



April 30, 2020

### **Information for International Students**

We understand that you may have a number of questions regarding your studies at CNA in response to all that is happening regarding COVID-19 (for more information on COVID-19 refer to question #7) and the closure of the college for in-person classes. We do not have all the answers right now. However, we are working to support you with the information that we currently have. You may also contact a CNA counsellor from your respective campus at [counselling@cna.nl.ca](mailto:counselling@cna.nl.ca).

**1. I am an international student and I have misplaced my contacts for questions and information with CNA. Where would I find this information?**

For information related to studying at CNA, you are asked to contact the Student Development Officer (SDO) at your campus. Student Development Officers will be able to respond to your inquiries and put you in contact with the appropriate College employee if further information is necessary. A list of the Student Development Officer's contact information can be found below.

#### **Avalon**

Carbonear – [Robyn Frampton](#)  
Placentia – [Dodie Blanche](#)  
Prince Phillip Drive – [Marlene Furlong](#), [Jennifer Burge](#)  
Ridge Road – [Sarah Briffett](#)  
Seal Cove – [Xin Tong](#)

#### **Central**

Baie Verte – [Scott Furey](#)  
Gander – [Celena Alcock](#)  
Grand Falls – Windsor – [Rob Hillier](#)

#### **Eastern**

Bonavista – [David Alcock](#)  
Burin – [Ray Baird](#)  
Clarenville – [Lauren Brake](#)

#### **Labrador**

Happy Valley – Goose Bay – [Sharon Lucci](#)  
Labrador West – [Pamela Meany-Pieroway](#)

#### **Western**

Bay St. George – [Karen Bennett](#)  
Corner Brook – [Jessica Mardel-Ferreira](#)  
Port aux Basques – [Jeff Patry](#)  
St. Anthony – [Vadney Tucker](#)



- 2. I am an international student who is planning on studying at CNA in Fall 2020. If my study permit is delayed in my home country, how will this affect my studies and who should I alert at the College of this delay?**

If your study permit from your home country is delayed, you should let International Student Coordinator, [Chanda Jordan](#) know of these delays.

- 3. My study permit will expire this September; therefore, I am wondering when I should apply for an extension?**

For information regarding eligibility, when and how to apply, required fees, and processing time, please visit the IRCC website. A link to this website can be found [here](#). It is important to visit the IRCC website frequently, as it is updated daily. For any specific questions regarding study permits, please contact Kamrul Islam at the Provincial Office of Immigration; [kamrulislam@gov.nl.ca](mailto:kamrulislam@gov.nl.ca). If you have an Immigration Consultant you can also reach out to them directly.

Furthermore, for more information on implied status for Study Permit extensions, please go [here](#).

- 4. What is CNA doing to help international students?**

CNA is focused on supporting its students' health and well-being students, particularly during this challenging time, as well as ensuring academic program continuity. Many student support services continue to be available for students if they need help. Please visit [here](#) for more assistance.

- 5. As an international student, do I qualify for Employment Insurance (EI)?**

Financial supports are currently being managed through the federal government Employment Insurance (EI) programs.

Eligibility for EI and Emergency Response Benefits and International Students:

International students who meet the eligibility criteria laid out for either of these programs, will qualify to receive these financial supports. Therefore, international students who have worked the minimum number of hours and who meet the minimum income threshold can apply to these programs. However, individuals outside of the country, including domestic students studying abroad, would not qualify for EI or the CERB.

The federal government is continuing to try to meet the needs of workers and highlights that this is a very fluid situation that will continue to evolve.

[ESDC link](#)

- 6. I previously thought that I was ineligible for the CERB, and applied for EI benefits. With recent changes I would now like to apply for the CERB. Should I cancel my application for EI?**

If you applied for EI benefits after April 15<sup>th</sup>, and are now eligible for the CERB, your application will be rolled over to the CERB. It is important to note that going forward, you should only apply



for one of the benefits and not both simultaneously. If you do receive the CERB, this amount will be considered income in the next tax year and you will have to pay income tax on it in the future, as tax is not currently being deducted from this amount. If you receive the CERB, you can expect a call from the CRA to acknowledge your receipts of these funds. Be aware of fraudulent calls and do not share personal information over the phone without confirming the true identity of the caller. The CRA will never text you about deposits about your account. If you receive these texts please ignore them.

