



International



INTERNATIONAL

Student Handbook

2023/24



Who We Are

We at Kwantlen Polytechnic University respectfully acknowledge that we work, study, and live in a region that overlaps with the unceded traditional and ancestral First Nations territories of the xwməθkwəyə m (Musqueam), qí cə ý (Katzie), SEMYOME (Semiahmoo), scə waθən (Tsawwassen), qiqéyt (Qayqayt) and kwikwəłə m (Kwikwetlem); and the lands of the qw̓ a:n̓ é n̓ (Kwantlen) First Nation, which gifted its name to this university.

In the cause of reconciliation, we recognize our commitment to address and reduce ongoing systemic colonialism, oppression, and racism that Indigenous Peoples continue to experience.

The word ‘Kwantlen’ means Tireless Runner, and is reflected in the university’s motto: **“through tireless effort, knowledge, and understanding.”**



Learn about the Land
Acknowledgment at KPU

Welcome to the KPU Community!



Carole St. Laurent,
Associate Vice President
KPU International

You have taken a bold and important step in pursuing an education abroad. Congratulations! On behalf of KPU and the KPU International team, I would like to thank you for choosing KPU. We are grateful that you are here!

You are now a valued member and part of our community. We are here to support you. You have access to resources to support you throughout your educational journey. We encourage you to actively participate in events and the unique opportunities available to you both academically and socially. This will not only help you adapt to your new environment but help you be successful in your academic career.

The resources in this guide are developed specifically for you.

We wish you a positive and successful learning experience!

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Mission and vision

Vision Statement

KPU International is a hub rooted in an inclusive and diverse environment that opens doors to global learning opportunities for all.

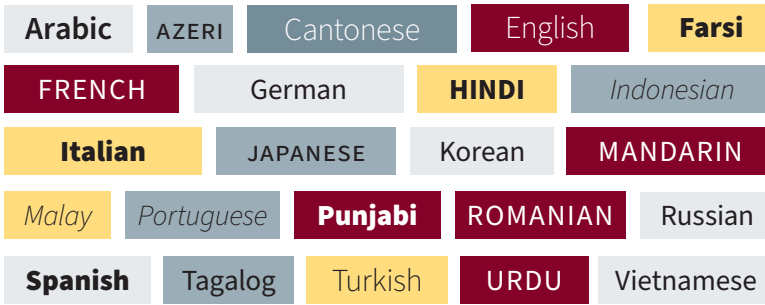
Mission Statement

To foster transformational experiences and international connections that nurture and empower globally minded learners.

KPU International is...

✓ Multilingual

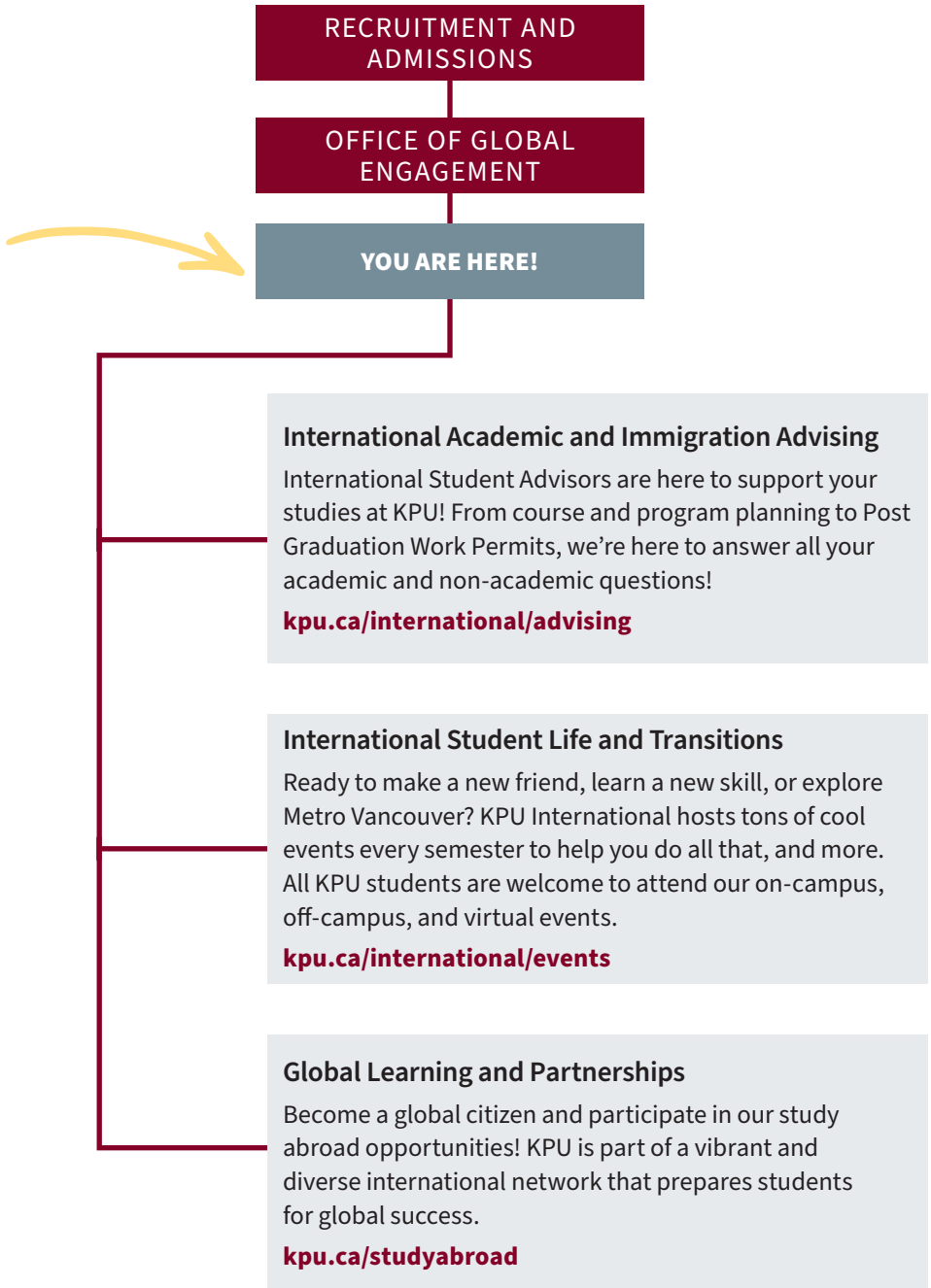
What languages do we speak?



✓ Diverse Where are we from?



✓ Here to help you achieve success on your academic journey!



We have put together informative videos for you to watch and learn all about the different resources available to you. **Look for these students throughout our handbook for our videos!**



Preparing for Life in Canada



Succeed in Your Academic Journey



Student Life



Additional Student Services



Global Learning Opportunities



Endless Career Opportunities

Login to your KPU email and activate your account to keep up to date on important information before you start your journey at KPU.



Questions? Contact us!
kpu.ca/international/contact

And follow us for upcoming KPU
International Events!





Preparing for Life in Canada

What is the culture like in Metro Vancouver? Do I have medical insurance? How do I find housing, open a bank account or start on a cellphone plan?

In order to ensure a smooth transition to Canada, it's important to learn about medical insurance, accommodations, preparing for travel, or even life in Canada in general. We have prepared the

Pre-Arrival Webinar Series to help answer any questions you may have!

Learn about:

- » What to expect at the Port of Entry e.g. *Documents to prepare*
- » Life in Metro Vancouver
- » Accommodation
- » Independent Living

More questions? Join us for the live Q&A session! We host a virtual live session 6 - 8 weeks before semester begins. You will receive an email with registration information prior to the event.

kpu.ca/international/travellingtocanada

Discover KPU with New Student Orientation

New Student Orientation is where you will learn about student services and resources, meet fellow students and classmates, receive guidance from senior students, and have lots of fun!

