



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

CAMPUS STUDENT SERVICES

Avalon College has designated staff members to assist students while attending the college. Students can seek assistance from the below individuals:

- **Campus Director:** Chintan Purohit - Oversees campus operations.
- **Senior Education Administrator:** Justyna Matracki - Assists students with academic progression and conflict resolution.
- **Education Coordinator:** Sherry Li - Assists students with program planning.
- **Student Services:** Tarang Poddar – Assists with student attendance.
- **Financial Administrator:** Sahil Gaba - Manages student accounts, billing, and payments.
- **Financial Aid Advisor:** Bella Li - Provides support for budgeting and student funding options.
- **Financial Aid Advisor:** Karamjeet Kaur - Provides support for budgeting and student funding options.
- **Career Services Coordinator:** Mehak Sakhuja - Offers resources for job-seeking and career development after graduation.

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Avalon College provides assistance and resources to international students. These include resources and information on:

- Newcomer supports and settlement services (e.g., MOSAIC, S.U.C.C.E.S.S., ISSofBC).
 - MOSAIC: <https://www.mosaicbc.org/>
 - S.U.C.C.E.S.S.: <https://successbc.ca/>
 - ISSofBC (Immigrant Services Society of BC): <https://issbc.org/>
- Community cultural services.
 - City of Vancouver Cultural Services: <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/connections-arts-and-culture.aspx>
 - City of Surrey Arts & Culture: <https://www.surrey.ca/arts-culture>
- Accommodation and transportation guidance (local transit: TransLink, student housing platforms).
 - TransLink (local transit): <https://www.translink.ca>
 - Student Housing Platforms (example Canadian College Housing): <https://canadiancollege.com/es/housing-in-vancouver>
- Banking in Canada.
 - CIBC (Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce) – Apply for FREE unlimited student banking plan here
 - Scotiabank – Apply for FREE unlimited student banking plan and earn free movies here
 - RBC (Royal Bank of Canada) – Apply for FREE student banking plan in Canada here
 - TD (Toronto Dominion) – Apply for a FREE student banking plan here Community counselling and mental health support.
- College life, expectations, and orientation.

NEWCOMER COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Avalon College actively maintains a safe campus environment. All students, faculty, and staff share responsibility for safety and are required to follow established procedures and report hazards or incidents to the appropriate campus representative.

STUDYING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Study Permit:

International students are required to apply for a study permit through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Visit: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/index.asp>



Work Permit:

International students may be eligible for part-time work during studies; post-graduation work permit (PGWP) eligibility in BC varies by institution and program. Private colleges are not generally eligible for PGWP unless specifically designated. For current work permit information, visit: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/work.asp>.

Health Care Insurance (MSP):

- All international students in BC with study permits valid for six months or longer must apply for BC's Medical Services Plan (MSP) upon arrival.
- There is a waiting period (balance of the arrival month plus two months) before MSP coverage starts; private insurance is required in the interim.
- MSP is mandatory unless formally opted out with valid reasons. For more info: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/accessing-health-care/health-fee-international-students>
- Institutions may also offer extended health and dental insurance via student unions or third-party providers (e.g., Guard.me, StudentCare).

HOUSING

International students are responsible for securing accommodations. Institutional housing may be limited; many use off-campus resources such as:

- Places4students.com- <https://www.places4students.com/>
- Canada Homestay Network - <https://canadahomestaynetwork.ca/>
- RentSeeker.ca: <https://www.rentseeker.ca/>
- University Living - <https://www.universityliving.com/>
- Arbutus Residences - <https://arbutusresidences.com/>
- GEC Living - <https://gecliving.com/>
- Airbnb - www.airbnb.com/ca
- Casita - <https://www.casita.com/>
- Nestpick - <https://www.nestpick.com/>

GETTING AROUND

Metro Vancouver's transportation network, serving residents and visitors with public transit, major roads, bridges and Trip Planning.