**7. Where can I get my taxes done for free?**

First, it is important to note that 2019 Income Tax deadlines have been pushed to June 1, 2020 due to the COVID-19 situation. There are a variety of resources available to you:

- The Canadian Federation of Students gives you access to use UFile.ca. You can file your taxes via this service using the special code offer: **CFS1981**
- Please contact [Revenue Canada](#) or your personal tax advisor for additional information.

**8. Am I at risk if I travel back to my home country?**

Advising students on whether or not they can leave the country right now is difficult. It ultimately is the decision of the student involved based on the information available to them. We would suggest that you look at the current restrictions in place in your destination country, the countries that you would need to travel through, as well as the regulations of departures leaving Canada.

Some great resources to use include:

- [Transport Canada](#),
- [Global Affairs Canada](#) and
- [World Health Organization](#)

**9. Are work-term placements impacted?**

For work-terms, CNA continues to assess all relevant courses to determine options for graduation requirements. Please continue to monitor your emails, our website and social media accounts for updates regarding your work-term placements.

**10. Can I apply for additional courses now that I have free time because I am not working? Can these courses be in another stream that I am just interested in and not part of my program?**

Some students have indicated they are interested in taking on additional courses during this time of physical distancing and online learning. This may be possible; however, you should make contact with the Student Development Officer on your campus prior to making changes to your course load. For a list of Student Development Officer's contact information please refer to question number one. Consulting with the student support team prior to making a decision



regarding additional courses will ensure you make informed decision that will not impact your course of study.

**11. I am an international student who is currently completing courses online. I am wondering if I can work during this time?**

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada has announced is pleased to announce that effective immediately and until August 31, 2020, international students may work more than the 20 hours/week during their regular academic session to assist with delivering essential services or functions to protect life and property, such as the health care sector. This facilitation is available to international students who hold a valid study permit and have a valid temporary resident status. IRCC states that “International students and their employers should consult Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada’s [Guidance on Essential Services and Functions in Canada during the COVID-19 Outbreak](#) to determine if the work the student is doing would allow them to work more than 20 hours per week during the academic session.

For a link to the full article please click [here](#).

**12. How does COVID-19 affect my Post Graduate Work Permit (PGWP)?**

If the program you were enrolled in has moved online due to CNA’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, it will not impact your post-graduate work permit. The latest announcement from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), states “International students in Canada: courses of study being delivered online on an exceptional basis due to COVID-19, will NOT affect Post-Graduation Work Permit Program eligibility for a Post-Graduation Work Permit.” In addition, IRCC will also take into consideration the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic when assessing PGWP criteria. For international students who are unable to meet the “continuously full-time enrolment” requirement, IRCC will still consider these students eligible for the PGWP if they meet all other required criteria.

If you have questions surrounding post-graduate work permits, visit the IRCC website. See information here. You may also contact Kamrul Islam at the Provincial Office of Immigration; [kamrulislam@gov.nl.ca](mailto:kamrulislam@gov.nl.ca).

If you have an Immigration Consultant you can also reach out to them directly.

**13. Will graduation still be going ahead this spring? When will I receive my diploma?**

Discussions surrounding graduation and the issuing of parchments are still ongoing, and information will be communicated to all students once it is available. Please continue to monitor your emails, our website and social media accounts for updates.

**14. I finished my program last week and am wondering what date CNA is going to send out diplomas and transcripts?**



CNA currently has a committee working on a plan for graduation ceremonies. CNA acknowledges this milestone achievement in student's lives and is working to create an online graduation ceremony that celebrates these achievements. For updates regarding graduation ceremonies and the receipt of your diploma and transcript, please check the CNA website frequently for updates.

**15. Is there anywhere else on the CNA website I can access information?**

CNA's website includes information pertaining to its response to the [COVID-19 pandemic](#). Included in there is a Frequently Asked Questions section for your reference as there may be other information that pertains to you.

**16. Are there any special measures taken by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) in response to COVID-19?**

Yes. Please visit the [Coronavirus Special Measures](#) webpage for up-to-date information

**17. I have questions pertaining to my rights and responsibilities as a tenant and how they might have changed due to COVID - 19. Where can I find more information on this topic?**

For updates pertaining to the Residential Tenancies Act, Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation and Newfoundland Light and Power, please review the links listed below.

Residential Tenancies Act: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/snl/landlord/>

NL Housing Corporation (Frequently Asked Questions): <https://www.nlhc.nl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/FAQs-NLHC-Updated-Apr14-2020.pdf>

Newfoundland Light and Power re: suspension of disconnection notices:  
<https://www.newfoundlandpower.com/About/COVID-19>

**18. As an international student, am I expected to vacate residence like domestic students are being asked?**

No. At this time, we are not asking any of our international students to leave residence. We realize that right now, having a place to stay is something that you can take comfort in. In addition, as stated previously, residences with cafeteria service will remain limited operations to ensure that there is access to meals.

