

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE FACT SHEET 2025/2026

Laurier is a mid-size university that offers big opportunities with a small community feel. In our campus communities, the communities we live, learn and work in, and our global community, Laurier builds meaningful connections that have a lasting impact. Laurier is a community that inspires a world of difference.



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WATERLOO

Our Waterloo campus is located in the thriving, culturally diverse community of Kitchener-Waterloo (K-W), which is one hour west of Toronto. This city offers plenty of hiking trails, golf courses, skating rinks, soccer fields and even a ski hill. With a population of about 356,000, K-W is small enough to be safe and easy to get around, yet big enough to provide great restaurants, shopping and entertainment.

The recent addition of the ION, K-W's new light rail transit system, as well as the Drop Mobility bike-share program make it even easier to get around the city and engage with the community.

Courses available at Waterloo in the following faculties:

Faculty of Arts
Faculty of Music
Faculty of Science
Lazaridis School of Business and Economics

BRANTFORD

Our Brantford campus is rooted in the downtown core, offering students a unique campus life experience. Brantford is approximately a one-hour drive from Toronto. The city has a population of over 97,000 and has a small-town feel with big-city amenities. A healthy arts and culture scene, a world-class trails system and many festivals and events make Brantford a vibrant place to call home.

One of the newest additions to the Brantford campus is the Laurier Brantford YMCA. The new facility features a variety of athletic and recreation amenities including an aquatics centre, a state-of-the-art fitness centre, studios for group fitness classes, gymnasiums and more. And best of all, membership is included with your student fees!

Courses available at Brantford in the following faculties:

Faculty of Human & Social Sciences
Faculty of Liberal Arts
Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work
Lazaridis School of Business and Economics

YOU CAN ACCESS MORE INFORMATION BY CLICKING ON THE [LINKS](#) THROUGHOUT THE FACT SHEET.

ACADEMICS

Laurier can accept undergraduate students. Graduate students may apply but will only be accepted as undergraduate students and to register only in undergraduate courses.

Students must be registered as full-time students when studying at Laurier. For undergraduate students, a full-time course load is four courses (2.0 credits).

Students are permitted to take courses across faculties (e.g. a Business student can take a course from the Faculty of Arts), provided they have permission to do so from their home institution.

Students can take courses at the Waterloo or Brantford campus, but not both, as the campuses are too far apart.

CHOOSING COURSES

The maximum number of courses that students can take at Laurier is five courses (2.5 credits). As a guideline, 0.5 WLU credits (one course) is equal to 6 ECTS. Courses offered through the Centre for Online Learning are not available to exchange students.

Students will need to [choose their courses](#) when they submit their application, and can view [course descriptions](#) and [course schedules](#) before selecting. Students are asked to provide their top five course choices, as well as secondary choices. When noting secondary choices, students should choose different courses and not simply list additional sections of their top choices.

Laurier International will work to register the student in their top choices, but there is no guarantee courses will be available. For example, there may be no space left in the class or the student might not have the required pre-requisite knowledge. Before submitting their choices, students should verify there are no time conflicts by using the [Visual Schedule Builder](#).

Please note that exam retakes are not allowed.



GRADING

Students should familiarize themselves with Laurier's grading system for [undergraduate students](#).

TRANSCRIPTS

One official transcript will be sent to the partner university after the study period has ended.

Additional transcripts can be ordered online from Service Laurier, for a fee, at wlu.ca/transcripts. Transcripts for Fall term students will be mailed by the end of February, and transcripts for Winter term and full-year students will be mailed by the end of June.

Laurier will not release the transcript to the partner university if the student has outstanding debts to Laurier.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR AND DATES

The academic calendar for 2025/26 will be available online in mid-March, allowing you to view specific date information.

View the academic calendars at wlu.ca/calendars.

