



NSCAD University – Inbound Student Exchange Fact Sheet

2026–2027 Academic Year

Office	Office of Student Experience
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Email	ose@nscad.ca
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Address	5163 Duke Street, Halifax, NS B3J 3J6, Canada
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Website	https://nscad.ca
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Academic Calendar & Orientation

Semester	Start	End	Orientation
Fall 2026	September 8	December 21	September 4
Winter 2027	January 5	April 30	January 6



Application Deadlines

Semester	Nomination Deadline	Application Deadline
Fall 2026	April 15	May 1
Winter 2027	September 15	October 1



Application Process (Step by Step)

Step 1 – Nomination

Home institution sends a nomination letter to admissions@nscad.ca.

Step 2 – Receive Portal Link

NSCAD Exchange Representative replies with the application portal link.

Step 3 – Submit Required Documents

Document	Details
Study Proposal	1 page, briefly explain why you wish to attend NSCAD University, the prior experience you bring to the university, the skills and knowledge you hope to gain, and where you think your NSCAD education might lead you in the future.
Official Transcript	Directly from the home institution via email to admissions@nscad.ca
Portfolio	Current work in the student's primary area of study and the area of study the student wishes to pursue on exchange; 10–15 images; time-based work max 10 min
Faculty References	At least one referee, submit either directly through the application portal or email directly to admissions@nscad.ca
English Proficiency	If applicable (see below)

Step 4 – Receive Application Feedback & Approved Courses and Sign Documents

NSCAD Exchange Representative sends the application feedback and a list of approved courses and requests that the necessary documents be completed and signed.

English Language Proficiency

Required only for applicants from non-English speaking countries.

Acceptable proof:

- Must be equivalent to the [NSCAD English Language Proficiency requirement](#) for the proper level of studies **and**
- English course grades from the [home institution](#) **or**
- [National exam](#) with English section **or**
- [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages \(CEFR\) level](#): Must be greater than B2

 NSCAD will notify student after reviewing the transcript if additional proof is needed.

Immigration & Status in Canada

In general, students who are on a one-semester exchange do not require a study permit to study in Canada (less than 6 months).

However, students should check with the Canadian embassies and consulates in their home country to confirm they are not required to complete any paperwork before leaving. To enter Canada, students should ensure they have one of the following:

- [a visitor visa \(temporary resident visa\)](#)
- [an electronic travel authorization \(eTA\)](#)

 **Always check with the Canadian embassy/consulate in your home country before travelling.**

 [Canada Study Permit Info](#)

Tuition & Fees

Fee Type	Amount / Policy
Tuition	Waived for one-semester exchange students (with verified partnership) *
International Health Insurance	~\$300 CAD per semester (mandatory)
Course Material Fees	Vary by course (can be between \$10-\$300 depending on the course)
Bus Pass	Optional – request via email ose@nscad.ca , additional fee applies (typically ~ \$90 term)
Official Transcript to Home Institution	Free for one copy; only issue without any outstanding payments
Personal Transcript Copy	\$10 for official, free for digital unofficial

! All ancillary fees must be paid by the deadline; otherwise, student may lose facility access, and the transcript will not be issued.

 [Tuition and Financial Information](#)

**Special Note – Domestic Tuition Partners*

Partner institutions that have a “domestic tuition” exchange arrangement should advise their students they will be expected to pay domestic tuition fees as posted for the relevant number of study credits in the semester.

Credit System, Course Load & Curriculum

A full-time course load at NSCAD University is between 9 and 15 credits. Course load may need to be reviewed and aligned with your home institution’s degree requirements.

Course Weighting Guide

Course Level	Typical Credits	Weekly In-course Time Commitment
Foundation (1000)	3 credits	~½ day
Introductory (2000)	3 credits	~½ day
Intermediate / Advanced (3000–4000)	6–9 credits	~2–2.5 days

 Faculty determine course levels based on **student portfolio and experience**.

 **Foundation-level (1000) courses** are generally not available to exchange students (priority given to first-year NSCAD degree students).

 Time spent **outside NSCAD classes** varies and may require more hours per week for your assignments and projects than you did at your home institution

Transcripts

After successful semester completion **and** full fee payment:

-  **One official transcript** sent free of charge to your home institution.
 -  Personal copies available for a standard fee.
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Accommodations

NSCAD provides resources for:

- Partner university on-campus & third-party residences (NSCAD does not have its own student residences)
- Off-campus housing

 Housing info: https://nscad.ca/student_life/housing/