

A Muslim Student's Guide to Edmonton

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Introduction

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

(In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful)

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

(May the peace, blessings, and mercy of God be upon you)

Whether you've just landed here in Edmonton, or transferred from another city, we understand how overwhelming it may be to settle into a new place, **especially as a Muslim.**

That's why we, the **Muslim Students' Association (MSA) at the University of Alberta (UofA)**, have compiled this guide!

This is a practical, easy-to-follow, resource to help you feel at home on campus and around the city.

From **places to pray** between classes to the **best food spots** to satisfy your late-night cravings, we've got you covered.

The Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“He who alleviates the suffering of a brother out of the sufferings of the world, Allah would alleviate his suffering from the sufferings of the Day of Resurrection”

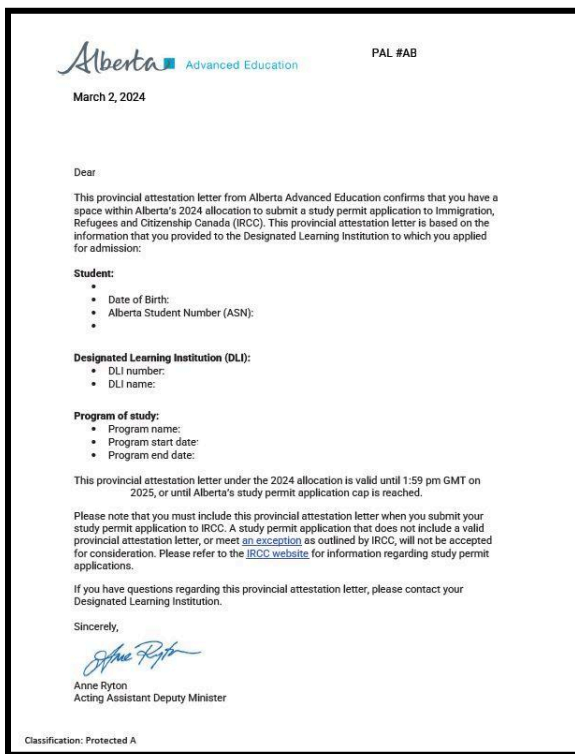
— [Sahih Muslim, 2699]

Let's get you settled, *inshaAllah* – God willing.

Required Documents

The following is a **non-exhaustive** list of documents that you need to ensure are with you **before** you enter Canada.

1. Copy of your *Provincial Attestation Letter*
2. Copy of your *University Admission Letter*
3. Copy of your *Fee Payment Receipt* (can be accessed via BearTracks)
(OR) Copy of *Proof of Funds* to pay tuition fees
4. Copy of any medical prescriptions for medicines that you are carrying
5. Copy of proof of residence in Canada
6. Copy of any scholarship letter(s)



Copy of *Provincial Attestation Letter*



Copy of *University Admission Letter*

Accommodations

Housing Accommodations

The best time to start searching for listings, if you're new to Canada, would be at least a couple of months prior to your arrival. It is most advisable not to leave this to the last minute. The best place to start looking for accommodations would be to check the following resources for listings:

- [MSA Accommodations Chat](#)
- [rentfaster.ca](#)
- [kijiji.ca](#)
- *Facebook Marketplace*

Places to look for accommodation close to campus:

- [On-campus accommodation](#)
 - [Lister](#)
 - [Peter Lougheed Hall \(PLH\)](#)
 - [International House](#)
 - *Other on-campus residences*
- Off campus neighbourhoods
 - Garneau (15 minute walk or 15 min transit to campus)
 - Strathcona (25-30 mins walk or 20 min transit)
 - McKernan (20-25 mins walk or 5 mins transit)
 - Belgravia (20-25 mins walk or 10 mins transit)
 - Downtown (depends on where you are - average about 20 mins transit)
 - Near Southgate LRT station (20-25 mins transit)

Academic Accommodations

If your prayer timings conflict with your final exams, you will need to submit an accommodations request within the first two weeks of the semester. This entails a written application, a witnessed oath, and a verification letter that you are Muslim. Please visit msauofa.ca/academic-accomodation for more information. For further details, please email msa@ualberta.ca with any inquiries.

Transportation

General

Edmonton has 2 main modes of public transportation:

1. LRT (Train)
2. ETS Bus

On Demand Transit — Accessed via the *Edmonton On Demand Transit* app (learn more [here](#)) — is available for eligible neighbourhoods/areas which have no transit centre nearby. Check out the

Public transportation can be accessed using an Arc Card - which can be purchased at most LRT stations or in SUBmart, located in the Student Union Building (SUB), on campus.

Students have an option to purchase the U-Pass along with their term fees, which allows unlimited public transportation throughout the term.

Apps such as [Transit](#) (available both in the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store) can be used to track bus and train timings; keep in mind that some features in many apps such as this one are locked behind a paywall.

