



SUMMER  
2023

# Georgian

Pre-departure handbook  
for international students





# You've been accepted into **GEORGIAN COLLEGE**

## Congratulations and welcome to Georgian College!

You are about to take an exciting journey to earn your certificate, diploma or degree. This international student handbook will help you feel like part of the Georgian community.

### The Segal International Centre offers a wide range of services and programs that cover:

Health insurance, study permits and visa, Georgian services and resources to help you succeed and information about the city and surrounding communities.

With the health and safety of our students and employees are foremost in our minds, the International Centre will continue to offer all services partially this semester.

### International Centre services and contact information:

To contact us regarding Immigration advising (current students only), guard.me international health insurance, international student applications, and for all other general inquiries, please [fill out the form](#) on our website.

### Program delivery information:

Please use this [search tool](#) to learn about your program delivery method for summer 2023 semester.

We hope to see you soon!

*The Georgian College Segal International Centre Team*

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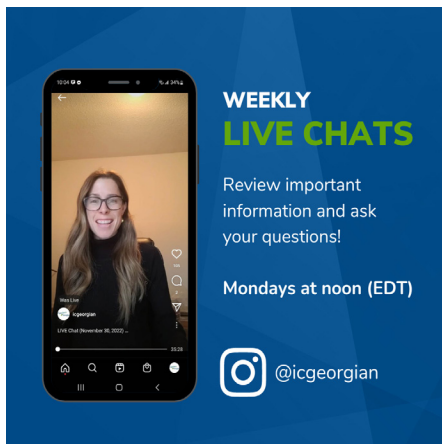
# LIVE Q&A Supports



Our International Student Ambassadors are a group of students who plan events and activities, and are here to answer your questions related to transition, arrivals, common services, and more.

The Ambassadors have been through the process coming to Canada, just like you!

Follow our social media channels to learn about our Ask Your Ambassador session times. These sessions are where you can speak with an Ambassador one-on-one to get the answers you need, when you need them.



Every Monday join us on Instagram at 12:00pm Ontario Time Zone (EDT) for a Live Chat Episode. Each weeks' topics will vary based on upcoming important dates and international student needs. (follow [@icgeorgian](https://www.instagram.com/icgeorgian))

# Important DATES

For all important dates, please visit the [Georgian College website](#).

## International information week for new students

March 13 to 17

## Head start orientation

To be announced

## Academic orientation

To be announced

## Semester begins

May 8, 2023



# Summer 2023 INFO SESSIONS

## International Information Week for summer 2023 International students

Helpful information sessions about immigration, housing, SIN application, program application, arrival process, and insurance will take place in March. Attending these sessions will help you understand the mandatory requirements when you plan to arrive and transition to Canada.

### **Welcome from International team and Community Members**

March 13, 2023 from 10 a.m. to noon (12 p.m.) EDT

### **International Student Insurance**

March 14, 2023 from 10 a.m. to noon (12 p.m.) EDT

### **Immigration and Program Application**

March 15, 2023, from 10 a.m. to noon (12 p.m.) EDT

### **Mandatory Arrival Process and housing**

March 16, 2023, from 10 a.m. to noon (12 p.m.) EDT

### **Service Canada and Cultural Tips & Tricks**

March 17, 2023, from 10 a.m. to noon (12 p.m.) EDT

*Note: To view recordings of these sessions visit the [International Information Week page on the MyGCLife student portal](#).*

## Head Start and Orientation

The First Year Experience team will email students the month of April with details about your Orientation schedule. Orientation is key to starting your semester off right and learning about student services, academic expectations, and so much more! Stay tuned to your Georgian student email.

Key events:

- Virtual Head Start
- Academic Orientation
- Grizzly Day (First day of semester) Monday, May 8

*Note: You must attend all the sessions to understand your academic requirements and meet all the expectations in order to successfully graduate.*



# Important info for students arriving in Canada for **THE SUMMER 2023 SEMESTER**

## Arrival information

All students **must** complete Georgian College's mandatory arrival form through the iCent app. (To be released in late March).

If you have any questions related to your travel please contact: [transitionsupport@georgiancollege.ca](mailto:transitionsupport@georgiancollege.ca)

Download the iCent app for more information on Georgian and your arrival process.