	FALL SEMESTER	WINTER SEMESTER
Orientation >	Early September, before classes begin	Early January, before classes begin
Beginning of Classes >	Early September	Early January
Study Break >	Mid-October	Mid-February
End of Classes >	Early December	Early April
Exam Period >	Month of December	Month of April

** Students are advised not to make travel commitments during the final exam period before confirming their exam schedule. Exams will not be rearranged. Students must be present at Laurier for exams and cannot write their Laurier exams at their home institution.*

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The first step is for exchange coordinators at the home institution (not students) to complete the online nomination form found at wlu.ca/exchange.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Partners can nominate exchange students to Laurier at anytime. To provide the best service to students who must apply for a visa to study in Canada, Laurier has the following nomination and application processing dates:

FOR STUDENTS STUDYING FALL (SEPT-DEC) 2025 AND WINTER (JAN-APR) 2026

Nominations received by February 28 2025:

Students invited to apply March 1 to 15, 2025
Accepted applicants will receive their Letter of Acceptance by March 31

Nominations received by March 31 2025:

Students invited to apply April 1 to 15, 2025
Accepted applicants will receive their Letter of Acceptance by April 30

Nominations received by April 30 2025:

Students invited to apply May 1 to 15, 2025
Accepted applicants will receive their Letter of Acceptance by May 31

FOR STUDENTS STUDYING ONLY WINTER (JAN-APR) 2026

Nominations received by September 30 2025:

Students invited to apply October 1 to 15, 2025
Accepted applicants will receive their Letter of Acceptance by October 31

English Language Requirements: All incoming exchange students must have sufficient English language skills to be successful in their program of study. While we do not require exchange students to submit a certificate or other proof to Laurier International, we do rely on our partner universities to nominate students with sufficient English skills.

As a guideline, please ensure students requesting admission at the undergraduate level have reached the following minimum requirements:

CAEL: overall score of 70 or higher, with each band at 60 or higher

IELTS: academic score of 6.5 or higher with a minimum of 6.0 in each band

TOEFL: Internet-based testing: overall score of 83 or higher with a minimum score of 20 in each component. Paper-based testing: overall score of 560 or higher.



STUDENT FEES

Student fees are invoiced prior to a student's arrival and payment can be made online through [CIBC International Student Pay](#). The fees listed below are approximate and subject to change. All fees are listed in Canadian dollars.

1. Universal Health Insurance Plan (UHIP)

\$252/term

[UHIP](#) is a mandatory charge for all students and a student is automatically enrolled prior to arrival. UHIP provides coverage for basic medical services and treatments a student might need to maintain good health while living in Canada.

If a student has existing coverage through one of a very few pre-approved plans, they may be exempt from this insurance. Every student will need to pay upfront and then apply to be reimbursed.

2. Supplementary Health & Dental Plan

These plans are mandatory for students who do not have existing equivalent coverage. If you wish to opt out of these plans, you will need to provide sufficient documentation of existing coverage.

Undergraduate Students

\$360/term

The [Student VIP](#) coverage plan includes drug coverage, extended health coverage, vision coverage, dental coverage, travel coverage and accident coverage.

Students studying at Laurier for the fall term or the full year are automatically enrolled in this plan prior to arrival. Any student with existing coverage that is equivalent to this plan will have the option to opt out.

Students studying at Laurier in the winter term have the option to opt in to this plan, if they do not have existing equivalent coverage. If a student plans to travel outside of Canada while studying at Laurier, we highly recommend this plan, as it has travel coverage.

3. Bus Pass

This fee applies to both undergraduate and graduate students and is mandatory; students are not able to opt out. Your OneCard, which you will get when you arrive on campus, is also your bus pass.

Waterloo Students

\$115/term

This pass gives students unlimited access to the local transit system, Grand River Transit.

Brantford Students

\$53/term

This pass gives students unlimited access to the Brantford City Transit system.

4. Additional Estimates Expenses

Accommodation	\$800-\$1400/month
Food	\$350-\$600/month
Phone/TV/Internet	\$70-\$250/month
Textbooks	\$500+/term
Optional exchange student activities	\$400/term
Transportation from the airport (one-way)	\$150 (but will vary based on transportation option)

Other expenses to consider include appropriate clothing for weather; household supplies, leisure and entertainment, and travel. Additional expenses will vary, depending on the student.

