



## Message to Algoma University International Students:



Please take a moment to [watch the video](#) message before reading the information below.

I know that the many changes and communications in recent days have caused some disruption and confusion in your lives. We want you to know that we are here for you, and that the health and safety and success of all students at Algoma, including our International students are at the heart of our decision making at this time.

While we can't answer all of the questions that you have, specifically about compensation measures - we assure you that all Presidents of Universities across the country are working hard through their provincial and national organizations to ensure that the government has the information it needs to understand and respond to the impact of the COVID-19 situation on all of our students, including International students.

We have, as of late, asked a team of staff to do personalized and individualized calls to every student at Algoma within the next couple days. They will be asking you specifically about your personal situation, how you are doing in your studies right now, your plans for the Spring/Summer and how you are coping. It is critical that you connect with your staff contact as we will use the information to guide and inform us as we plan forward.

Our team is dedicated to providing up to date information to our international student community so that everyone is aware of the measures Algoma University and the Canadian government are taking to ensure the personal wellbeing and academic success of our students is prioritized. The FAQ below and on the website, provides the most up-to-date information we have and we will continue to keep you apprised of new information as it comes. Please check your Algoma University email daily for updates as well and if someone is trying to reach you, please respond.

Finally, I will also be pulling a team of international student leaders, under the guidance and leadership of an international student and next year's AUSU President, Yahaya Alphonse. This team will help in advising my team as we move forward. More to come in the next week.

Thank you for believing in us, for your trust in our leadership, your resiliency and positive energy. Together, as a community we will overcome.

Asima

**Updates and Frequently Asked Questions:**

## 1. Is Spring Semester Proceeding?

Yes. The University will be proceeding with the **Spring term, starting on June 1st, 2020**, with courses delivered in an online/remote learning format.

This will apply to both the Brampton and Sault Ste. Marie campuses of Algoma University.

## 1. How do I Register?

An academic advisor will be reaching out to you to assist with the registration process. To contact an advisor yourself email [advising@algomau.ca](mailto:advising@algomau.ca). Please ensure to include your full name and student number in the email, so you are easily identifiable by staff.

## 2. How will Courses be delivered?

Spring/summer classes will be offered through remote and/or online delivery - most if not all Universities in Ontario will need to move in this direction given COVID-19 restrictions. We hope to have the spring roster of courses available by early next week. The University is working with external experts to ensure the best quality of program delivery.

## **Payment & Registrations:**

As a result of the strain on the international student community, the University is continuing to work with the federal and provincial governments to understand whether there will be a financial relief strategy put in place. We will communicate with you as soon as we have this information.

In the meantime, the University has taken the following immediate measures to ease the financial strain on our international students:

### 1. **Reduced Deposit for International Certificate Students:**

Given the situation, the university is not requesting the full semester fee as a deposit for International students working toward certificates. Current students registering for the Spring semester are only required to pay a deposit of \$1,000, rather than the full deposit of over \$10,000.

### 2. **Delayed Payment Date:**

We have deferred the date for the payment of your full fees to June 1st, 2020, coinciding with the delayed Spring term. Students in need of financial assistance should email [accounts@algomau.ca](mailto:accounts@algomau.ca).

### 3. **Spring Term Tuition Frozen** - there will be no tuition increases for International or Domestic students in the 2020-2021 school year.

## Housing Services and Access to Campus Facilities:

### 1. Are all Algoma University campuses now closed?

Timmins and Brampton are closed but SSM residences and food services remain open. This is due to the March 24th government announcement, effective **12:01 am, Wednesday, March 25th, 2020** until further notice.

### 2. I live off campus. What services are still available for me to access?

Please visit your city website for a full list of affected services ([Brampton](#), [Sault Ste Marie](#), [Timmins](#)) or the Government of Ontario's [list of essential workplaces](#).

### 3. I live in residence on the Sault Ste Marie campus. What can I still access?

**Residence** remains open only to students living there.

The **cafeteria** (pickup only) remains open only to students living on the SSM campus.