The promotional graphic for the iCent app includes the following elements:

- Georgian College Logo:** Located in the top left corner.
- Main Text:** "Accelerate your success with Georgian College iCent app" in green and blue.
- Download Button:** A blue button with white text that says "Download the iCent app for free".
- QR Code:** A square QR code for quick access to the app.
- Google Play Link:** A black button with the Google Play logo and text "GET IT ON Google Play".
- App Store Link:** A black button with the Apple logo and text "Download on the App Store".
- Smartphone Mockup:** A smartphone displaying the iCent app interface. The interface shows a grid of icons for various services: Welcome to Georgian, Pre-Arrival Checklist, Study Permit/Visa Status, Airport Landing, Post-Arrival Checklist, Housing, Transportation, Student Services, Health & Wellness, MyGCLife, News & Events, Safety & Security, and Contact Us.
- iCent Logo:** Located at the bottom center, with the text "Powered by: iCent".

Visit the app store to make sure you have the latest version of the app.

*Note: You MUST complete the form on the app so you will receive the appropriate supports.*

# Registration INFORMATION

## Register for your courses

Full-time registration for courses starts on April 4, 2023

To be eligible to register for courses, the following conditions must be met:

- You are admitted into a program (final or conditional);
- Full semester fees are paid; and
- Proof of your approved study permit

*Note: For most summer 2023 applicants, it is strongly recommended that full semester fees are paid and student visa proof or POE letter is uploaded on IAS portal by March 15, 2023. If an agent submitted the application on your behalf, they will also be required to complete this step.*

## Work permit for work related-studies

If you are in a program with a work component (co-op, field placement, field training, industry placement, practicum, clinical placement, practical experience or internship, paid or unpaid), you are required to have a co-op work permit before starting the work term. You should apply for this with your study permit.

You will have received a co-op supporting letter along with your acceptance letter that you can use to apply for the co-op work permit along with the study permit.

The conditions allowing you to work off-campus attached to a study permit are NOT interchangeable with the requirement to fulfill a work placement related to your studies. You need a separate co-op work permit for completing your work term.

## Register for your courses

Once you have confirmed you have an approved study visa, and paid your fees in full, you will be able to pick your courses. Please check your [Banner account](#) for your program specific registration start date.

The Office of the Registrar has online resources to show you how to register for classes, change your courses (add/drop), view your account details, find your timetables, and receive an introduction to MyPath! Go to the [Register for Courses](#) page for full details.



# FORMS AND PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS

## Health and Wellness, Community Safety and Human Services programs

Many programs, particularly in Health and Wellness, Community Safety, and Human Services include placements that require immunization or criminal record checks among other possible requirements. These requirements must be met before your placement starts. It is your responsibility to ensure you are eligible to participate. Click on the 'Placement requirement forms' tab at [GeorgianCollege.ca/admissions/forms](https://GeorgianCollege.ca/admissions/forms) to see if your program has requirements you need to meet before the term starts. If you have questions, find your program co-ordinator's contact information at [GeorgianCollege.ca/full-time-programs](https://GeorgianCollege.ca/full-time-programs).

Placements require TB clearance; if you have a positive TB test (either from the 1 step or the 2 step), then a chest X-ray is also required.

The college assumes no responsibility on these matters and students should be aware we are unable to refund tuition fees in the event access to a placement is denied.

### Programs include:

- Acupuncture
- Acute Complex Care For Internationally Educated Nurses
- Addictions: Treatment And Prevention
- Bachelor Of Science In Nursing (BSCN)
- Child And Youth Care
- Communicative Disorders Assistant
- Dental Assisting/Dental Hygiene
- Denturism
- Developmental Services Worker
- Early Childhood Education
- Esthetician
- Massage Therapy
- Medical Skin Care Therapies
- Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant
- Personal Support Worker
- Pharmacy Technician
- Practical Nursing
- Social Service Worker
- Therapeutic Recreation

# Georgian ONECARD

ONEcard is the official Georgian identification card.

Features extend far beyond a simple ID – it's your student card, bus pass (for Barrie students only), library card, athletic centre card, and a convenient payment for select vendors on-campus and off-campus – all in one!

