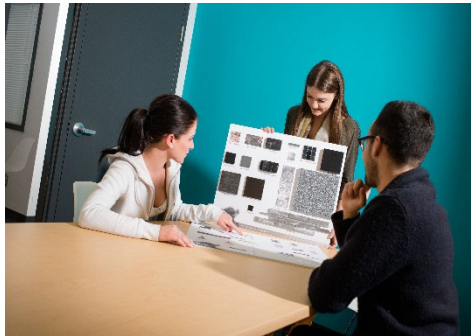


# School of Construction & the Environment

## International Exchange Program Incoming Student 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.

## Programs

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](#)

Please [contact us](#) should your home institution wish to develop an exchange agreement with one of our program areas.

## The Nomination & 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 nominate you. Your home institution will be able to tell you about its selection procedure and start you on the application process. Our current partner schools are:

- Biberach University of Applied Sciences (Germany)
- HAWK University of Applied Sciences and Art (Germany)
- University of Ferrara (Italy)
- Politecnico di Milano (Italy)
- Metropolia University of Applied Sciences (Finland)

Once your school has approved your nomination to apply, fill out and send in the BCIT [application form](#).

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### *Learning Agreements / Course Registration*

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Exchange students need to complete a learning agreement (also known as a Course Registration form) which outlines the specific courses they will be taking in their semester abroad. Make sure to complete this before coming to BCIT. This agreement allows you to receive credits at your home institution for the courses you completed at BCIT. We will be happy to help you and your home institution throughout the application and course selection process.

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### *Our Academic School Year*

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BCIT's semesters/terms are Fall and Winter/Spring. They run:

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

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### *Accommodation*

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Indicate your housing preferences on your application form. You are eligible to live in the Maquinna residence if you have been accepted into a full-time program that is four months duration or longer. Find out more about life in residence and how to apply on the [BCIT Student Housing](#) website.

## Coming to Canada

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### *Visa and Study Permits*

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#### **One term/semester**

International students studying in Canada for one semester (less than 6 months) require proof of a visitor's visa to be allowed to enter Canada. No study permit is required as long as you abide by Citizenship and Immigration Canada [IRCC regulations](#).

#### **Two terms/semesters**

International students who will study in Canada for six months or longer require a study permit/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.

Follow the [International Student Travel Guide](#) for entering Canada for more information.

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### *Medical Insurance*

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All students require medical insurance when living in Canada and studying at BCIT. The International Student Centre (ISC) assists with arranging your application for [medical Insurance](#). Learn more about [Types of Medical Insurance in Canada – BCIT](#), and contact [international.medical@bcit.ca](mailto:international.medical@bcit.ca) with any questions.

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### *Arrival*

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Upon arrival at [Vancouver International Airport \(YVR\)](#), there are several options to travel to your destination.

**Skytrain:** Canada Line Sky Train is centrally located between the International and Domestic Terminals, and very easy to find. Once through the customs and immigration arrivals process, walk toward the

exit to the 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

Taxi: 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.

Pick up: Upon availability, you may connect with a student mentor to pick you up.

General modes of transportation are:

- Public Transit - [Translink](#)
  - monthly passes, or
  - [Compass - Home \(compasscard.ca\)](#) which only charges you for each ride that you take
- Car-sharing services
  - [Car to Go](#)
  - [Evo](#)
- Cycling
  - check out [BCIT Bikes!](#)
  - Burnaby bike map: [Bike-Map.pdf \(burnaby.ca\)](#)
  - Vancouver bike map: [Vancouver Cycling Map - Fall 2022](#)

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### *Communication & Safety*

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It's advisable to set yourself up with a cell phone plan that works for you. Some cell phone providers, where you can purchase a SIM card for the device from your home country are:

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

These stores can be found at Metrotown mall.

#### **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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### *Banking*

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Should you wish to open a Canadian bank account, you typically need two pieces of identification such as a student ID card, valid passport, or a driver's license. The financial institution will also require you to provide your local address in Canada. Some of the major financial institutions in Canada are:

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

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

## Metro Vancouver Location

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

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### *Climate*

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Vancouver is in Canada's warmest weather zone. Monthly weather trends can be found at [Burnaby, British Columbia - Monthly Calendar - The Weather Network](#). Jan – Mar will be typically between 7 – 10 °C.

In Burnaby, it is rare that it will snow. If it does, it usually melts in a day or two. But don't despair; the area offers a world of recreational opportunities! We boast being mild enough for sailing during the day and offer world-class skiing at night. For those interested in participating in snow activities, there

are many options at local mountains nearby. Check out [British Columbia Mountains | Super, Natural BC \(hellobc.com\)](#).

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### *Tourism & Activities*

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In February and March of 2010, Vancouver hosted the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Whistler. Visit [Tourism in Vancouver](#) or [Tourism in BC](#) for more sightseeing ideas.

- [Capilano Suspension Bridge](#)



- [Vancouver Aquarium](#)



- [Stanley Park](#)



- [Granville Island](#)



- [Science World](#)

- [Grouse Mountain](#)





- [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.

## Student Life at BCIT

The [International Student Services Centre](#) offers:

- orientation [workshops](#) and resources
- 'Meet & Greet" event(s)
- peer tutoring
- staff to guide you
- letters of verification
- [checklists and guides](#)

### [Library Services](#)

- [BCIT ID \(Student Identification\) Card](#)

### [Bookstore](#)

### [Recreation Services](#)

### [Student Health Services & Counselling](#)



### BCIT Student Association

- print and copy shop
- health and wellness activities
- career services
- student clubs

### Safety & Security

- Safe Walk program

### Find Your Way Around Campus

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

## International Exchange Program Contacts

Please don't hesitate to [reach out](#) should you have any further questions or comments.