Joining a university community can be overwhelming, so our orientation process is designed to familiarize you with the campus, services, and student resources available so you can achieve success.

We have **many events and activities** for Orientation so be sure to sign up for every opportunity for a complete experience. You will also have the chance to meet our **O-Team** (Orientation Team) that will be leading you through Orientation:

» Online Orientation Course

A self-guided course with valuable and practical information to kickstart your academic studies

» International Live Virtual Orientation

Designed specifically for new international students with relevant information such as health insurance and non-academic services to better adjust to post-secondary education culture

» KPU Welcomes You

The on-campus portion of Orientation to meet new friends and to go on a fun campus tour

kpu.ca/orientation

First Year Festival Fun!

The First Year Festival is a week-long event with a variety of activities and information booths! The festival week is a great opportunity to meet new friends, have fun and learn about all the services and programs that KPU offers.

You'll meet the O-Team, who will help you meet new students, answer your questions, and guide you around the campus. A full list of First Year Festival activities can be found on our website. Some activities require registration so be sure to check out the website so you don't miss anything!

kpu.ca/fyf

Have you downloaded the iCent App?

KPU International and iCent have developed an app that is dedicated to serving incoming international students. The easy to use app helps you to submit required documents, access your student account, and provides you with information on campus services, helping you navigate your first semester at KPU!

kpu.ca/international/icent





Setting you up for success!

Find support through the International Peer Mentorship Program

As a new international student joining KPU, you are automatically enrolled as a Mentee and assigned an International Peer Mentor to support you in your first semester to maximize your experience!

The International Peer Mentorship (IPM) program connects new students with a mentor, an experienced KPU student, to provide guidance and support for your first semester. Many of our Mentors are also KPU International students! Your Mentor understands the challenges of starting an academic study in a new country and at KPU. They are excited to share their experiences with you and can help you navigate KPU services and resources. Your Mentor looks forward to connecting with you before the start of class!

kpu.ca/international/IPM



Succeed in Your Academic Journey!



Succeed in Your Academic Journey



International Academic and Immigration Advising

A team of dedicated International Student Advisors are here to help you get the most out of your university experience. Work closely and collaboratively with an advisor to set and achieve goals, discuss education and career plans, make appropriate course selections, connect with university resources, and find support in completing your program requirement!

What can I expect from our advisors?

- » Care, respect, and support
- » Discuss your academic, immigration and personal goals
- » Assistance with academic planning consistent with your values, interests and strengths.
- » Accurate information regarding program requirements, university policies and procedures, and academic resources.

» Up-to-date information from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

Be sure to check out other resources available on our webpage. We have forms, videos, and so much more to help you with your academic journey.

Make an appointment with an advisor and come prepared with questions, concerns, and ideas for your academic future at KPU!

kpu.ca/international/advising

Get to Know the Learning Centre!

The Learning Centre will help you focus on active learning and provide you with an experience beyond the classroom. Learn study skills and strategies, find help with navigating online learning technologies, and get one-on-one support and small group tutoring in courses at KPU. The best part is that it is all at no cost to students; it is FREE!

kpu.ca/learningcentres

Student Life



Student Life

Apply to be an International Peer Mentor

In your first semester, a mentor will provide support and guidance as you transition to KPU and life in Canada. Get involved and give back to the International Peer Mentorship program. Once you have completed at least one academic term, you can become a Mentor and help new students with their first semester! You'll be an experienced student with lots of tips and insider info to support new International students in their academic journey.

kpu.ca/international/ipm/becomeamentor

We'll see you at the next Student Life Event!

University isn't just about books. It's also about meeting new people, trying different things, and exploring who you want to become. Engaging in student events can give you the break you need from schoolwork, help reduce stress, and allow you to balance your university experience. Explore Metro Vancouver while meeting new students and making friends at the next Student Life Event!

kpu.ca/international/events

Follow our socials for upcoming event dates and info!



Volunteer with us

Volunteering is a great way to learn new skills and develop valuable connections. It is also an opportunity to prepare for your career after university, whether to discover a new passion or to gain working experience. Join an event as a volunteer or explore the many other volunteering opportunities through our volunteer services department!

kpu.ca/volunteer



Additional Services

Available to Every Student at KPU!

Stay safe with Medical Insurance

Medical Insurance helps alleviate costly medical care in British Columbia. Unexpected medical expenses can present a significant financial challenge when starting your studies so **it is important to understand health insurance and the available options for you at KPU and in BC.**

International students at KPU have access to coverage for emergency medical care, routine check-ups, and more through a combination of three health insurance plans:

- » KPU Temporary Medical Insurance Plan
- » British Columbia Medical Services Plan (BC MSP)
- » Kwantlen Student Association's Extended Health and Dental Coverage

All new international students are automatically enrolled in KPU's Temporary Medical Insurance Plan at the start of their studies until they are covered by BC MSP, the provincial healthcare insurance plan. It is important to understand how to apply for your MSP medical care card upon arrival and apply to your student union for your extended health and dental plan to transition to permanent medical coverage in the following semesters. To learn more about the three health insurance plans, please visit our website for more information.

kpu.ca/international/insurance

We care about your Health and Wellness

Living in a new country and transitioning into a new educational environment can be tough. The pressures of adapting to an unfamiliar academic environment, language barriers, culture shock, homesickness, financial stress, or newfound personal independence can be tough. We have resources to help you.

- » TELUS Health Student Support provides 24/7 Professional Counselling
kpu.ca/counselling/support
- » Counselling Services through KPU.
kpu.ca/counselling
- » Sexual Violence Support and Education for students impacted by sexual violence.
kpu.ca/sexual-misconduct
- » Peer Wellness offers social support and opportunities for social connection and health and wellness resources on campus.
kpu.ca/peerwellness

Your Safety at KPU

We are committed to the safety and security of every member of our KPU community. Our **KPU Safe app**, is the best way to stay up to date in the event of a safety or security issue at KPU. Installing the app will ensure that you gain instant access to important safety resources all in one place.

kpu.ca/safe



There is More!

KPU offers many student services and programs to all students at KPU to promote campus involvement, foster inclusive and community engagement and provide necessary resources for students to succeed. To maximize your experience, take a moment to read about the services available at KPU and reach out to the various teams to take advantage of the programs and services offered to YOU!

kpu.ca/current-students



Global Learning Opportunities

KPU's Study Abroad Program

Did you know you can study abroad while 'studying abroad'?

Get yourself ready for the global job market by gaining valuable global experiences and cross-cultural learning. Programs vary in length, from 1 week to 4 months, so you'll find something that will match your time at KPU!

We have four different types of study abroad programs; contact us so we can help you find the right program for you!

Ready to take the next step? Reach out to Study Abroad coordinators (internationalprograms@kpu.ca) for advising meetings and info session information!

Are there scholarships?

Yes! There are some scholarships available to International students.

What about my study permit?

We have designated RISIA advisors who specialize in addressing specific inquiries regarding the implications of the study abroad experience on study permits. Upon contacting the study abroad coordinators, they will facilitate direct communication with our advisors, ensuring comprehensive assistance with your queries.

kpu.ca/studyabroad

"I had a great opportunity to learn from another university and know different people from different countries," Thi Hien (Emily) Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Operations and Supply Chain Management.