- Your student card is your ONEcard.
- Use ONEcard at participating locations to purchase food and beverages and make purchases at Georgian Stores.
- Students or supporters can add funds and track spending 24/7 from anywhere around the world.
- No transaction or monthly fees.
- If a card is lost or stolen, students can deactivate their card at any time to protect their balance.
- ONEcard offers the opportunity to help students plan and budgeting and keeps track of all their spending from textbooks and coffee, to lunches and snacks.
- Avoid carrying bulky cash and coins, and leave your credit cards at home – just swipe and go!
- Add additional money to your account as you go – online or at most major banks.
- Submit your own ONEcard photo
- For eligible students, the universal bus pass will activate 24 hours after you receive your ONEcard. This allows you unlimited use of the Barrie City Transit while you are a full-time student (Barrie Campus students only).

Your ONEcard has a flex dollar account which operates on a declining balance system. Every time a purchase is made, the amount is subtracted from your balance, which you can easily track.

For more information on ONEcard, please visit the [Georgian College website](#).



# As an international student enrolled in a postsecondary program at Georgian College you have:

insurance coverage from **guard.me**

and a

health and dental plan from **GCSA/mystudentplan**

**guard.me**<sup>®</sup>  
International Insurance  
insurance coverage

*This insurance coverage is for emergency health conditions and anything new (flu, sore throat, rash, etc.) that starts after your insurance coverage begins (the plan does not cover pre-existing conditions).*

Hospital and walk-in clinic visits  
Prescription drugs  
X-rays and lab testing  
Physician/surgeon  
Psychiatric hospitalization  
Psychotherapy  
Eye exams  
Paramedic services  
Physiotherapy/speech therapy  
Private nursing  
Ambulance  
Dental - accidental injury and emergency  
Accessibility  
Immunization  
Maternity  
Air evacuation/return home  
Trauma counselling

You also have the option of purchasing insurance for your dependents.

Your coverage starts on September 1, 2021

*If you arrive before the insurance start date we suggest you purchase additional coverage.*

For details visit  
**guard.me/georgian**

**GCSA**  
GEORGIAN COLLEGE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

health and dental plan

*This health and dental plan is for most non-emergency health and dental needs (dental check-up, physiotherapy, massage therapy, etc.).*

## Health

Physiotherapist	Chiropractor
Speech therapist	Vision
Naturopath	Orthopedics
Psychologist	Social worker
Registered massage	Athletic therapist

(above services require a doctor's note)

## Dental

Annual exams	Recall exams
Diagnostic	Preventative
Minor restorative	Extractions
Oral surgery	Endodontic
Periodontic	Major restorative

*EAP students do not have this coverage.*

You also have the option of purchasing health and dental coverage for your dependents.

Your coverage starts on September 1, 2021

For details visit  
**mystudentplan.ca/georgian**



# Information about **HOUSING**

## 1 Looking for a place to live in Canada

Finding a place to live in Canada can be time consuming, it is recommended that students begin looking for/securing a unit before arriving in Canada. For extensive information to assist you with finding your home away from home visit the [housing page](#) on our website.

When looking for places to live, students have good luck with some of the below suggestions.

- [On-campus residence](#)
- [Places4Students](#) (Georgian College has partnered with Places4Students, a company that specializes in providing off-campus housing solutions to postsecondary students. )
- [Kijiji](#)
- Facebook Marketplace
- Facebook Groups
- Other Georgian students

Please note that Georgian College has not verified and is not responsible for the accuracy of the information listed, or for any liability of any kind relating to or arising out of the information or any use of the information.



# HOUSING

## 2 Cost of living in Canada

### Room rental

The cost is for a bedroom. Access to a shared kitchen/ bathroom/shared living space. Average price: \$650 to \$1,200 per month, per room.

### One bedroom apartment rental

One bedroom apartments consist of a living room/bathroom bedroom and kitchen  
Average price: \$1,600 to \$1,800 per month for a one-bedroom apartment.

### House rental

Independent units with multiple bedrooms to accommodate roommates.  
Average price: \$2,000 to \$3,500 per month for a three-bedroom house rental.

### Homestay

[canadahomestaynetwork.ca/georgian-college](http://canadahomestaynetwork.ca/georgian-college)  
[simcoeinfo@canadahomestaynetwork.ca](mailto:simcoeinfo@canadahomestaynetwork.ca)





### 3 Utilities

Sometimes leases do not have utilities included and the tenant is responsible for them. Utilities are heat, hydro, water and gas. The cost of these utilities depends on your usage, and the size/age of your home. Before signing your lease, you are within your rights to ask the landlord for an average of what monthly utility bills might look like or alternatively contact the utility provider for a more accurate monthly average. Be mindful, internet/wifi is not usually considered a utility in Ontario and if you are signing a lease that is inclusive of utilities, ask your landlord directly if this includes internet. If it does not, you will then need to account for this expense into your monthly budget.

