
Apartments are normally supplied with a refrigerator and stove. Rent generally includes the cost of heating, and in some cases, electricity. It is often necessary to sign a lease for a year or more when renting an apartment, and landlords require one month's rent in advance or a deposit against damage and other liabilities, which will usually be returned when the tenant leaves the apartment. A lease should be read carefully and advice should be sought from the foreign-student adviser or student personnel officer at the university before it is signed.

Students may encounter some difficulty, on occasion, in obtaining accommodation. In every country there can be found individuals who practise discrimination based on religion, race, language, money or education. If an overseas student has the misfortune to encounter any form of discrimination in Canada, it should be reported to the university authorities.

Social life

At most Canadian universities, students elect a council, which is their administrative government or student union and is in charge of a wide range of social and recreational activities. All students are members of the student union, to which a fee is paid at the time of registration. Numerous social, intellectual, political, religious and literary clubs are found on the campus. Sports generally include football (North American style), soccer, ice-hockey, skiing, swimming and basketball.

At many universities there are clubs for students from individual countries as well as foreign-student organizations attracting a general membership. These provide an excellent opportunity for students to meet their fellow-countrymen, other overseas students and Canadian students. Canadian students are not always ready to take the initiative in getting to know students from other countries. You should not, therefore, have any reservations about making the first move. Many overseas students meet Canadians through fellow-students and faculty members. At times, special programs of activities are held with the purpose of bringing together overseas students and Canadians. Overseas students are advised, if possible, to bring a few items from home that will be of interest to Canadian friends, such as maps, pictures, musical instruments, recordings, handicrafts and national dress.