Read Study Abroad alumni stories at [instagram.com/kpustudyabroad](https://www.instagram.com/kpustudyabroad)

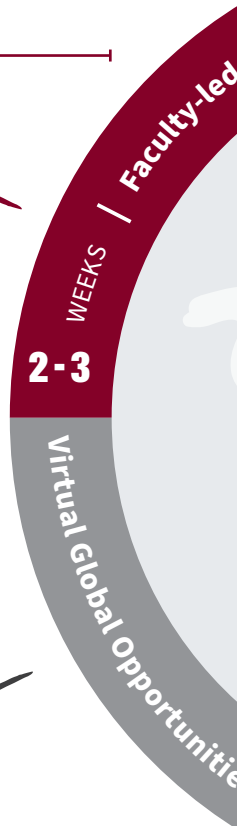
 @KPUStudyAbroad

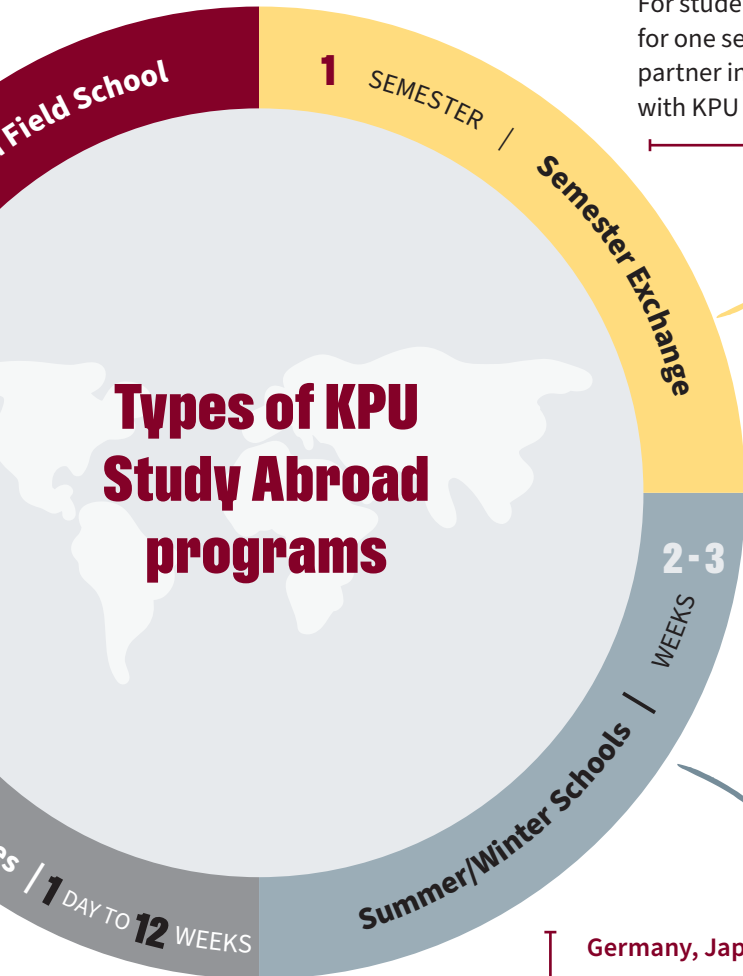
Destination Examples: Paris, New York, Amazon Rainforest

For students who want to travel with a faculty member and other classmates, while earning KPU credits.



Online
e.g. **Virtual internships, Spanish Language Day.** Perfect for students who want to receive global education in the comfort of their own home!





Destination Examples: Australia, Denmark, Korea, Peru, Vietnam, Mexico, Germany, Hong Kong

For students who want to study for one semester at one of our 50+ partner institutions around the world with KPU tuition prices.

Germany, Japan, Switzerland

For students who want to go abroad for under 4 weeks.

Endless career and work integrated learning opportunities

Gain work experience at KPU!

There are many opportunities for personal and professional growth at KPU. **We offer work-integrated learning options, including on-campus jobs, service learning projects, internships, volunteer programs, mentorship opportunities, and student clubs.**

These opportunities provide hands-on learning, improve English language skills, simulate some of the conditions of a professional work environment, and promote interactions with other students to prepare you for full-time work after graduation.

Take advantage of these opportunities to help you develop the appropriate skills necessary to secure and thrive in work environments post-graduation!

- » Career exploration
- » Resume review
- » Career Advising
- » Co-op programs at KPU
- » Finding a job through Career Connection

kpu.ca/careers

Other Experiential Learning Opportunities

You can also develop transferable skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, teamwork, communication skills and conflict resolution, which can be used across various occupational fields by engaging in other **experiential learning opportunities at KPU**. You may automatically participate through a class you are taking at KPU or decide to join the available extracurricular and co-curricular programs.

- » Student clubs
- » KPU's student union
- » KPU's Magazine "The Runner, Pulp Magazine"
- » Sports and Recreation at KPU
- » Peer programs
- » Orientation Leaders

kpu.ca/experiential



Endless Career Opportunities



Did you Know?



Scholarships

As part of KPU International's commitment to supporting international students' academic journey, we offer a **number of scholarships to new and current international students**. Scholarships are intended to celebrate the academic achievement of deserving students in attaining their educational goals, meeting their program objectives and succeeding to their fullest ability.

kpu.ca/awards

Zero Textbook Costs

To reduce the cost of learning for students, KPU started Canada's first **Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC)** initiative. Instead of textbooks, KPU uses library and open educational resources (OER) in over 950 course sections.

Use the Register for Classes app at **ONE.KPU.ca** to search for course sections with zero textbook costs.

kpu.ca/open/ztc



KPU Shuttle

Did you know that KPU offers an inter-campus shuttle service? Services run throughout the day between Surrey, Cloverdale, and Langley campuses. Be sure to check the shuttle bus schedule online if you have classes on different campuses!

kpu.ca/shuttle



Kwantlen Student Association

As a student at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, you are also a member of the Kwantlen Student Association (KSA). You will have access to resources, services, advocacy, and support that students might not otherwise have. Visit the KSA office on any campus to learn about what KSA events and campaigns are underway and how you can get involved!

kusa.ca



Maximize your experience at KPU!

4 Steps for Student Success

1

Pre-Arrival

Before your first semester at KPU, be sure to attend the **pre-arrival webinars and Orientation!** We cover important academic and non-academic information to help you transition into post-secondary life in Canada.

kpu.ca/international/new-students

2

Settling in

We're here to help you from **application to graduation.** If you have any questions, meet with our Educational Advisors to achieve your academic and professional goals. Attend workshops hosted by our advising team and the Learning Centre for tools and tips on academic success and get valuable immigration information.

kpu.ca/international/student-hub

3

Make Connections

Connect with your **International Peer Mentor** and meet new friends! Make the most out of your University experience outside of the classroom. Join a club, volunteer on campus, and attend our Student Life events!

kpu.ca/international/events

4

Enrich Your Experience

Go on an exciting study abroad experience. Study in the rainforest or under city lights, the adventure is up to you! We offer various opportunities, including field schools, virtual global learning, and summer schools. We also have funding and scholarships available for International students.

