



Study Safe Corridor

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About Languages Canada

Languages Canada is the national association representing over 200 accredited English and French language education programs in 185 study locations in nearly all regions of the country. Member programs include private language schools and public universities and colleges. A list of LC members can be found [HERE](#). Languages Canada membership is limited to programs that meet the rigorous requirements of our Quality Assurance Framework, which involves a commitment to student protection, an independent accreditation process, and adherence to Languages Canada's Standards and Code of Conduct.

Languages Canada members welcome 150,000 international students to Canada every year. One-third of these students continue on to post-secondary education at Canadian universities and colleges, making language education an important contributor to Canada's \$22 billion/year international education sector. During their stay, these students explore our country and culture and add to the richness and diversity of our society. Many students decide to stay beyond their studies and call Canada "home". Language education is an essential step not only to further education, but an essential part of the equation for meeting Canada's labour force and immigration goals.

A June 25, 2020 survey of Languages Canada members indicates that, under the status quo, 75% of accredited English and French language programs will be forced to permanently close in the next six months. Even more will follow in 2021. Something must be done to save decades of investment, to save a sector that promotes our official languages and values. The *Study Safe Corridor* is a proposal to do exactly that: to save Canada's international language education sector through innovation, in a way that ensures Canadians and international students are safe. The *Study Safe Corridor* is an adaptation to survive and thrive in this new post-pandemic context.

The Languages Canada *Study Safe Corridor*

The *Study Safe Corridor* is a safe way of bringing international students to Canada. It is designed to recruit and prepare qualified international language students, offer a safe and controlled travel corridor to Canada, provide a comfortable quarantine process, and ensure that both students and host Canadians are safe as students enter into Canadian schools and communities.

In the phased and targeted reopening of Canada's borders following the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, Languages Canada member schools are committed to working with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) to welcome international students in a safe manner that greatly reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in Canada.

The *Study Safe Corridor* is a comprehensive package of complementary elements that the association has put in place to support its member programs in meeting the commitment of health and safety to Canadians. Through the *Study Safe Corridor*, LC members will:

- Ensure that, prior to travel, students are qualified and comply with the requirements for safe travel and mandatory quarantine upon arrival to Canada;
- Make all necessary arrangements for students' safe travel and 14-day quarantine upon arrival;
- Monitor and support students throughout the duration of their mandatory quarantine; and
- Provide an academic environment that adheres to the regulations and guidelines of the federal, provincial, and local public health authorities.

Through the *Study Safe Corridor*, Languages Canada members will ensure that all needed safety and security elements are in place to welcome a targeted 40,000 international language education students from July 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021.

Elements of the Study Safe Corridor

The Languages Canada *Study Safe Corridor* can be divided into three steps that support students and protect Canadians at every juncture of students' study-in-Canada journey.

STEP 1: Promotion and pre-departure to Canada

LC and its members will ensure that students are qualified, informed, prepared for, and in agreement with requirements for safe travel and quarantine upon arrival in Canada. LC and its members will provide international students with all necessary arrangements and documentation to assure IRCC and CBSA that students are arriving safely in Canada.

1. Promoting the *Study Safe Corridor* to prospective students – The branding of the study-in-Canada experience will shift in the coming months, with emphasis on the support offered to students via the *Study Safe Corridor* and students' requirements to comply with strict safety measures to reduce risk of transmission of COVID-19, including mandatory quarantine. To support this branding and promotion effort, Languages Canada has proposed the creation of a government of Canada "Student Safe Travel and Arrival" subsidy, which would offset part of the cost of students' flights and quarantine, sending the message that international students matter to Canada, that we are here to support them to come to Canada safely, and ultimately incentivizing international students to choose Canada as their study destination of choice, rather than a competitor country.
2. Languages Canada *Protocol for the Safe Arrival and Quarantine of International Students* – Developed by Languages Canada, this document provides clear guidelines to LC members to ensure that students comply with safe travel and quarantine requirements.
3. *COVID-19 International Student Travel and Quarantine Checklist* – Developed by Languages Canada, this document provides step-by-step instructions to incoming international students on how to safely prepare, travel, arrive, and quarantine, including a signed form whereby students confirm their

understanding and acceptance of requirement to quarantine upon arrival in Canada. It will be made available to students in multiple languages.

