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 24th – January 4th and will reopen fully on Monday, January 5th, 2015. 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 umanitoba.ca/student/ics/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

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:

www.winnipegtransit.ca

Students registered at the U of M are eligible for a Post Secondary Student Bus Pass that costs 20% less than the regular cost of a monthly bus pass. You can only buy a Post Secondary Student Bus Pass at the U of M. Please do not buy a regular monthly bus pass for January from a retail store off-campus when you first arrive. Instead, purchase bus tickets or a weekly bus pass until the U of M reopens on January 5th, 2015 and you are able to purchase a Post Secondary Student Bus Pass. You may also pay your bus fare with cash ($2.55) using exact change.

A list of some of the retail locations near the U of M Fort Garry campus where you can purchase bus tickets and weekly bus passes is included on the back of this page. You will need to ask for bus tickets or weekly bus passes at the cash register.
4. Get a Manitoba Health Card

If your study permit is valid for 6 months or more and you will live in Manitoba for a minimum of 6 months in a calendar year, you should be eligible for a Manitoba Health card.

You will need your Manitoba Health card to see a doctor in Manitoba. You should get your Manitoba Health card before classes start.

To get your Manitoba Health card, take your original study permit and passport to the Manitoba Health office (300 Carlton Street). You will need to complete an application form and allow staff to make photocopies of your documents. If you are eligible for coverage, you will be given a Manitoba Health card and a pink piece of paper that indicates when your Study Permit and Manitoba Health coverage expire. When you go to see a doctor or receive medical treatment, you must bring both your Manitoba Health card and the pink notice of your study permit expiry date.

For more information please visit: umanitoba.ca/student/records/international_students/phc.html

5. Get Settled in Winnipeg

The International Centre for Students (ICS) 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.