kpu.ca/studyabroad

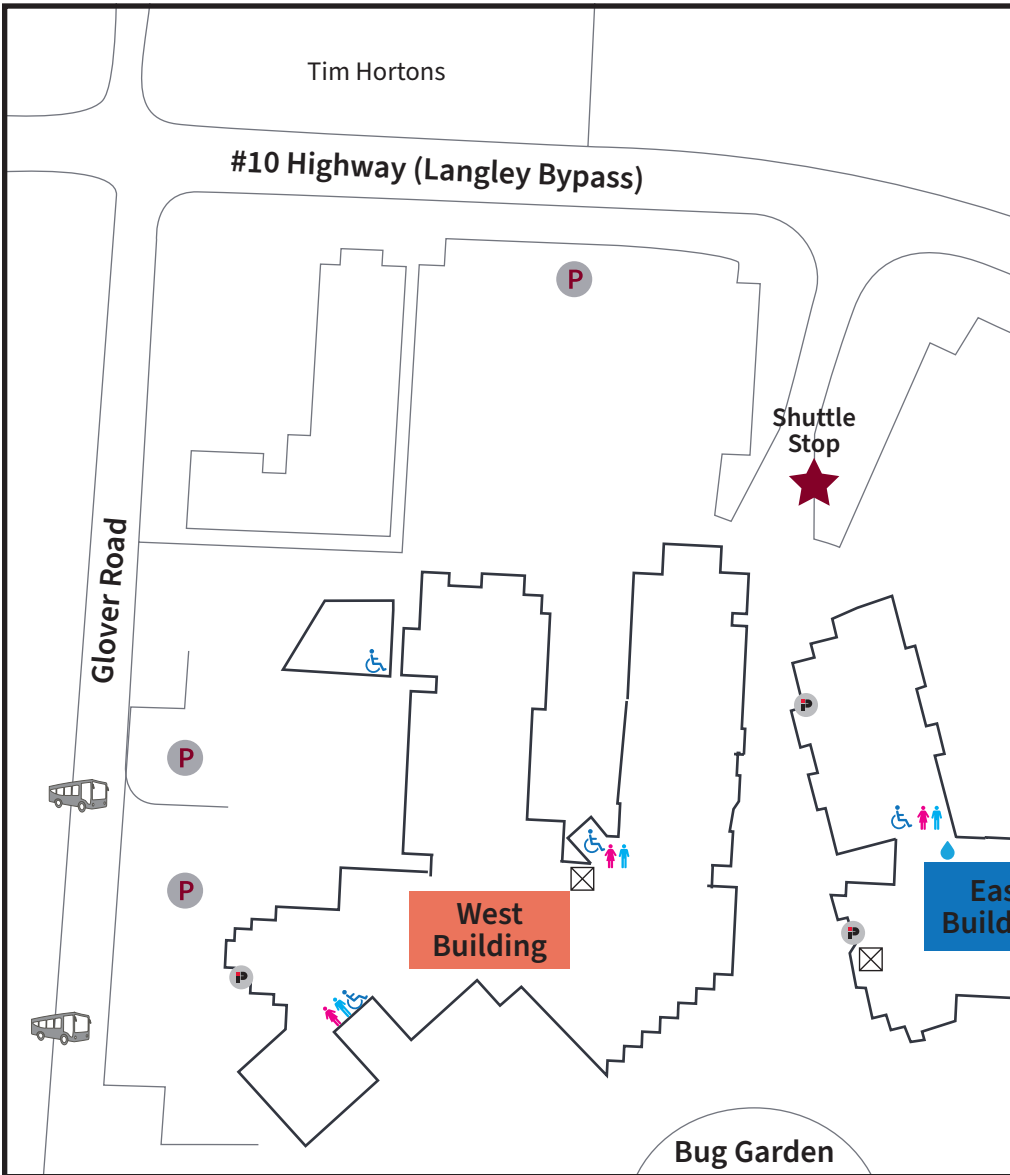
New Student Checklist

Congratulations on your acceptance to Kwantlen Polytechnic University! You are now ready to start your journey at KPU. Here is a checklist to support you with the next steps.

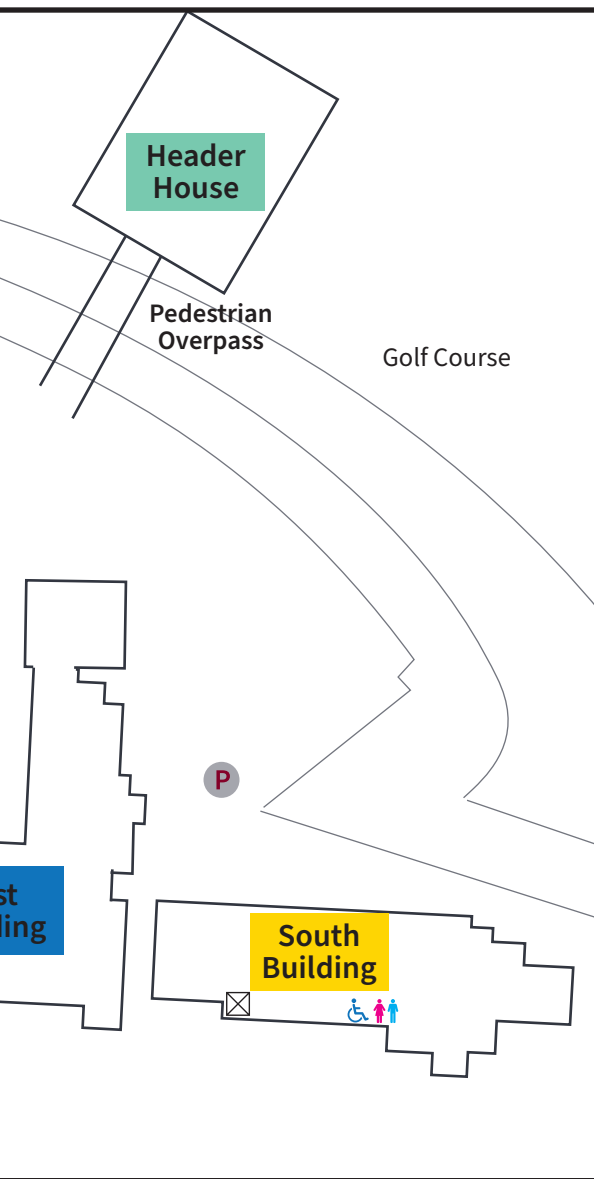
New International Student Checklist

- Apply for your Study Permit, ETA and/or Temporary Resident Visa (if applicable).
- Register for the mandatory New Student Orientation. kpu.ca/orientation
- Learn more about the International Peer Mentorship Program. As a new student, you are automatically assigned an International Peer Mentor to support you in your first semester at KPU! kpu.ca/international/ipm
- Get familiar with your KPU email and check it frequently. This is where you will receive important messages and updates from the University. You can access your KPU email via one.kpu.ca. For instructions on how to set up and use your KPU email, kpu.ca/studentemail.
- Connect with your International Student Advisor. Your Advisor will contact you via your KPU email before the start of classes. Visit this page to book an appointment or check the advising daily drop-in schedule. kpu.ca/international/advising
- Review the University Calendar. This is the official guide to KPU's programs and where you can find a list of courses you are required to take in your program. You can access the calendar at calendar.kpu.ca/programs-az.
- Register for courses on your assigned registration date and time. You can find your registration date and time under "Register for Courses" in one.kpu.ca. We also run free registration webinars every semester, usually about a month before the registration period starts – keep an eye out for an invitation on your KPU email!
- Check all important dates and deadlines for your first semester. kpu.ca/registration/dates
- Pay your tuition & fees in full by the deadline to avoid late penalty fees.
- Learn what to expect from your classes. Check out these resources with tips on how to prepare for and adapt to a Canadian classroom. Take this short online course on Academic Integrity prior to the start of classes. kpu.ca/international/achieving-academic-success
- Download the KPU iCent app kpu.ca/international/icent and the MySSP app kpu.ca/keepmesafe for quick access to lots of free resources and services.
- Stay in touch! Reach out to internationaltransitions@kpu.ca if you have questions or need any type of support.

Welcome to KPU! We're excited that you are joining us!



- **Useful tip:** The first number of a room tells you what floor the room is on.
Example: Student Enrolment Services 1060 is on the 1st floor of the West building.