4. *COVID-19 International Student Quarantine Plan Template* – Developed by Languages Canada, this fillable document outlines students' quarantine plan, which students will be expected to complete and print for presentation to their CBSA agent upon arrival in Canada.
5. *COVID-19 International Student Attestation of Essential Travel Template* – Developed by Languages Canada, this fillable document allows institutions to attest to the essential nature of a student's presence in Canada. Students will be expected to print this document for presentation to their CBSA agent upon arrival in Canada.
6. ArriveCan app – Students will be advised to download the ArriveCAN mobile app prior to their arrival and fill their personal information including a Canadian phone number (e.g. contact at their place of quarantine.) Students will also be encouraged to acquire a Canadian phone number for ease of contact. ([PhoneBox](#), a Canadian wireless company offering affordable mobility plans, can deliver Canadian SIM Cards anywhere in the world and provides easy activation as soon as students land in Canada.)
7. Proof of insurance for quarantine period – International students will need proof of appropriate medical insurance, effective as of the date of the students' arrival, which includes coverage for COVID-19 during the quarantine period. ([Guard.me International Insurance](#) confirms that their student insurance policy provides full medical coverage against COVID-19, including during the period of quarantine. Additionally, [Keep.meSAFE](#) by Guard.me offers 24/7 access to mental health support.)

STEP 2: Transit to and arrival in Canada

LC and its members will ensure that students travel to Canada in a safe, controlled, and monitored way. LC and its members will make all arrangements for students' mandatory 14-day quarantine upon arrival in Canada.

8. Air Canada international student safe air corridors – Languages Canada has teamed up with Air Canada to establish designated international student air corridors – chartered flights reserved exclusively for international students bound for Canada. These flights would be reserved for students with a letter of acceptance into an LC member program and appropriate visa, but could also be utilized by other Canadian Designated Learning Institutions. Establishing these direct air corridors for international students will allow a greater degree of monitoring and control over student flows into Canada than allowing students to arrive on commercial flights. (Note: The need for charter flights may not be required for all source countries and will be continuously evaluated to align with Canada's phased and targeted reopening of borders.)
9. Designated quarantine hotels – Several hotels have been identified as designated Languages Canada quarantine sites for international students within the following cities: Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary, Victoria, Winnipeg, Halifax, and Ottawa. All quarantine sites have implemented rigorous COVID-19 operating procedures as per the Hotel Association of Canada's [Best Practices, Operating Procedures and Considerations for Hotel Guests in Self-Isolation](#) and are equipped to provide a full-service quarantine package to students, including safe transport from the airport to the hotel and monitoring services to ensure students do not leave their room.

10. COVID-19 testing – Students will have access to COVID-19 testing services during their mandatory 14-day quarantine upon arrival in Canada, in the provinces that require it (e.g. Ontario).

STEP 3: Integration into LC member programs

Following successful completion of the quarantine period, students will proceed to their final place of residence and commence in-person studies. Languages Canada member schools are committed to operating in a way that prioritizes the health and safety of students, staff, host families, and communities, by adhering to the reopening regulations and guidelines of the federal, provincial, and local public health authorities.

11. Languages Canada *COVID-19 Guidelines for Operation of Private Language Schools* –The *COVID-19 Guidelines for Operation of Private Language Schools* guides LC members' institutional preparedness for day-to-day operation under COVID-19 conditions, providing direction on appropriate physical distancing, hygiene, sanitation, and monitoring measures. (Note that LCpublic college and university members will operate as per provincial COVID-19 public post-secondary directives.)