### 4 Standard leases

It is legal in Ontario to sign a Standardized Lease. The Government of Ontario has set out rules and regulations about what can and cannot be in a lease. [ontario.ca/page/guide-ontarios-standard-lease](https://www.ontario.ca/page/guide-ontarios-standard-lease)





## 5 Rental scams and what to look out for

Here are some items to keep in mind when searching for housing:

- Rentals that seem too good to be true.
- Rental advertisements that don't show pictures of the property.
- Multiple advertisements that have the same photos.
- The landlord asks you to send the money as deposit to secure the unit without showing you the pictures.
- The scammer shows you a picture of a rental but has you sign a rental agreement for a different location.

*Note: Please review other types of scams (outside of housing) to watch out for. For further detailed information on common types of scams visit the [student portal](#).*

# Bring proof of **IMMUNIZATION RECORDS**

## We recommend all students bring a current immunization record

In case you get sick while in Canada, it is highly recommended that you bring an updated immunization record signed by a doctor and officially translated into English. Immunization records must mention the following:

- Generic type of the vaccine (e.g. Diphtheria); not just a product or a brand name of the vaccine – if possible, include dosage details and manufacturing lot number of vaccine
- Date when the vaccine was taken, including day, month and year
- Full name of the doctor who administered the vaccine – MUST also include any license or registration number of the doctor
- Complete address of the doctor's clinic and contact details (address of the clinic or hospital, landline phone number and/or cell phone number)

It is OK if you have separate vaccination records from different doctors. Bring all records of every vaccine you have taken. Records for vaccines listed below are highly recommended. Check with your doctor if you need to update any vaccine or take a booster:

- Tetanus
- Diphtheria
- Polio
- Hepatitis B
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella (known by its abbreviation of MMR)
- Varicella (for Chicken Pox)
- Any other vaccine you may have (e.g. BCG, Yellow Fever, Smallpox, etc.)

# Time to **START PACKING**

## Things to consider before you pack:

- Verify your luggage restrictions with your airline
- Check which items Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) **does not** permit through Customs; such as firearms, pets, plants, fresh fruits and vegetables, meat and meat products
- Do not pack any money or valuable items in your checked luggage
- Pack two sets of clothing in your hand luggage in case your flight is delayed or if your luggage gets lost in transit.
- Don't forget to pack your laptop and phone adapters and voltage converters

In Canada the power plugs and sockets are type A and B (see below). The standard voltage is 120 V and the standard frequency is 60 Hz. If you are bringing any electronics with you, you probably need a voltage converter (or your electronics will break), so you should consider a combined power plug adapter/voltage converter.



TYPE A



TYPE B

## Documents to bring

You will need to bring the following documents into Canada with you, but DO NOT keep them in your checked luggage as you travel.

- Final official Georgian College Letter of Acceptance
- Enrollment letter from the college (for registered students only) can be requested on the [student portal](#)
- Official academic transcripts and degree certificates
- English language test scores
- International driver's licence or driver's licence from your home country
- Driving history (if you plan to buy a car in Canada)
- Immunization records (see page 14 for details)
- Student visa approval letter also called Point of Entry (POE) letter
- Passport
- Addresses and contact info for accommodations in Canada

*Note: All documents in your native tongue should be translated into English.*





## What to bring to stay healthy during your travels to Canada

1. Masks (optional)
2. Gloves
3. Vaccination records
4. ArriveCAN documents (no longer mandatory but strongly encouraged)
5. Small sanitizers
6. Travel credit card
7. Tooth brush
8. Some protein bars in checked in luggage

## What kind of clothes should I bring?

Bring whatever clothing you like in the style you are used to wearing – there is no dress code at Georgian College. Students usually dress casually in comfortable and practical clothes. You may want to bring a formal outfit for interviews. The weather in Canada varies from season to season. Although classrooms are heated in the winter and air-conditioned in the summer, we recommend you bring different types of clothing to suit the changing climate.