CAMPUS LEGEND

West Building

- Faculty of Science & Horticulture
- Student Awards & Financial Assistance
- Student Enrolment Services
- Co-op, Volunteer and Career Services
- Counselling, Advising and Accessibility Services
- Security Office
- Future Students' Office
- Library
- Classrooms/Seminar Labs
- The Learning Centre
- Auditorium
- Classrooms/Labs
- Classrooms
- Brewing Lab Building

East Building

- Classrooms
- Bookstore
- Kwantlen Student Association
- Cafeteria
- Fitness Studio
- Institute for Sustainable Horticulture
- Research Building

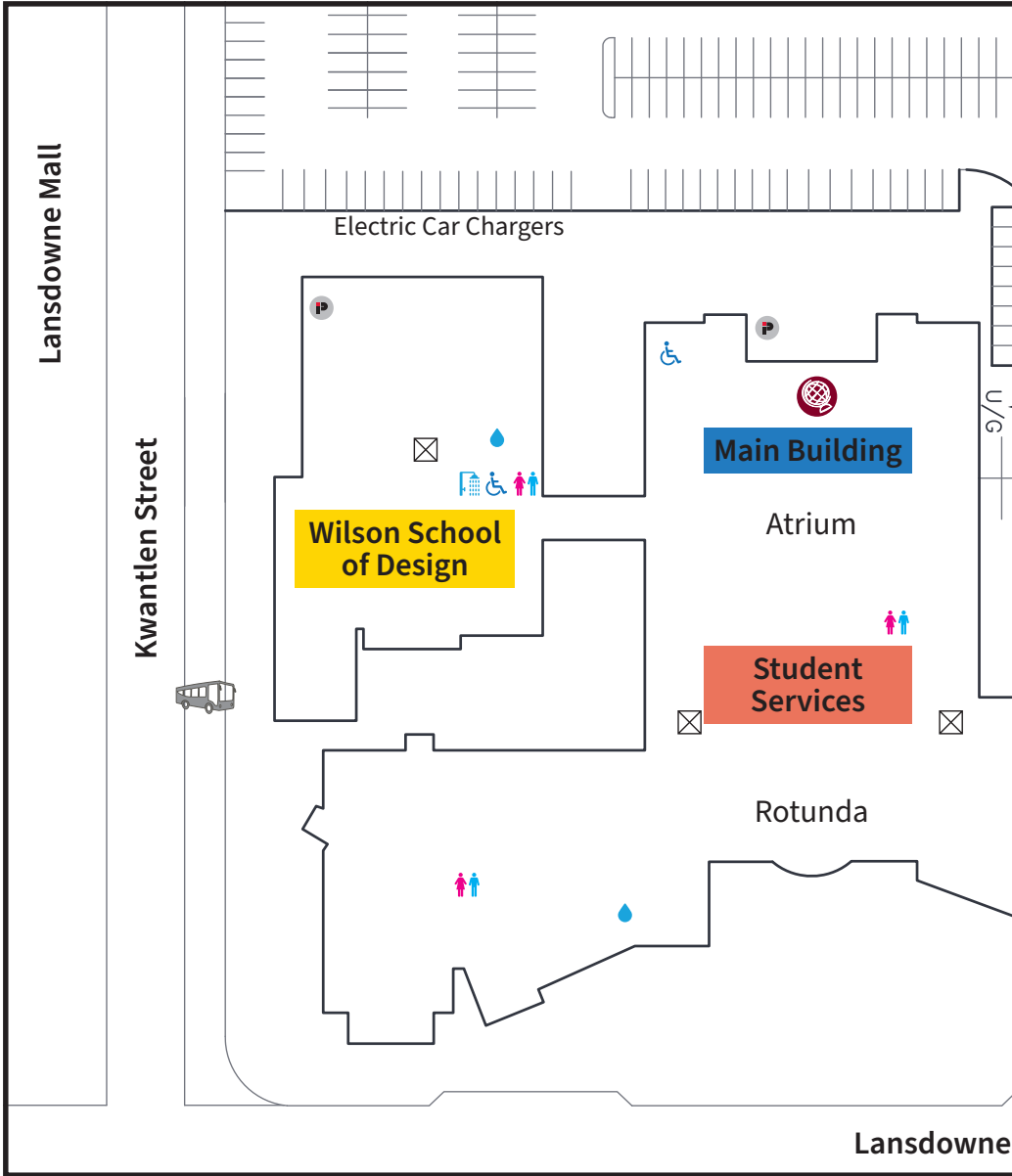
South Building

- Faculty of Health
- Nursing Labs
- Simulation Labs
- Classrooms

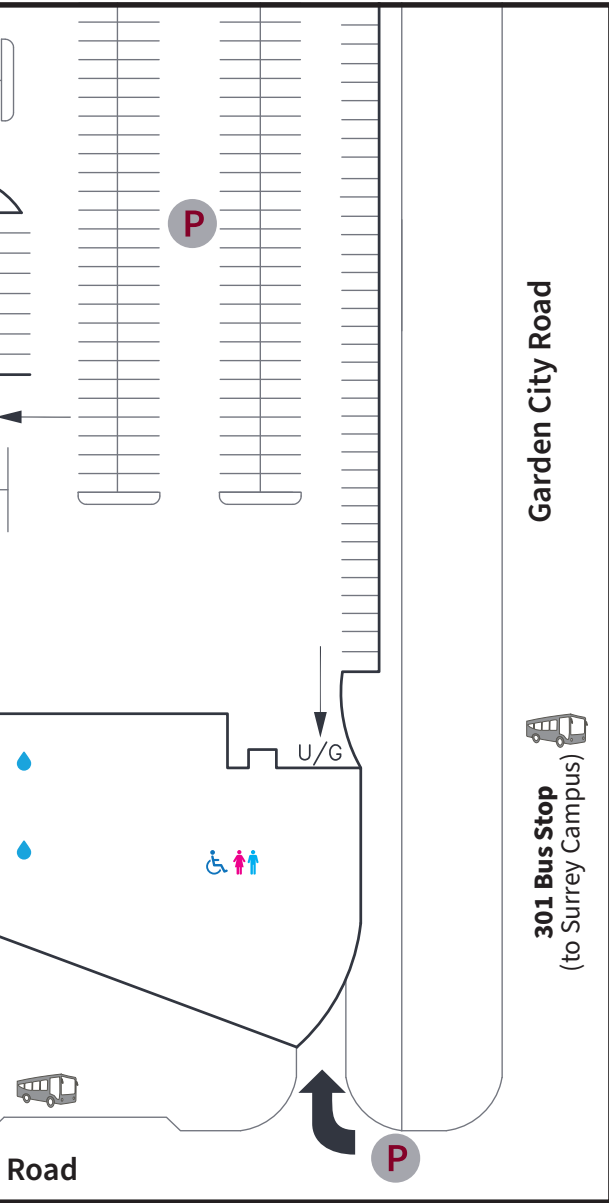
Header House

- Horticulture Field Labs & Greenhouses

- Washrooms
- Accessible Washrooms
- Parking Lot
- Bus Stop
- Pay Parking Stations
- Elevators
- Shuttle Stop
- Water Refill Station




➤ **Useful tip:** The first number of a room tells you what floor the room is on. Example: Room number 2300 is on the 2nd floor. The Chip & Shannon Wilson School of Design building has a ground floor so room 0900 is on the ground floor, 1950 is on the 1st floor, etc.



