First tax return checklist for international students

What CRA says students need for a return: the deadline, the slips, the credits to look for and free help. Residency comes first; it decides how you are taxed.

NAME _____ DATE _____

BEFORE YOU START

- [ ] My residency status, from CRA's page for international students: [resident, non-resident or deemed resident]
- [ ] Date I became a resident of Canada: [date]
- [ ] My SIN: [keep it private; you need it on the return]
- [ ] CRA account set up: [yes or no]
- [ ] Living in Quebec: [yes or no] · if yes, a Revenu Québec return too

SLIPS AND RECORDS

- [ ] T4 from each employer: [list employers]
- [ ] Tuition slip from my school (the T2202 or the slip my school issues): [downloaded on date]
- [ ] Scholarship or bursary slip if I received one: [yes or no]
- [ ] Interest slips from my bank: [yes or no]
- [ ] Receipts for moving expenses if I moved for work or full-time study: [yes or no]
- [ ] World income before I became a resident: [amount and country, for the return's questions]

CREDITS CRA LISTS FOR STUDENTS

- [ ] Federal tuition amount: [eligible fees from my tuition slip]
- [ ] Interest on student loans: [only qualifying loans]
- [ ] Canada employment amount: [if I had employment income]
- [ ] Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit: considered when I file
- [ ] New resident: form RC151 to apply for the benefit before my first return: [sent on date]

FILING

- [ ] Deadline: April 30 (June 15 if self-employed) · my target date: [date]
- [ ] How I will file: [NETFILE-certified software, free tax clinic, or paper]
- [ ] Free tax clinic near me: [name, date]
- [ ] Notice of assessment received: [date] · RRSP and TFSA room noted: [yes or no]

Replace every [bracket] with your own words.

SOURCES (CHECKED 2026-11-26)

Check current details on the official page. https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/segments/students.html (checked 2026-11-26)
Check current details on the official page. https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/international-non-residents/individuals-leaving-entering-canada-non-residents/international-students-studying-cana (checked 2026-11-26)

First tax return checklist for international students (continued)

Check current details on the official page. https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/forms-publications/forms/rc151.html (checked 2026-11-26)
Check current details on the official page. https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/community-volunteer-income-tax-program.html (checked 2026-11-26)