HOUSING/ACCOMMODATIONS

The [Department of Residence](#) has a limited supply of rooms in university residences available for exchange students. Demand for rooms is much greater than supply, particularly for students studying in the fall semester.

Residence is designed to meet the needs of first-year students and includes a mandatory meal plan, so many exchange students prefer to seek [off-campus housing](#), which is available through private rentals. An off-campus option that is popular with exchange students are the Ezra-Bricker apartments in Waterloo. Information about both options is sent to students once they have been accepted to study at Laurier.



STUDENT SERVICES

[Laurier International](#) offers services to all international students to support their transition and academic success at Laurier. Student advising is accessible to students throughout the term.

Orientation days are scheduled prior to the start of classes in September and January. Attendance is mandatory.

Exchange students will be paired with a Global Engagement Student Ambassador (GESA) before their arrival. GESAs are Laurier students who volunteer their time to help support exchange students through their transition to Laurier and Canada.

Special events and activities are scheduled throughout the term for exchange students, including a camping trip, trips to sporting events, local farmers' markets and other off-campus festivals and outings.

Students are invited to take part in our [Intercultural Certificate](#), which is offered to students each term.

Laurier International encourages all students to represent their home institution at International Education Week, which occurs each year in November. The fair promotes all of our exchange partnerships, as well as international field courses and international at home activities. Please ask your students to bring materials to promote their school and country.

Exchange students have access to all the services offered on campus, including the library, Athletic Centre, pool, Centre for Student Success, Student Wellness Centre, Career Centre, student clubs, Centre for Student Life and Engagement, and many more.

Student wellness is a priority at Laurier and our goal is to provide students with seamless, coordinated care and collaborative services at our [Student Wellness Centres](#) on each campus. Students may access a number of wellness professionals in order to enhance their health and well-being while at Laurier. These professionals may include doctors, social workers or counsellors, registered nurses, chiropractors, registered massage therapists and psychiatrists.

Accessibility learning is available to students who have a permanent or temporary disability. This includes undergraduate and graduate students and is provided through the [Accessible Learning Centre](#).

Students with an Integrated Education Plan or requiring any accommodation, need to contact [Accessible Learning](#) at least one month prior to their arrival on campus.

IMMIGRATION INFORMATION

The Government of Canada regulates international study permits and visas through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. Students can find information by getting in touch with the Canadian consular office or the [Visa application centre \(VAC\)](#) near them before arrival in Canada.

Study permits: All international exchange students studying in Canada must have a valid study permit, except in cases where the duration of the program of study is six months or less. However, we strongly encourage all exchange students to apply for a study permit (even if the duration of study is less than six months) since it is not possible to apply for an initial study permit from within Canada. In addition, full-time international exchange students who hold a valid study permit may take a part-time job on campus while they are registered students. International exchange students who do not hold a valid study permit are not eligible to work in Canada at all.

Temporary Resident Visas (TRV): Citizens of certain countries require a Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) to enter Canada. A TRV is not the same as a study permit. A TRV gives the student permission to enter Canada, whereas a study permit gives permission to study in Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada provides a list of countries that require a TRV. TRVs cannot be issued within Canada. They are available [online](#) or at a Canadian Embassy, Consulate, or High Commission outside of Canada. Students must apply for a TRV, if required, before entering Canada.

Citizens from [these countries](#) are exempt from obtaining a visitor visa if they are studying for up to six months in Canada, but still require an electronic travel authorization for entering Canada.

Electronic Travel Authorization: Starting March 15, 2016, visa-exempt foreign nationals who fly to or transit through Canada will need an electronic Travel Authorization (eTA). Exceptions include U.S. citizens and foreign nationals with a valid visa. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada can confirm if a student needs an eTA.

We look forward to welcoming you to Laurier!

