



# Welcome!

## Top 5 Things To Do Once You Arrive!

Welcome to Winnipeg and to the University of Manitoba!

The U of M is closed from December 23<sup>rd</sup> – January 2<sup>nd</sup> and will reopen fully on **Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**. Until then, here are the **top 5 things** that you should do now that you're here.

### 1. Buy winter clothing

You've probably noticed that it's cold. Very cold. It is very important to protect yourself against the cold so you don't get sick or get frostbite (Assignment: Research on the internet what "frostbite" is!). If you need to buy winter clothes, we strongly encourage you to buy appropriate outdoor winter clothes soon after you arrive. Our information sheet titled "*Where to Buy Winter Clothes*" can help you get started.

### 2. Open up a bank account

It's important that you get a bank account set-up as soon as possible so you can start depositing money, paying bills, etc. To get more information about the different banks and accounts available in Canada, please visit <http://umanitoba.ca/international/finances/banking.html>. To open up a bank account you will need to **make an appointment** at the bank of your choice. When you go to the appointment, be sure to bring documents such as:

- your passport and Study Permit
- your U of M student card (if you have it)
- proof of full-time student status (a student status letter from the Registrar's Office)
- any other documents the bank requests that you bring

### 3. Take Winnipeg Transit

#### **Route Planning Tools:**

Winnipeg Transit has a fantastic website where you can plan your route to anywhere in Winnipeg! This tool is called **Navigo** and is available on the Winnipeg Transit website:

<http://winnipegtransit.com/en/navigo>

If you would like to get bus times or plan a trip through your mobile phone, Winnipeg Transit's **BUSguide** is another option:

<http://winnipegtransit.com/en/schedules-maps-tools/transittools/busguide-beta/>

#### **The U-Pass and Bus Fares:**

The **U-Pass** is a student bus pass that all full-time, degree-seeking students qualify for. This pass provides unlimited access to public transit services in exchange for a mandatory fee. You will be able to use your U-Pass to ride Winnipeg Transit buses for the entirety of the September to April period. No fares will be charged during that time as you will have already paid for the pass when you paid your tuition.

You can only get a U-Pass at the U of M. That means once the University reopens on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, you will be able to collect your U-Pass. If you arrive early and take the bus, please do not buy a bus pass from a location other than the U of M. Instead, we recommend that you either pay the cash fare of \$2.65 in exact change or buy bus tickets.

A list of some of the retail locations near the U of M Fort Garry campus where you can purchase bus tickets is included below. You will need to ask for bus tickets at the cash register.

Retail Stores That Sell Bus Tickets and Weekly Bus Passes	
Store Name	Store Address
Mac's	1-2077 Pembina Highway
Mac's	3311 Pembina Highway
Pharma Plus Drugmart	1295 Pembina Highway
Pharma Plus Drugmart	2271 Pembina Highway
Safeway	1319 Pembina Highway
Safeway	2155 Pembina Highway
Safeway	2860 Pembina Highway (Fort Richmond Plaza)
7-Eleven	7 Killarney Avenue
7-Eleven	1490 Pembina Highway
Shopper's Drug Mart	1122 Pembina Highway
Shopper's Drug Mart	2211 Pembina Highway
Shopper's Drug Mart	Fort Richmond Plaza (Fort Richmond Plaza)

#### 4. Get a Manitoba Health Card

Many international students in Manitoba are eligible for Manitoba Health, the province's health program.

You will need your Manitoba Health card to see a doctor in Manitoba. You should get your Manitoba Health card as soon after your arrival as possible.

**To find out if you are eligible for a Manitoba Health card, please go to:**

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health>

**Apply for a Manitoba Health Card at:**

Manitoba Health, Seniors, and Active Living  
300 Carlton Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

**Questions? Contact Manitoba Health at:**

Ph: 204-786-7101

Email: [insuredben@gov.mb.ca](mailto:insuredben@gov.mb.ca)

**Important:** Phone or email Manitoba Health before you apply for a Manitoba Health card to confirm the documents you will need to submit with your application.

#### 5. Get Settled in Winnipeg

The International Centre (IC) has created an informative brochure for new international students titled, *"Getting Settled in Winnipeg"*. Please review the information and do any necessary research on the topics outlined in the brochure.

Please pay special attention to the Emergency Contacts information located on the back of the brochure. If you are staying at a hotel while the U of M is closed over the Holiday Break, please call 9-1-1 if you find yourself in any sort of emergency.

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Compiled by:

International Centre, University of Manitoba

541 University Centre | Ph: (204) 474-8501 | [international@umanitoba.ca](mailto:international@umanitoba.ca) | [umanitoba.ca/international](http://umanitoba.ca/international)

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