



## Get your B.C. Identification

**A Disclaimer: Vancouver School of Theology takes no responsibility of the information we enter into**

Once you arrive in British Columbia, you will need to get identification.

**A Social Insurance Number (SIN)** is a nine-digit number issued by the Government of Canada. You will need a SIN to work in Canada. You also need a SIN to use government programs and benefits. Please check the website of the Government of Canada to [learn how to apply for your SIN](#) and what documents you will need to apply. You can apply online, by mail or request an in-person appointment at a [Service Canada Office](#). **You can only get your SIN after you've arrived in Canada since you first need to get your study permit at the airport or border crossing before you can apply. It's very important to follow a few steps to make sure your study permit allows you to work in Canada and to get a SIN. International students get a SIN starting with the number "9,"** which lets employers know that you are a temporary resident in Canada. Your SIN will remain the same unless you become a permanent resident, in which case you can apply for a new SIN which doesn't start with the number '9.'

**A [BCID](#) is British Columbia Identification Card.** Get a BCID card to avoid carrying your passport for identification. You need to pay \$35 to get your original BC ID which is valid for 5 years.

**A B.C. driver's license** is issued by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia. You must have a valid driver's license to drive in B.C. See [the Driving in B.C. section](#) for more information.

## A BC Services Card

### What is a BC Services Card?

[A BC Services Card](#) is a government-issued ID. You can use it at places that ask for photo ID to verify your identity or age. For example, when opening a bank account. International students are temporary residents, so a **[non-photo BC Service Card](#)** will be issued. You can also use your BC Services Card to access publicly funded health services through [Medical Services Plan \(MSP\)](#) benefits. Please see more at [services covered by MSP](#). When your application is processed, your MSP card, or [BC Services Card](#) (formerly known as "BC Care Card"), will be mailed to the address you provided in your application. Your BC Services Card will indicate your coverage period, which should match the expiration date of your status in Canada (such as your study or work permit).

### Who is eligible for MSP?

All residents of British Columbia must enrol with the Medical Services Plan (MSP). International students with a study permit valid for a period of six or more months are required to apply for the MSP (B.C.'s health-care coverage) as soon as they arrive in British Columbia.

**Am I automatically enrolled in MSP?**

No, all individuals must complete an application. The easiest way is to apply for MSP coverage online immediately after arriving in B.C.

**When will my BCMSP Coverage start?**

The waiting period for BCMSP is 3 months which includes the remainder of the month you arrive in BC plus two full months. For example, if you are in BC on August 25, you would be eligible for MSP on November 1.

**What if I need to see a doctor while waiting for my BC Service Card?**

You should get private health care insurance while you wait. You can apply for this coverage with David Cummings Insurance Group

**How to apply for MSP?**

<u>Apply online</u>	<u>Mail the following to MSP</u>
Make sure you have access to a scanner You will need: A scanned COPY of the picture page of your passport A scanned COPY of your study permit	You can also apply by mail using a paper form: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Application for BC Health and Drug Coverage, HLTH 101 (PDF, 2.5MB)</u></li></ul> Mail the completed form to: Health Insurance BC Medical Services Plan/Fair PharmaCare PO Box 9678 Stn Prov Govt Victoria BC V8W 9P7 Be sure to include all required supporting documents with your form.

You may include dependent family members in your application

**MSP monthly fee for international students**

The MSP Health fee for international students of all ages (and dependent family members) is **\$75 per month**. Once you are enrolled, Health Insurance BC will send invoices to you by mail, and you will be responsible for submitting payment. See more at Health Fee for International Students.

**How do I change my address on my MSP plan?**

You must keep your contact information current. Update your address here. This form should be submitted by the Account Holder.

**What do I need to do when I renew my study permit?**

You will need to upload your new study permit to <https://my.gov.bc.ca/msp/>. It will take about 21 business days for MSP to process this information. Please renew your MSP card before the expiry date to avoid a gap between coverages.