- Light-weight clothing is best for spring and summer
- Sweaters and light waterproof jackets are useful for cool and rainy days in the spring and fall
- Heavy jackets, scarves, gloves, hats and waterproof boots are essential for winter

## What should I wear in the winter?

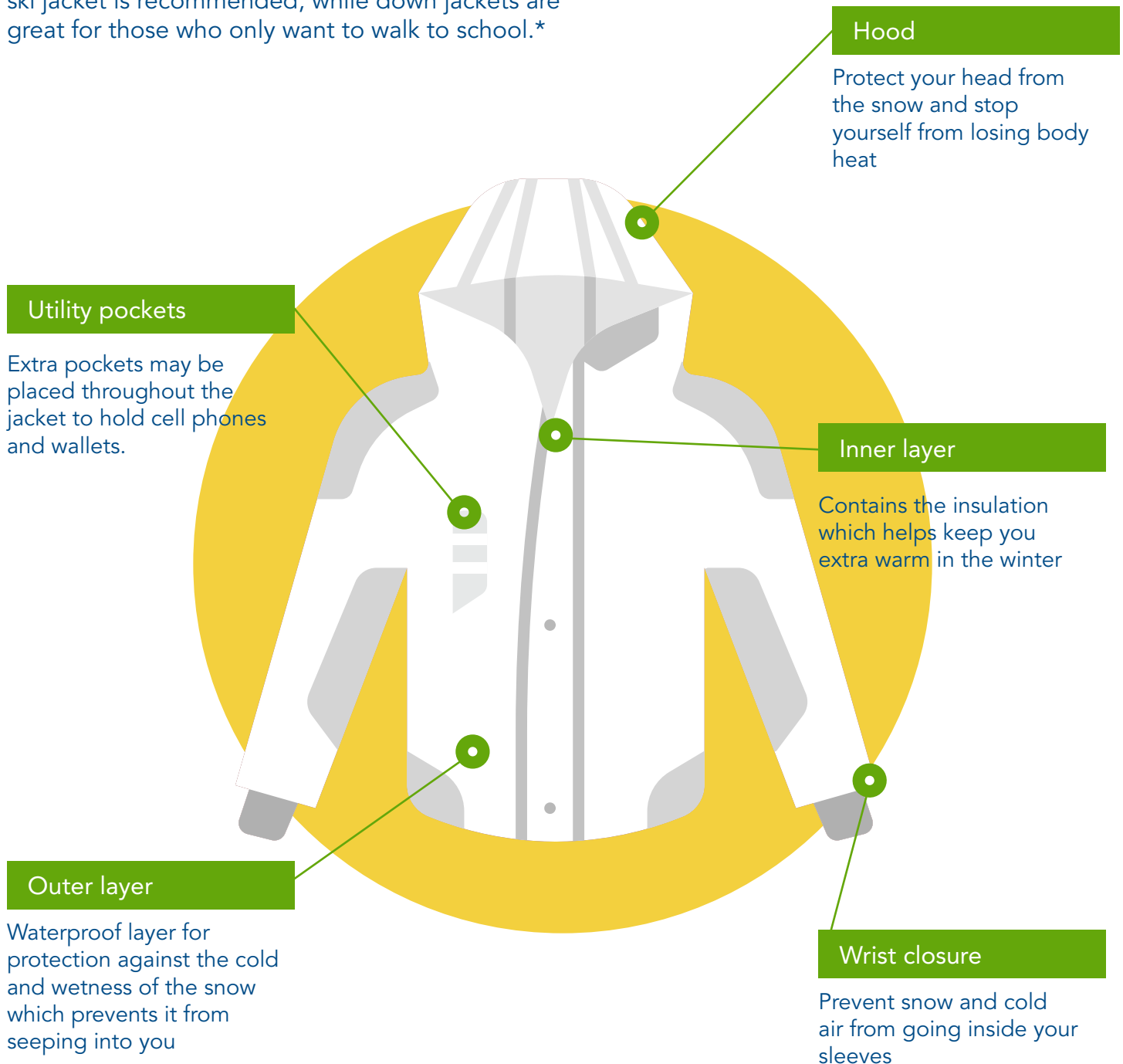
If you are coming to Canada from a warm climate, especially if you are arriving in the winter (December to March), be sure to bring warm clothing. You may find it less expensive to purchase additional winter clothing in Canada. Most students dress in layers as it may be cold outside, but warmer inside, including in your home, the college and stores.

## Can I buy everything when I get there?

Yes! We recommend you buy bulkier or heavier items once you have arrived, especially if you have a luggage allowance. Everything you may need is available locally in each campus community.