CAMPUS LEGEND

Student Services









- Bookstore
- Active KSA Studio
- Kwantlen Student Association
- Library
- The Learning Centre
- Cafeteria
- Tim Hortons
- Melville Centre for Dialogue
- Multi-Faith Centre/Sacred Space
- Counselling
- Academic Advising
- Accessibility Services
- Co-op, Career & Volunteer Services
- Student Enrolment Services
- KPU International 
- Security, Lost & Found
- Gardens

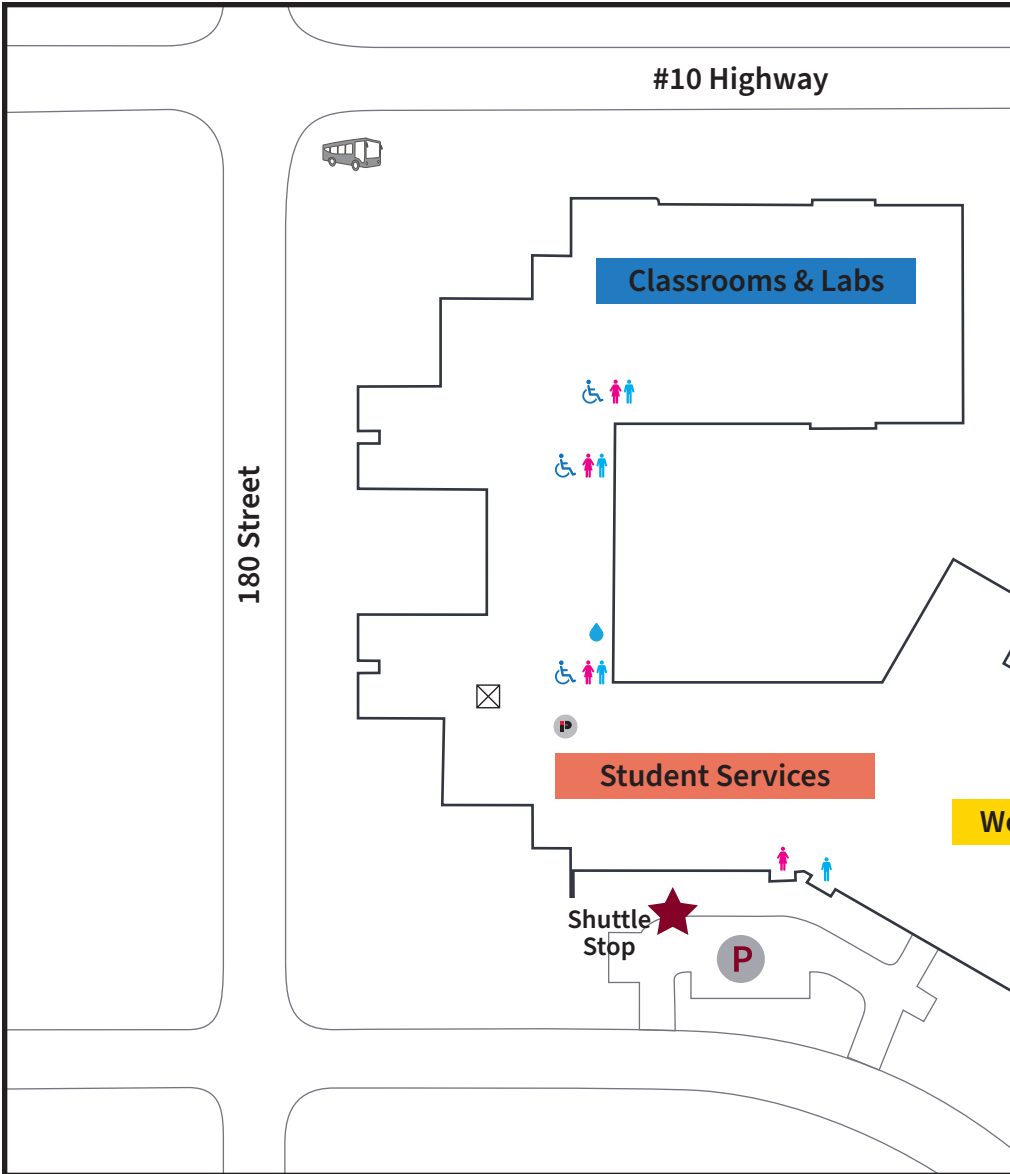
Main Building

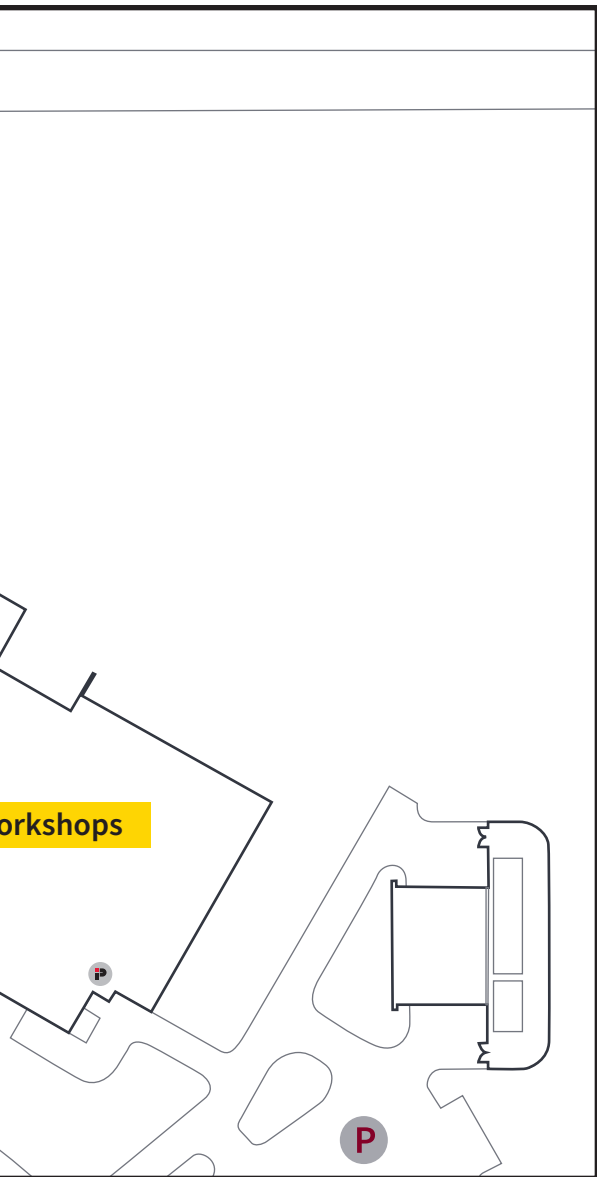
- Classrooms
- Labs
- KPU International Office

Wilson School of Design Building

- Textiles
- Specialty Lab
- Workshop
- Studios
- WSOD, Dean's Office
- Computer Lab
- Multi-purpose Space
- Server/Kitchenette
- Student Resource Lab
- Lighting Lab
- Production/Testing Lab
- Marking Room
- Sewing Labs
- Design Research Network

-  Washrooms
-  Accessible Washrooms
-  Parking Lot
-  Bus Stop
-  Pay Parking Stations
-  Elevators
-  Water Refill Station
-  Showers





CAMPUS LEGEND









Student Services

Library
 The Learning Centre
 Fitness Centre
 Kwantlen Student Association
 Cafeteria
 Bookstore
 Services for Students with Disabilities,
 Counselling, and Advising
 Student Enrolment Services
 Security, First Aid, and
 Lost & Found
 Learning Management Centre
 Customer Auto Shop