It is one of the easiest and convenient ways to travel and includes:

- Skytrain
- Canadaline
- Bus
- Seabus

You can find out about the options that are best for you here: <https://www.translink.ca/>

Compass Cards

Compass Cards are convenient, reloadable fare cards that can be used when taking transit within Metro Vancouver. Compass Cards can be loaded with Stored Value, or with prepaid passes (such as Monthly and DayPasses).

How Compass Card Works

- Tap your card on the reader when entering buses, HandyDART, and at the gates when entering and exiting SkyTrain stations or SeaBus terminals.
- The fare is automatically deducted from the stored value on your card.
- Monthly Pass and DayPass riders tap in to validate their prepaid journey.
- You cannot pay for two fares on the same journey with one card — each rider needs their own form of payment. You can use the Stored Value on your Compass Card to purchase a Compass Ticket for another rider at a Compass Vending Machine (CVM).



CHILDCARE

Vancouver Childcare Options

iCARE Downtown Daycare

1189 Howe St, Vancouver, BC V6Z 2X4

Website:

<https://icaredowntowndayca.wixsite.com/icare-downtown-dayca>

Woodward's YMCA Child Care Centre

111 W Hastings St, Vancouver, BC V6B 1G8

Phone: +1 604-685-8355

City Hall Child Care Society

2685 Cambie St., Vancouver, BC V5Z 4K2

Phone: +1 604-876-8918

Website: <https://www.cityhallchildcare.org/>

Water View YMCA Child Care

150 Water St #800, Vancouver, BC V6B 1B2

Phone: +1 604-939-9622

Website: <https://www.gv.ymca.ca/child-care>

Pender Street Children's Centre (VSOCC)

1140 W Pender St, Vancouver, BC V6E 2R9

Phone: +1 604-718-6555

Website: <https://vsocc.org/>

Wee Care Day Care Centre

11 W 10th Ave, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1R5

Phone: +1 604-876-3723

Website: N/A

Kids & Company Vancouver West

910 W 6th Ave, Vancouver, BC V5Z 1B2

Phone: +1 604-742-0552

Website: <https://kidsandcompany.com/locations/vancouver-west/>

First Ave Child Care

162 Walter Hardwick Ave, Vancouver, BC V5Y 0A7

Phone: +1 778-839-9999

Surrey Childcare Options

Kids & Company Surrey Professional Centre

13737 96 Ave Unit 303, Surrey, BC V3V 0C6

Phone: +1 778-293-1004

Website: <https://kidsandcompany.com/locations/surrey-professional-centre/>

Young Dreamers Childcare Centre , Surrey-BC

15749 92 Ave, Surrey, BC V4N 3C3

Phone: +1 778-881-7211

Surrey City Childcare | Trusted Licensed Daycare in Surrey

12250 100 Ave, Surrey, BC V3V 2X1

Phone: +1 778-378-5437

Junior Einsteins Academy - Preschool and Daycare in Surrey BC

10787 128 St, Surrey, BC V3T 2L1

Phone: +1 604-719-1171

Child Care Options CCRR

13583 81 Ave #101, Surrey, BC V3W 3V8

Phone: +1 604-572-8032

Website: <https://www.options.bc.ca/program/child-care-options-resource-referral/>

Bonnycastle Montessori Daycare Inc

14630 107A Ave, Surrey, BC V3R 1V1

Phone: +1 604-670-7234

Website: N/A

Central City Junior Kindergarten | Licensed Preschool & Early Learning in Surrey

14333 104 Ave, Surrey, BC V3T 0E1

Phone: +1 604-771-6825

Guildford Child Care Centre

10553 148 St, Surrey, BC V3R 3X7

Phone: +1 604-589-5437

Cyrus Childcare Centre

14672 108a Ave, Surrey, BC V3R 1W7

Phone: +1 778-956-6291

Cedar Grove Childcare Centre

10326 144 St, Surrey, BC V3T 4V3

Phone: +1 604-584-2311

Guildford Gardens Daycare

14921 107A Ave, Surrey, BC V3R 1V3

Phone: +1 604-339-7052

For local information, refer to institution website or contact International Student Services for personalized support.