# Selecting a winter jacket

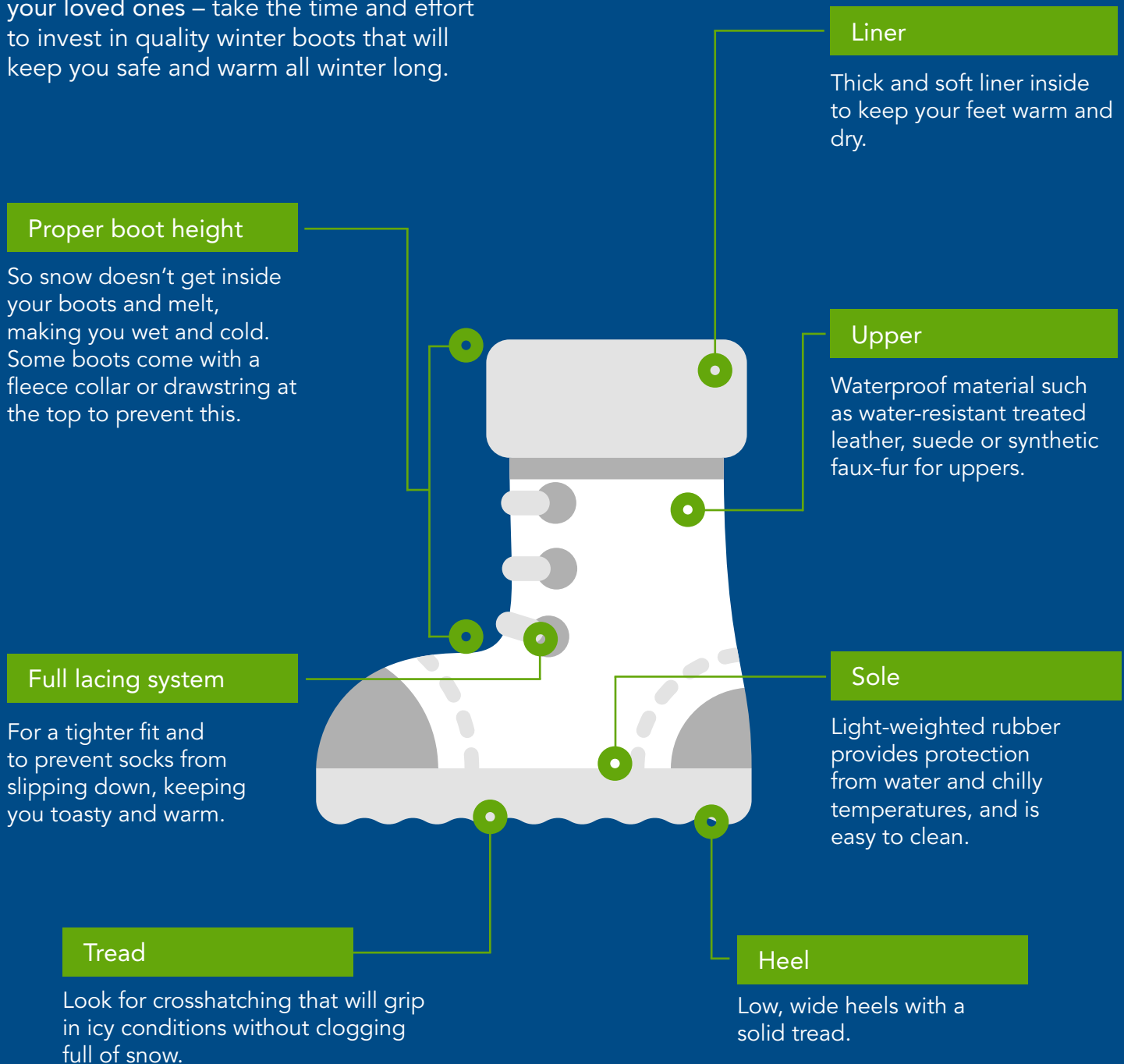
Depending on how active you are in the winter time, you may need a different type of winter jacket. If you are a more active person in the winter then a ski jacket is recommended, while down jackets are great for those who only want to walk to school.\*



*\*Not sure what you are looking for? Ask a sales associate at the store you are in. They are there to help you.*

# Looking for winter boots

Your safety in winter conditions is an investment in the health and well-being of you and your loved ones – take the time and effort to invest in quality winter boots that will keep you safe and warm all winter long.