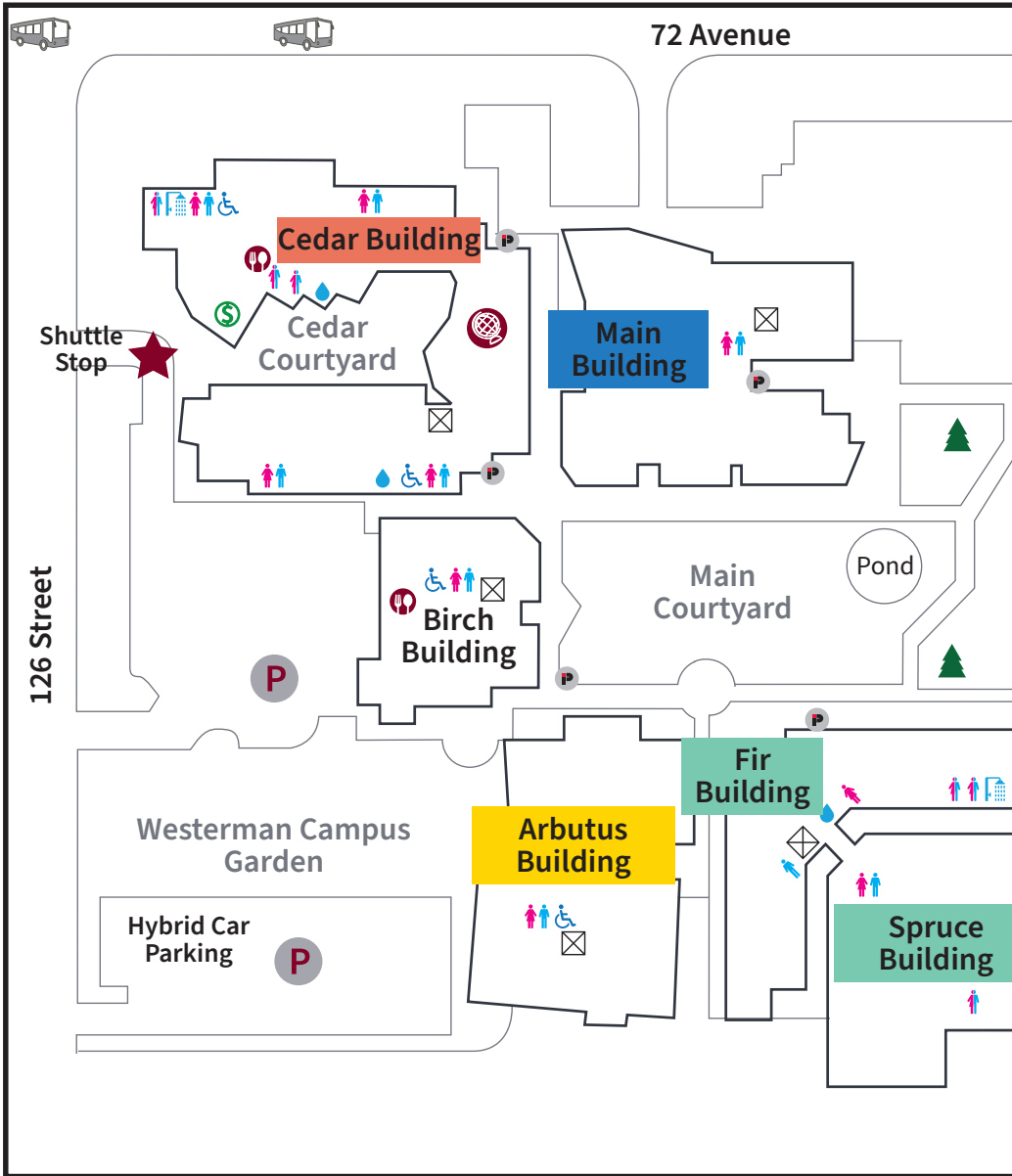
Classrooms & Labs

Workshops

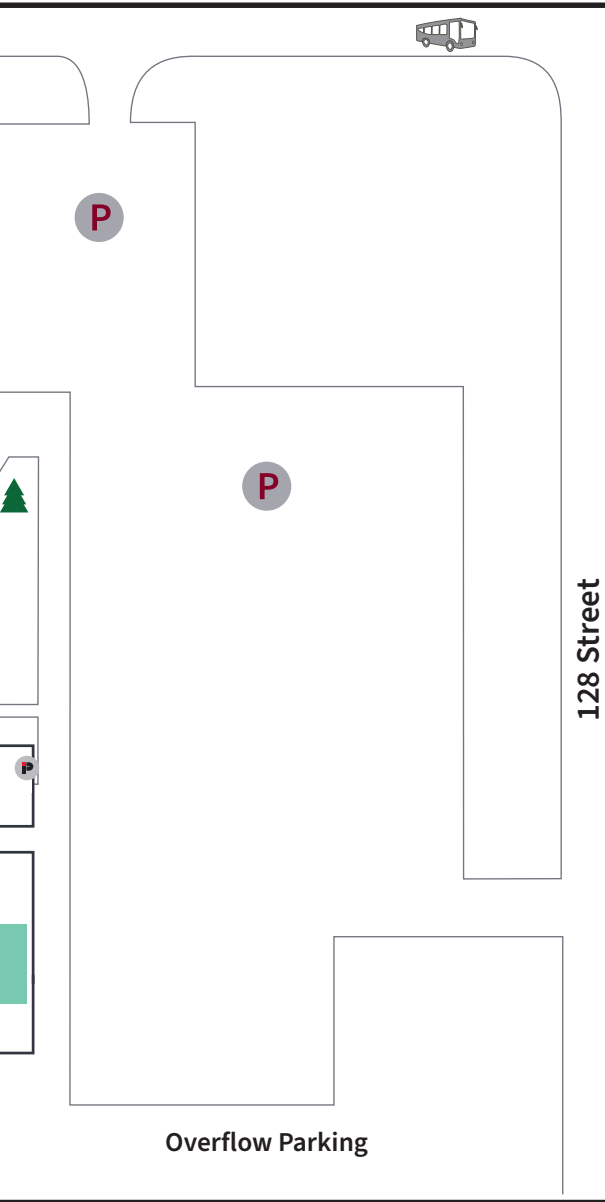
Farrier Barn
 Commercial Beekeeping
 Auto Mechanics
 Appliance Repair
 Electrical
 Plumbing
 Carpentry
 Masonry
 Welding and Fabrication
 Millwright

-  Washrooms
-  Accessible Washrooms
-  Parking Lot
-  Bus Stop
-  Pay Parking Stations
-  Elevators
-  Shuttle Stop
-  Water Refill Station

KPU Surrey | Classroom & Faculty




➤ **Useful tip:** The first number of a room tells you what floor the room is on.
Example: Cedar 2045 is on the 2nd floor of the Cedar building.