Safety

Whenever touring the city, it is always best to go in a group of 2 or more wherever you go. There is a service offered by UASU called [Safewalk](#) where a volunteer will walk with you 10 blocks from Campus or any LRT station. In general, keep the following three things in mind:

- It is best to avoid roaming the streets of Downtown after sunset
- Ensure you keep your belongings close to you wherever you are, on or off campus
- Be extra vigilant when using public transportation (keep a general sense of awareness of the comings and goings of individuals — especially after sundown)

Food and Shopping

Groceries

- Most large scale grocery stores, such as Walmart, Canadian Superstore, and NoFrills, often have a section for Halal meat. Keep in mind that this is pre-packaged meat — in other words, you cannot have meat butchered in from stores.
- If you prefer to purchase butchered meat, the following are Halal butcher shops across the city:
 - 📍 Sayah Halal Meat & Deli LTD
 - 📍 Alif Halal Meat & Groceries Ltd
 - 📍 New Desi Bazar
 - 📍 OJ's Halal Meat & Deli
 - 📍 Hajar's Halal Meats
 - 📍 Westgate Market Halal Meat & Deli
 - And more (be sure to check other places)
- There are international food sections in large scale supermarkets like Walmart, Superstore and NoFrills, but there are also international-focused stores, such as:
 - 📍 Elsafadi Mediterranean Supermarket
 - 📍 New Desi Bazar
 - 📍 Daily Bazar Halal Meat & Grocery

Restaurants and Takeout

For a map of all restaurants with halal options in Edmonton check out this [map by YEG Halal Foodies](#). Below is a list of a lot of restaurants, on and off-campus, which are popular with Muslims — *Be sure to check with them in case circumstances have changed:*

On-Campus

1. 📍 Savoy's Express in HUB
2. 📍 Lister Centre and 📍 Peter Lougheed Hall Dining Halls
3. 📍 Marcos Famous University in SUB
4. 📍 Filistix SUB in SUB (chicken only)
5. 📍 barBURRITO in SUB (chicken & beef only)

Off-Campus

1. 📍 Vegas Donair & Poutine
2. Popeyes (various locations)
3. 📍 New Spice Grill
4. 📍 PrimeTime Donair & Poutine
5. 📍 SFC Seoul Fried Chicken

6. 📍 Elfino Kabab and Shawarma
7. 📍 Tahini's
8. 📍 Eat Alleys
9. 📍 Root of Beirut
10. 📍 Rob's Famous Fried Chicken
11. 📍 Turquaz Kebab House
12. 📍 Best Kabab
13. 📍 Lotus House of Kebab & Grocery
14. 📍 Cosmic Pizza & Donair
15. 📍 Osmow's Shawarma

Note: If you are concerned about hand slaughtering. Many of the restaurants above have hand-slaughtered meat, but be sure to check with them in advance.

Useful Shops

- Winter coats are typically on sale before the winter season reaches Edmonton. If you are arriving in the summer months, it might be beneficial to purchase your winter clothes within Canada, as opposed to bringing them with you on your travels from an international country.
- If you're shopping for electronics, the Black Friday sale in November is a good opportunity to look for products as most appliances have big discounts on them
 - Samsung and Apple usually have a back to school sale near mid to end of August to mid-September.
- Facebook Marketplace and Best Buy refurbished are also good places to check if you're looking for a quick purchase.

Mosques and Prayer Spaces

Jumuah Services

We provide Jumuah services every single week on the Main Campus. Refer to [this](#) link for details on timings and locations throughout the year.

On Campus Prayer Spaces

Prayer Space	Room Location	Access
HUB Mall, Multifaith Centre	Room 172 / Stairwell 9102 (under ONEcard management office)	ONEcard needed outside of 8:00am-5:00pm
ECHA Prayer Space	Room 2-407 in ECHA	Scan the QR code to get the entry code
SUB Interfaith Centre	3rd floor of SUB	Unavailable on weekends and outside of 6:00am-5:00pm.
MechE Prayer Space	5th floor of MechE building	106999*
DICE Prayer Space	3-323 (3rd floor) & 4-323 (4th floor) of DICE	Access code at door

Refer to this [link](#) for more detail regarding prayer spaces.

Mosques

- **Central Edmonton**
 - [MCE Mosque \(CLOSEST TO NORTH CAMPUS\)](#)
 - [Sahaba Mosque](#)
 - [Assiddiq Islamic Center مركز الصديق الإسلامي](#)
- **North Edmonton**
 - [Al Rashid Mosque](#)
 - [Quba Mosque : Jama Mosque](#)
- **North West Edmonton/St. Albert**
 - [Muslim Association of St. Albert](#)
- **North East Edmonton**
 - [Al Ameen Masjid](#)
 - [Al Medina Mosque](#)
- **Sherwood Area**
 - [Masjid In the Park](#)

- **West Edmonton**
 - 📍 Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) - Edmonton
 - 📍 Al-Rayyan Mosque
- **South West Edmonton**
 - 📍 Annoor Mosque
 - 📍 Masjid Ayesha
 - 📍 Southwest Muslim Community Centre
 - 📍 Al Faruq Mosque and Islamic School (Southside)
- **South East Edmonton**
 - 📍 Markaz-Ul-Islam
 - 📍 Omar Ibn Al-Khattab Centre (OIAC)
 - 📍 ICNA Edmonton / Al-Falah Center
 - 📍 Jamia Riyadhul Jannah (JRJ Mosque)

and more.

Questions, feedback, or concerns?

Email msa@ualberta.ca and we will get in touch with you in'shaa'Allah.