**Security** remains in place to ensure the safety and well-being. They are not on campus to provide access to campus spaces. Security staff will require that social distancing be observed.

Access to the **Food Pantry**:

Students living on-campus - pick up items at the Housing Office in residence.

Students living off-campus - pick up items beside the Security Desk.

### 4. What if I need to stay past my residence move-out date as I can't return home?

As the situation evolves we will work with all international students in residence to ensure they have a place to stay until they are able to return home.

### 5. Is the Housing Office open?

Access to the Housing Office must be between the hours of 1-4 pm Monday to Friday. Students can also message one of the RAs for access.

### 6. Am I able to stay in residence for the Spring/Summer semester?

Students wishing to stay on campus during the Spring/Summer Semester should fill out the [residence application form](#). Please note that space will be limited and space is not guaranteed.

### 7. I have rental books I need to return to the bookstore. How can I do that?

With the announcement from Premier Doug Ford in regards to the closure of all non-essential business, the bookstore will be closed for a two week period beginning Tuesday, March 24 at 12pm.

Note, this closure does mean that students will be unable to check in their rented books during the closure period. The last day for rental check in is still April 27th (May 12th with the grace period).

If you have questions, please feel free to contact the Bookstore Manager (dpighin@follett.com or 705-949-2301 x 4711).

#### **8. What if I live off-campus and need to extend my stay?**

Please clearly communicate with your landlord regarding possibly extending your stay. If you are in need of housing, please contact [elizabeth.antonello@algonau.ca](mailto:elizabeth.antonello@algonau.ca) for resources in your area.

### **Immigration and Travel:**

#### **1. What are Current Travel Restrictions?**

On March 18, the Federal Government made the announcement that the Canadian border would be closed to all foreign nationals with some exceptions. Included in the exceptions was essential travel, which includes study permit holders and temporary foreign workers who had already committed to studying or working in Canada.

*“International students who held a valid study permit or had been approved for a study permit when the travel restrictions took effect on March 18, 2020, will be able travel to Canada by air or land.”*

These exemptions are not currently in place and travel is not recommended at this time, as travel restrictions are still in effect for the groups named in the exemption.

Students should also consider the logistics (flight availability, policy change, etc) of travel and returning to Canada to continue their studies.

### **Study Permit and Immigration Information:**

Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has put special immigration measures in place in its response to COVID-19. We encourage students to monitor IRCC's [website](#) for the most up to date information.

#### **1. What if I have to drop to part-time status or stop studying due to COVID-19?**

In a recent Q&A session with CBIE, IRCC representatives stated the following: “IRCC will take the effects of COVID-19 under consideration when assessing Post-Graduation Work Permit program eligibility. Although under normal circumstances, in order to be eligible for the Post-Graduation Work Permit Program, international students must maintain their full-time student status during each academic session of the program or programs of study they complete and submit as part of their Post-Graduation Work Permit application, if an international student is unable to meet this criteria due to

reasons related to COVID-19, they will still be considered eligible for the PGWPP, provided they meet all the other program criteria.”

Upon request Algoma University will provide a letter explaining the circumstances for the student to include with their PGWP application.

## **2. Do I still need to maintain my status?**

Students who wish to remain in Canada beyond the duration of their current status should do so within the recommended 30-90 days prior to their status' expiration date. Students who will not be continuing their studies and will not be making an application for a work permit, but are unable to return to their home country due to travel restrictions should make an application to change their status to “visitor” before the expiration of their current status.

## **3. I am not attending classes currently, can I work full-time?**

Students currently working off-campus are limited to 20-hours per week as per the conditions of their study permit. The cancellation of face-to-face classes does not constitute a scheduled break as defined in the Algoma University Academic Calendar. Any off-campus work that exceeds this limit will constitute unauthorized work and could jeopardize your status in Canada.

## **4. Who can help me if I have immigration questions?**

If you have questions, our immigration professionals are here to help you. Please email [immigration@algomau.ca](mailto:immigration@algomau.ca).

