

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need a study permit?

Vicars School is a Designated Learning Institution approved to admit international students. If you are not a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident, you will need a valid **study permit** from the Government of Canada to begin studying at Vicars.

How do I get a study permit?

Your first step is to contact the school and follow the steps to apply and be accepted. You will receive a formal acceptance letter and that (along with your provincial attestation letter, if you need one) allows you to apply for a study permit.

Take the time you need to make sure Vicars School is the right program for you. Visit our website, if you have not already, and get in touch as soon as you can to talk to our Admissions team. We have both virtual and live Info Sessions every few weeks so you can learn about the career, the curriculum, and what the experience of being a Vicars student is like.

After you have talked to us, you need to fill out an application form and submit it to the school. Allow time to get your transcripts notarized and translated and sent to our Registrar. We cannot guarantee that your application for a permit will be granted, and we are not able to give immigration advice. For more information on obtaining a study permit and to check processing times, please visit [this resource on the Government of Canada's website](#).

You may need a provincial attestation letter (PAL) from Alberta. The provincial attestation letter is a new requirement, as of January 2024, so be sure to check the latest information on [how to apply](#) for a PAL in Alberta, and to see if you need one.

Our best advice is to allow lots of time before the next start date. Classes begin in September or March each year and we need to receive your study permit **at least a month** before classes begin.

What are the entrance requirements for Vicars School?

The entrance requirements for Canadian and international students are the same. We accept students based on an application form, transcripts from previous education, and a personal interview. Our decisions are never based on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, or religious beliefs.

Vicars school accepts only those who we feel will succeed in our program. Our admissions advisors are not in a call centre, and we do not pay commissions.

All Vicars students must meet our academic and English language proficiency requirements.

Students who are applying from Canada are required to have a high school diploma with Science and English at a senior grade level or equivalent. International applicants will need transcripts to document similar academic achievement from their home country. All transcripts must be notarized and translated before you send them to us.

Full details are available in the [Student Policies & Procedures Handbook](#).

What English-language skills will I need?

Our program is delivered in English. All students must be proficient in English communications, both written and oral. Our online courses in Anatomy & Physiology and Pathology are at first-year university level.

If you have completed a high school, college, or university program delivered in English, we will accept your official transcripts from that program as evidence of your English skills.

If you have not completed the required English-language education, we will also accept a wide range of English proficiency exams as proof of fluency.

Full details are available in the [Student Policies & Procedures Handbook](#).

Will I have to pay more than Canadian students do?

No. All students at Vicars pay the same tuition and fees, regardless of citizenship status or country of origin. International students are also able to take advantage of our no-fee, no-interest tuition payment plan, which makes the program even more affordable.

Most Canadian institutions charge more for international students—often much more. But students at Vicars pay the same tuition as Canadian residents: \$12,500 for each year of our two-year program, regardless of citizenship status or country of origin. Private colleges like Vicars do not receive any government subsidies, so we don't see any reason to have a different tuition price for international applicants.

To for more information about tuition, fees, and other school expenses, please talk to your admissions advisor.

What regulations apply to the Massage Therapy Diploma program?

Vicars School of Massage Therapy complies with all provincial and federal government regulations on consumer protection for all students.

Vicars School is licensed by the [Private Career Colleges \(PCC\) branch of the Alberta government](#) and is governed by the Private Vocational Training Act. The Act protects students by requiring post-secondary schools and colleges to use standard enrolment contracts and follow PCC policy

for collecting tuition and fees, making refunds, and report on completion and graduation data for each program.

Full details are available in the [Student Policies & Procedures Handbook](#).

When I send personal information to the school, is my privacy protected?

Yes, Vicars is governed by the Alberta Personal Information Protection Act, and we take our responsibilities for protecting the privacy of prospective students, students, clinic clients, and staff very seriously.

We have voluntarily sought and been awarded accreditation from the Canadian Massage Therapy Council for Accreditation (CCMTA), the national body that ensures the highest standards for massage education across Canada. To earn our accreditation, we committed to a high level of academic and skills-based curriculum, but also to school procedures that protect students' investment, their safety, and their privacy.

Information that we collect from students and prospective students is stored in a secure electronic database, located on secure off-site servers. Any paper files on campus are stored in locked areas.

Our full privacy policy is available in our [Student Policies & Procedures Handbook](#).

Does Vicars have any policies about minimum grades, dress code, attendance, or ethics that I should know about?

Our [Student Policies & Procedures Handbook](#) is your guide for all of our policies!

Vicars policy and procedures have all been developed to serve the best interests of our students and clients and to maintain our high educational standards.

What if I want to file a complaint or dispute a grade?

Disagreements happen, and we are committed to listening and working with any student who feels they have not been treated fairly in the classroom or by the administration. We have policies in place if you have a grievance or complaint or want to appeal a grade,

Full details are available in the [Student Policies & Procedures Handbook](#).

Will I be able to work while I'm a Vicars student?

Our program is **full-time**. Even though you won't be on campus every day, you can expect a workload of at least 35 hours a week. We encourage all students to arrange for funding that allows them to focus on their studies.

Your student workweek will include classroom sessions, independent coursework, reading, and supervised student clinics. Some of our students are able to keep a part-time job while they are in school, while others are not.

Whether working part time is permitted depends on the conditions of your study permit and whether you have a Social Insurance Number.

To find out more about working while on a study visa, visit the [Canada Immigration](#) site. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are following the conditions of your study permit.

What services does Vicars School offer for international students?

Whether you're new to Canada or have been here for several years, being an international student can be a challenge. At Vicars, we are committed to providing a supportive learning environment for all students and we work hard to make your school experience fulfilling and enjoyable.

While our campuses are small and we do not employ student services professionals, everyone on staff is dedicated to your success. Your instructors are a wonderful resource for **personal, academic, and career** questions. Informal and scheduled study groups are available from time to time. If you have **financial** concerns, contact the Registrar's office.

We refer students to organizations within the community for free and low-cost services to newcomers, including mental health supports and social services. Check out our listing of [Community Resources for International Students](#).

Will I be eligible for Alberta health care coverage?

The Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) is available at **no cost** to international students who have a valid study permit and live in Alberta for at least one year.

We encourage you to check your eligibility for AHCIP and get appropriate health care insurance before arriving in Canada. To be covered by AHCIP, you must apply within 90 days of your moving date. Even if you are eligible for AHCIP, you may want to research additional coverage as the plan only covers basic health expenses. **You will not be denied emergency medical care in Alberta even if you do not have medical insurance.**

For details on the Alberta Health Care Insurance plan and how to apply, [visit this site](#).

Can I stay in Canada and work after I graduate?

Our graduates have generally been successful when they apply for a **work permit** after graduation, but that is not guaranteed.

Vicars is a **privately owned and operated** vocational school, approved (designated) to accept international students, but only graduates of **publicly funded** institutions are guaranteed a Post Graduate Work Permit (PGWP). For details, visit the [Canada Immigration](#) site.

This is one of the *many* pros and cons you will need to consider in choosing which school is right for you when you decide to train in Canada. If, on balance, you decide to choose a publicly funded massage therapy program, there are two we recommend: Mount Royal University (Calgary) and MacEwan University (Edmonton). Both programs have achieved national CMTCA accreditation in for their massage therapy program, as we have.

Admissions contact info

Welcome@VicarsSchool.com

Call: (866) 491-0574 (press 1 for Admissions)

Text: 587-715-0600