

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS FAQs

International Student Support

Is the International Education Office still open?

While our office doors are currently closed, we are still busily working to support our international students and families. You can contact us by email at international@burnabyschools.ca or by phone at 604-296-6903.

Who can I go to for support?

Burnaby has a dedicated, multi-lingual, team to support our international students and families. For secondary students: Along with teachers, counsellors and administrators, each Burnaby secondary school has an International Student Assistant who is in continued contact with their international students via text, email and Zoom.

For elementary students: Teachers and principals are there to support you, as well as the International Education Office team. Simply contact us by email at international@burnabyschools.ca or by phone at 604-296-6903.

Additional Supports: Dedicated virtual medical and mental health supports for Burnaby international students are also available by contacting the above.

Continued Learning

When will instruction through remote learning begin?

Teachers have reached out to their students and instruction is now beginning. If you have not been contacted by your teacher please email international@burnabyschools.ca or contact your secondary school's International Student Assistant.

Are there added resources to prepare and support me in learning remotely?

We strongly encourage you to access Burnaby's continued learning website which is a valuable resource in getting started. Also, for parents, it offers numerous resources to support your child's learning.

Will teachers take attendance?

Yes.

Will I be properly prepared for next level?

Teachers know their students and the curriculum. As always, they will do their best to prepare their students for the next level.

What will I be learning?

Each course will focus on core, essential learning tasks required to obtain credit for the course and/or progress to the next grade level, with a particular focus on numeracy, literacy and the Core Competencies.

How do elective classes work with remote learning?

Your teacher will reach out to you to discuss how they will move forward with the course. While remote delivery of some courses may be more difficult, they can still be well delivered remotely.

Will I still receive ELL support?

Yes. Your ELL teacher(s) will reach out to you to discuss how you will be continued to be supported.

Is remote learning still going to academically prepare me for post-secondary education? Is it going to be effective?

Yes. Teachers will be focusing on the core competencies as well as core subjects for graduation. Remote learning also develops your ability to work independently as well as navigate online learning, which are critical skills for post-secondary.

How long will remote learning last?

Remote learning will last until the suspension of in-class instruction is lifted for all students or the end of June, whichever comes first.

Remote Learning for Burnaby International Students who have Returned Overseas

I have returned to my home country, can I still continue my studies in Burnaby from my home?

Yes. You are expected to continue your studies in order to obtain a final report card. Teachers are using online platforms that are not blocked by firewalls, though you may have issues in accessing some links posted in your classroom. As teachers are aware that you may face firewall challenges as well as time differences, they will work with you to overcome these challenges.

What if I have not heard from teachers?

Please contact the international education office at international@burnabyschools.ca or your secondary school's International Student Assistant.

I'm still living in Burnaby, but am considering returning home. Can I return home?

Before making such a decision, we recommend you speak to your secondary school's International Student Assistant, and in elementary, with the school principal.

I do not have my textbooks with me. What can I do?

You do not need your textbooks. Materials will be provided by your teacher. Please contact your secondary school's International Student Assistant with regards to mailing your textbooks back to your school.

I'm a grade 12 student who has returned home and have not completed my Numeracy Assessment and/or CLC requirements. What can I do?

We are still awaiting confirmation from the Ministry of Education in relation to Numeracy Assessment options.

CLC teachers are reaching out to discuss the volunteer work experience and capstone requirements. Alternative "virtual" means have been developed to ensure you can complete these requirements, even from abroad.

What happens if the suspension of in-class instruction is lifted. Do I have to return to Burnaby?

Arrangements would be made to ensure any student who has returned home and fully participated in the continued learning will receive final marks without having to return to Burnaby.

Completion, Marks, Reports, Graduation

The Ministry of Education provides regularly updated FAQs that provides more detailed answers to several of the questions below. Visit burnabyschools.ca and select the icon: **More Resources, Ministry of Education**

What if something happens and I'm not able to complete the courses? Do I have to withdraw from the program?

You will need to discuss this with your teacher and school counsellor. Your secondary schools International Student Assistant is also there to help you.

What happens if I don't participate in remote learning but intend to continue my studies in September in Burnaby?

Elementary age students will progress to the next level. For secondary students, you may need to repeat the course next school year. For secondary students, we recommend you speak with your school counsellor or International Student Assistant.

Do I need to participate in the remote learning in order to graduate?

YES. The Ministry of Education has assured that all students who were on track to graduate when the in-class instruction was suspended will graduate but this does not mean the student will graduate no matter what. You still are expected to participate in the continued learning.

Will I still get a report card in June?

Yes, if you continue your enrolment and participate in the continued learning.

How much of the continued learning will impact my final mark?

Teachers will determine a final mark for students based on work completed to date and essential learning that will occur over the coming months. Teachers will work with you to ensure the continued learning will not negatively impact your mark.

Can I improve my mark?

Yes. We recommend you speak to your teacher.

Will the courses appear as "online" on my transcript?

No.

Will the suspension of in-class instruction impact my application to post-secondary?

The Ministry of Education is working closely with the Ministry of Advanced Education so students are not negatively impacted. Questions on post-secondary requirements are to be referred to your school counsellor.

Visas, Study Permits

I have been accepted to Burnaby for September 2020. Can I still apply for my study permit?

Yes. You should apply online for an initial study permit so that you are in the queue for processing. After you apply, you may be asked to submit biometrics (photo and fingerprints), which might not be possible to do right now, but we are confident that Immigration will account for these delays and will process study permits as quickly as possible.

How can I get my biometrics?

All biometrics collection services in Canada and the US are suspended until further notice, and most, if not all, Visa Application Centres (VACs) outside of Canada are temporarily closed. The time period to provide biometrics has automatically been extended from 30 days to 90 days – you do not need to request a new Biometrics Instruction Letter. If you travel after submitting your immigration application, you can provide biometrics in any country regardless of where you applied.

My study permit will expire soon. What should I do?

You can apply to extend your study permit online as usual. You must submit your study permit extension application before your study permit expires. You will have "implied status" if you've applied for a new study permit but your old study permit expired while you are waiting for a new one. In this case, you'll be able to remain in Canada until a decision is made on your new application.

I went home at spring break. Can I return to Canada?

If you currently hold a valid study permit, or if you were approved for an initial study permit on or before March 18, 2020, you'll be able to travel to Canada by air or land and be exempt from the March 18 travel restrictions.

My initial study permit was approved after March 18, 2020. Can I enter Canada?

If your initial study permit application was approved after March 18, 2020, you are not exempt from the air travel restrictions and will **NOT** be considered essential travel to Canada. **You should not travel to Canada until further notice from the Canadian government.**

Is there a quarantine requirement for when I return to Canada?

Like all travellers to Canada, international students exempt from air travel restrictions must isolate for 14 days upon arrival in Canada. For arrivals in BC, the British Columbia (BC) government legally requires all travelers to submit a self-isolation plan. Make sure you have that ready **BEFORE** you travel back to Canada. Please ensure you follow the government rules.