CAMPUS LEGEND

Cedar Building

- Classrooms
- Computer Labs
- Language Lab
- Journalism Lab
- Faculty of Academic and Career Preparation
- CELS Lab
- KPU International Office 

Main Building

- Classrooms
- Melville School of Business

Arbutus Building



- Faculty of Arts

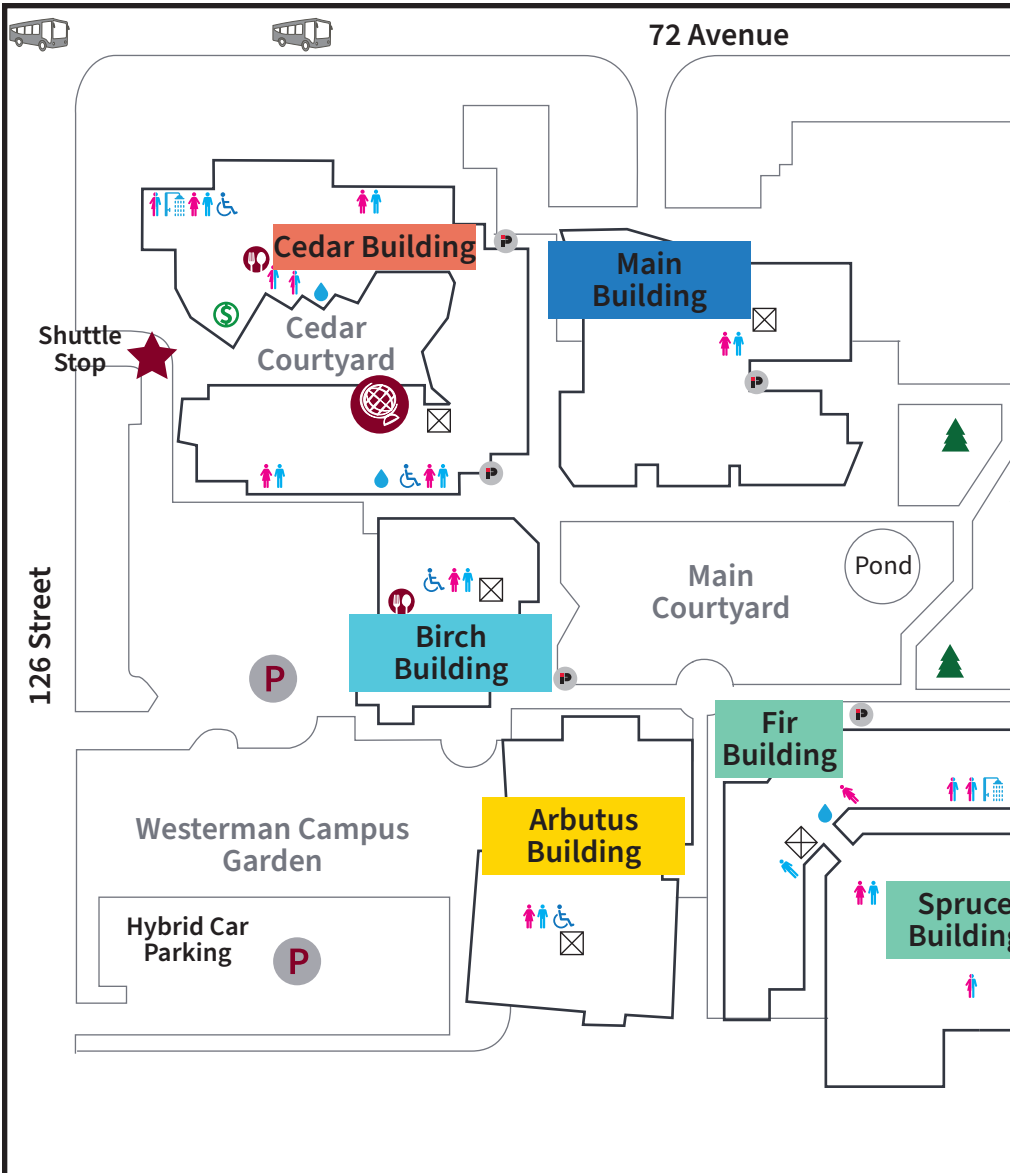
Fir/Spruce Building

- Chemistry Labs
- Physics Labs
- Biology Labs
- Studios
- Geography/Geology Lab
- Fine Arts Studios
- 3D Studios
- Classrooms
- Classrooms and Labs
- Lecture Theatre
- Anthropology Lab
- Psychology Lab

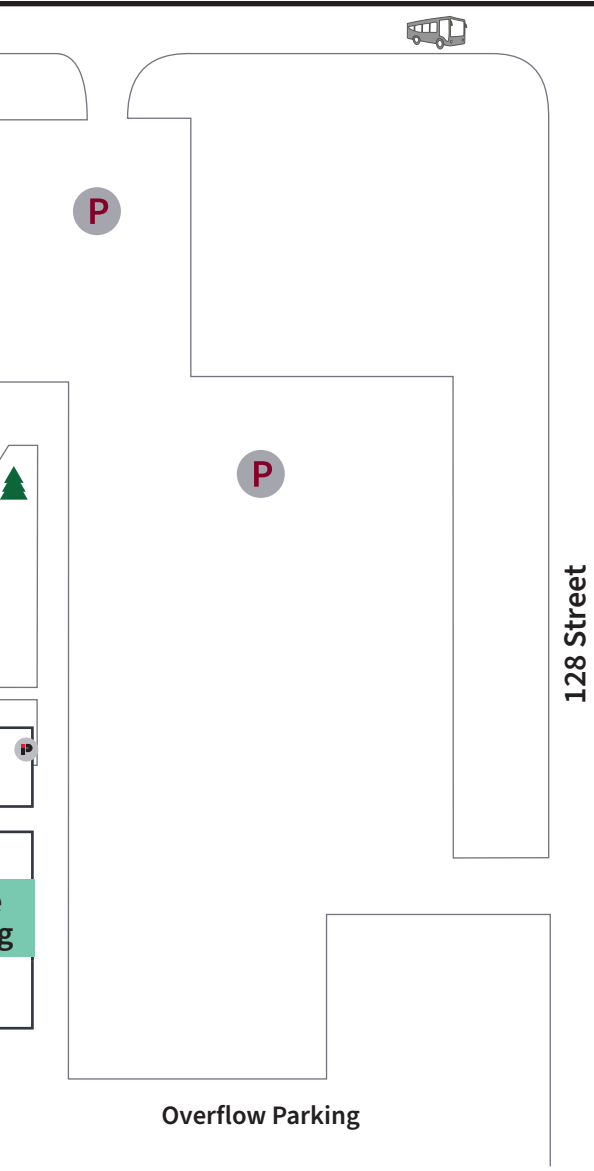
128 Street

Overflow Parking

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Washrooms |  Elevators |
|  Accessible Washrooms |  Shuttle Stop |
|  Gender Neutral Washrooms |  Water Refill Station |
|  Parking Lot |  Showers |
|  Bus Stop |  Food |
|  Pay Parking Stations |  ATM |



➤ **Useful tip:** The first number of a room tells you what floor the room is on.
Example: Cedar 2045 is on the 2nd floor of the Cedar building.



CAMPUS LEGEND

Cedar Building

- Tim Hortons
- KPU International
- Conference Centre
- Gym/Fitness Centre/Sport and Recreation
- KSA Member Services & Health and Dental Office
- GrassRoots Cafe
- Kwantlen Student Association
- Multifaith Centre

Main Building

- Future Students' Office, Orientation & Transitions
- Co-op, Career and Volunteer Services
- Office of the Vice President, Students Counselling, Peer Support and Academic Advising
- The Gathering Place
- Accessibility Services
- Student Enrolment Services
- Student Awards and Financial Assistance
- Security Office, First Aid, and Lost & Found

Arbutus Building

- Library
- The Learning Centre
- Research Help Desk
- The Arbutus Gallery
- IT Service Desk

Fir/Spruce Building

- Gallery
- Meditation and Prayer Room
- Assessment and Testing Services

Birch Building

- Bookstore
- Cafeteria
- The Print Shop
- The Runner (student newspaper)
- Pride Centre
- Social Justice Space
- Student Rights Centre
- Women's Centre

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Washrooms | Elevators |
| Accessible Washrooms | Shuttle Stop |
| Gender Neutral Washrooms | Water Refill Station |
| Parking Lot | Showers |
| Bus Stop | Food |
| Pay Parking Stations | ATM |