**19. My in-person classes have been suspended and I am not sure about my student visa?**

As College of the North Atlantic is working on plans for continuation of programming, many programs will transition to alternate delivery forms. An update is available on our website



[www.cna.nl.ca](http://www.cna.nl.ca).

If for some reason that you are unable to continue with your program due to the measures put in place regarding the COVID -19 (coronavirus), and you are worried about your current student visa and/or work visa, you may want to check with the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) on extending your student visa and work visa.

If your status has not yet expired, you can apply online to extend your stay in Canada.

As per the IRCC website:

If you are a worker or student, you have a few options.

If you're no longer working or studying, you can:

- Apply to change your status to visitor, as long as your study or work permit has not expired
- Find out [how to extend your stay in Canada as a visitor](#). For more information, see [Guide 5551 – Applying to Change Conditions or Extend Your Stay in Canada – Online application](#).

If you want to continue working or studying, you may be able to extend your [work permit](#) or [study permit](#) if you're eligible.

When you're applying, make sure you include a note explaining the reason you need to extend your stay in Canada.

**20. As a student, am I still covered by College of the North Atlantic's Health and Dental program?**

Yes. You are covered under the student health and dental plan through Greenshield as long as you are a registered student and all of your fees have been paid in full for the current semester.

If you have Foreign Health coverage by Guard Me then the following applies to you:

- All students enrolled under Guard Me are still covered while in Canada until their coverage expiry, which is August 31, 2020.
- If you require medical assistance during this time, or if you are feeling ill please contact the provinces public health line by calling 811 to receive further information on how to proceed as many medical facilities are reducing and/or eliminating walk-in clinics.

**21. I did not have the opportunity to apply for MCP access prior to COVID – 19. Can I still apply for these benefits now?**

If you did not have the opportunity to apply for MCP prior to COVID-19, you may still do so. First time applicants will need to submit their application and the required documents to be properly assessed before coverage can be granted. Individuals who are first-time MCP applicants are also asked to send their name to [Natasha Hillier](#), Student Development Officer – International. For individuals who may not have access to a fax machine or are having concerns with using public transit, please note this in your email to Natasha Hillier as well, as there may be accommodations available for submitting your MCP application.



**22. I am an international student that is worried about coverage through MCP. What can I do?**

If you have MCP, your MCP is valid for coverage in N.L. You can apply for up to six months of out of province coverage. In order to get this out of province coverage, you must apply for resident through MCP prior to travel outside the province.

**23. I am an international student that will be graduating in the spring, what should I do about post-grad work permits?**

If you are one of the many students that is supposed to graduate this spring and have questions about your post-grad work permits you can contact the Association for New Canadians at [jlander@ancnl.ca](mailto:jlander@ancnl.ca) for more information.

**24. I am worried and feeling stressed due to COVID-19 and am looking for support, where can I turn?**

If you are feeling stressed and anxious during this time, there are a number of supports available to you:

**CNA Counselling Services** – please check with your campus counsellor by email ([counselling@cna.nl.ca](mailto:counselling@cna.nl.ca)) to make an appointment to discuss your concerns. Note that these meetings may happen over the phone to limit person-to-person contact.

Also, if you are worried about your peers please check in on them by phone or text to minimize person to person contact. You may also want to keep in contact with your families from home as this may help to provide some comfort in these trying times.

CNA also encourages students to keep up to date with COVID-19, by visiting:

[Department of Health and Community Services](#)  
[Public Health Agency of Canada](#)  
[World Health Organization](#)

**25. Is there a way to stay connected with my peers outside of CNA?**

Yes. The Association for New Canadians has created a [Facebook Group](#) to connect newcomers from across the province. They will be providing relevant updates for newcomers, hosting activities, and providing information on how to access their services. [Go join now!](#)

In addition to this resource, the Association for New Canadians will be hosting weekly Digital Coffee Breaks for students. CNA staff and representatives from the ANC will be present to ask questions in a group setting. Students must [register here via prior to the event](#) in order to access. Video/audio capability is not required as students can ask questions via chat. For further updates, [please join this Facebook group!](#)



*As more information becomes available, we will be sure to update this list to ensure that it reflects the most current information.*