Airport arrival binder for international students

A checklist of the travel and school documents IRCC says to bring, plus a reminder to declare goods, and space to write what the officer asked and what you were given.

NAME _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTS IRCC LISTS FOR ARRIVAL

- [ ] Valid passport or travel document
- [ ] Port of entry letter of introduction from the visa office (study permit reference number)
- [ ] Copy of a valid letter of acceptance from my school
- [ ] Letters of reference or other documents the visa office told me to bring
- [ ] Valid eTA, visitor visa, official proof of U.S. status, or other valid travel document, if required
- [ ] Proof of enough money for my stay
- [ ] Valid immigration medical exam results, if I needed an exam (valid 12 months from the exam date, and still valid on the day I enter Canada)
- [ ] Asked a border services officer to stamp my passport if my school needs proof I entered Canada

DECLARATION (CBSA)

- [ ] I have listed food, plants, animals, cash and goods I am bringing
- [ ] I read the CBSA 'I Declare' guide before I travel
- [ ] I know I must make a declaration to the Canada Border Services Agency

MY TRIP

FLIGHT NUMBER AND ARRIVAL DATE _____ PORT OF ENTRY (AIRPORT OR LAND) _____

SCHOOL NAME AND CAMPUS _____ EMERGENCY CONTACT IN CANADA _____

WHAT THE OFFICER ASKED, AND WHAT I WAS GIVEN (PERMIT, STAMP, NEXT STEPS)

This is a packing and notes sheet, not advice about whether you will be allowed to enter. A border services officer decides at the port of entry. Official pages win if anything here differs.

SOURCES (CHECKED 2026-11-27)

IRCC's prepare-for-arrival page says that to enter Canada you must have a valid travel document such as a passport, the port of entry letter of introduction the visa office sent when they approved your study permit (it has your permit reference number), a copy of a valid letter of acceptance from your school, letters of reference or any other documents the visa office told you to bring, and a valid eTA, visitor visa, official proof of U.S. status or another valid travel document if required. https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/prepare-arrival.html (checked 2026-11-27)
The same IRCC page says you must have enough money for your stay, be in good health, have no criminal or immigration-related convictions, and that if you needed an immigration medical exam, the exam is valid for 12 months from the day you get it and must still be valid the day you enter Canada. https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/prepare-arrival.html (checked 2026-11-27)
IRCC says that if your school or training facility needs you to prove you entered Canada, you should make sure a border services officer stamps your passport before you leave Canadian customs, and that you may also be able to use a Primary Inspection Kiosk to stamp your passport. https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/prepare-arrival.html (checked 2026-11-27)
The Canada Border Services Agency's 'I Declare' guide covers making your declaration, including food, plants, animals and health products. https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/travel-voyage/declare-eng.html (checked 2026-11-26)