*This winter, stay safe on driveways, parking lots, and walkways.  
Protect yourself from slips and falls by wearing sturdy footwear made for Canadian winters.*



# Additional INFORMATION

## Drinking water

Ontario has set up an award-winning drinking water safety net to ensure water quality.

Protecting water at its source is a crucial first step in Ontario's approach to delivering safe drinking water. When you turn on your tap, you can be confident your drinking water is among the best protected in the world. This means you can feel free to drink water from the tap in your home or anywhere else in Canada.

## Mobile phones

You can bring your mobile phone to Canada and purchase a sim card here. There are several different mobile phone providers all over town (and even at the airport) where you can get a sim card and, if you need it, a cell phone. Some of the more well known companies include Rogers, Bell, Telus, Fido and Virgin Mobile.

If you are planning to bring your current mobile phone with you, you will want to make sure it will work with the Canadian mobile phone networks. To check if it will work here follow these steps:

1. Visit <https://willmyphonework.net>
2. Select your phone brand and model
3. Under country select 'Canada'
4. Under carriers you can check any of the big carriers (Rogers, Bell, Telus, Fido and Virgin Mobile)
5. Click 'Search'

Underneath it will show you which networks your phone may work with.

Canada is well known for having free Wi-Fi in many stores and businesses including all Georgian College campuses. Wherever there is free Wi-Fi you can use the data features on your smartphone for free without using data (as long as you are connected to the Wi-Fi). There are many restaurants, coffee shops and other stores that also offer free Wi-Fi. Some landlords also include Wi-Fi in the rental fees.

## Budgeting for students

Learning how to budget your money each month so you have enough to live on is important for any student. Georgian offers a few tips on how to get started: [GeorgianCollege.ca/finance-and-fees/budgeting-tips-tricks](https://GeorgianCollege.ca/finance-and-fees/budgeting-tips-tricks)  
To search for awards and scholarships please visit [GeorgianCollege.ca/awards](https://GeorgianCollege.ca/awards).

## Learn about Canadian money

You don't need Canadian cash on-hand but it might be helpful in case you have problems with your bank cards. Learn about Canadian money here: [cic.gc.ca/english/newcomers/after-money.asp](https://cic.gc.ca/english/newcomers/after-money.asp)

# Campus ADDRESSES

## Barrie

One Georgian Dr., Barrie ON L4M 3X9  
[inquire@georgiancollege.ca](mailto:inquire@georgiancollege.ca)

## Midland

649 Prospect Blvd., Midland ON L4R 4K6  
[midland@georgiancollege.ca](mailto:midland@georgiancollege.ca)

## Muskoka

111 Wellington St., Bracebridge ON P1L 1E2  
[muskoka@georgiancollege.ca](mailto:muskoka@georgiancollege.ca)

## Orangeville

22 Centennial Rd., Orangeville ON L9W 1P8  
[orangeville@georgiancollege.ca](mailto:orangeville@georgiancollege.ca)

## Orillia

825 Memorial Ave., Orillia ON L3V 6S2  
[orillia@georgiancollege.ca](mailto:orillia@georgiancollege.ca)

## Owen Sound

1450 8th St. E., Owen Sound ON N4K 5R4  
[owensound.inquire@georgiancollege.ca](mailto:owensound.inquire@georgiancollege.ca)

## South Georgian Bay

499 Raglan St., Collingwood ON L9Y 3Z1  
[southgeorgianbay@georgiancollege.ca](mailto:southgeorgianbay@georgiancollege.ca)



BARRIE



ORANGEVILLE



ORILLIA



OWEN SOUND



SOUTH GEORGIAN BAY



## Questions or concerns?

Please fill out the form on our [contact page](#)

## Stay up-to-date online

The easiest way to stay up-to-date is through Facebook. We post regular updates on everything that is happening at Georgian College that applies to international students. We also post to Twitter and Instagram.

 [facebook.com/ICGeorgian](https://facebook.com/ICGeorgian)

 [twitter.com/ICGeorgian](https://twitter.com/ICGeorgian)

 [instagram.com/ICGeorgian](https://instagram.com/ICGeorgian)

## Connect with your future classmates

Join the facebook group 'Georgian College International Centre Student Connection' to connect with current and future students: [facebook.com/groups/ICGeorgian](https://facebook.com/groups/ICGeorgian)

## Download our app

Download the new iCent app for more information on Georgian and your arrival.

