once through the customs and immigration arrivals process, walk toward the exit to our International Arrivals Greeting Area. Exit the building following signs marked **Canada Line**. Before the parkade entrance, an escalator and elevator will take you up to the Canada Line platform

- *Taxis*

Directions: once through the customs and immigration process, you'll enter the International Arrivals Greeting Area. Walk outside the building on the same level and look for the taxi stand.

Public Transit - [Translink](#)

Taxis

Car-sharing services – [Car to Go](#), [Evo](#)

Cycle – [BCIT Bikes!](#)

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### *Find Your Way Around Campus*

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- [Burnaby campus map](#) (flat)
- [Burnaby campus map](#) (interactive)

## Communication

**Top Cell Phone Providers** (These stores can be found at Metrotown mall)



- Bell
- Telus
- Rogers
- Wind
- Virgin

### **SIM Cards for Cell Phones**

You can purchase the SIM cards from a number of cell phone providers:

- [Telus](#)
- [BestBuy](#)
- [Virgin Mobile](#)
- [Bell Mobile](#)

## **Banking in Canada**

While in Canada, it is a good idea to have a Canadian bank account. To open an account you must show two pieces of identification such as a student ID card, valid passport or a driver's license. The bank will also require you to provide your local address in Canada.

The "Big 5" banks in Canada are:

- [Scotiabank](#)
- [The Royal Bank of Canada](#)
- [Bank of Montreal \(BMO\)](#)
- [Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce \(CIBC\)](#), and
- [TD Canada Trust](#)

You can find **currency exchange services** in the International and Domestic Terminals of the [Vancouver International Airport \(YVR\)](#). Open 24 hours.

## **In Case of an Emergency**

- Dial **911** from your phone
- **Burnaby Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)**  
Address: 6355 Deer Lake Ave, Burnaby, BC V5G 2J2  
Phone: (604) 294-7922
- **Vancouver Police Department**  
Address: 2120 Cambie St, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4N6  
Phone: (604) 717-3535

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