### **Health Coverage (UHIP):**

#### **1. Am I covered by UHIP?**

Yes, all international students who study Algoma University are enrolled in UHIP.

If you would like to confirm your eligibility or coverage, please email the UHIP Administrator at [uhip@algomau.ca](mailto:uhip@algomau.ca).

You can get more information by visiting the [Algoma University website](#), or directly visiting the [UHIP website](#).

#### **2. How do I get my UHIP card?**

You should have received your UHIP card in an email, the subject line of the email from Sunlife reads: *Here's your University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP) Coverage Card*. If you did not receive your coverage card, please check your spam folder.

Please note you must PRINT your coverage card for it to be accepted. If you are having issues accessing or printing your card please contact [uhip@algomau.ca](mailto:uhip@algomau.ca).

**3. I have to stay in Canada beyond my UHIP termination date due to travel restrictions. Will I still be covered under UHIP?**

All students ending their studies this semester have the option to **extend their coverage for 2 months** past their termination date. If you would like to do so please contact [uhip@algomau.ca](mailto:uhip@algomau.ca) for further details.

**4. Does UHIP cover COVID-19 testing?**

Yes, students who have been directed to visit an assessment centre for testing should take a copy of their UHIP card and a copy of a claim form with them.

The claim form can be found [here](#).

**5. Does UHIP cover COVID-19 treatment?**

As per the [Government of Ontario COVID-19 webpage](#), there is no specific treatment or vaccine for COVID-19 yet.

UHIP will cover emergency fees at hospitals and hospitalization fees, and drugs dispensed during hospitalization, see [plan details](#).

**6. I am leaving the country but continuing my studies online. Will UHIP cover fees for COVID-19 testing and treatment outside Canada?**

UHIP provides minimal out-of-country coverage for **emergency** medical expenses (a medical emergency is an injury or illness that poses an immediate risk to a person's life or long-term health). This may not be enough to cover your medical expenses (see [Emergency Services outside Ontario or Canada](#)).

We strongly recommend you look into additional private travel insurance.

**7. Looking for more information on your coverage, making a claim, etc.? See the quick links below:**

[UHIP coverage](#)

[UHIP claim](#)

[UHIP preferred provider network](#)

[Student VIP Health/Dental](#)

**Wellness Services/Staying Connected**

**1. How can I access wellness services from home?**

Please see our Memo from [March 15th](#) regarding Health Services on campus.

If you have questions regarding Health Services, please email [healthservices@algomau.ca](mailto:healthservices@algomau.ca).

Counselling services are still available via Zoom video. If you would like to speak with one of our counsellors, please email [healthservices@algomau.ca](mailto:healthservices@algomau.ca).

**2. How can I stay connected to others?**

Join our International Student Hangouts every Monday/Wednesday/Friday at 11AM

[Join Hangouts Meet](#)

[Join by phone](#) (+1 304-934-3090 PIN: 733 719 562#)

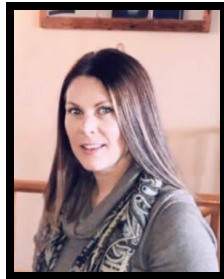
Join the [Virtual Wellness Party](#) happening April 3rd!

Use the resources listed below.

**Contact Information:**

Please always include your student number and name when emailing any of the following.

- For tuition/fee/refund questions: [accounts@algonau.ca](mailto:accounts@algonau.ca)
- For academic course registration and questions: [advising@algonau.ca](mailto:advising@algonau.ca)
- For immigration/study permit questions: [immigration@algonau.ca](mailto:immigration@algonau.ca)
- For health insurance/coverage questions: [uhip@algonau.ca](mailto:uhip@algonau.ca)
- For any other international student life questions: [elizabeth.antonello@algonau.ca](mailto:elizabeth.antonello@algonau.ca)



Rachel Johnson,  
Student Life Coordinator



Elizabeth Antonello,  
International Student Life Coordinator