

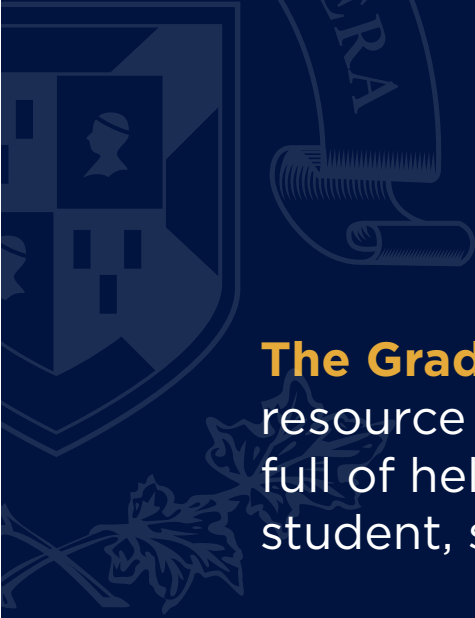


GRADUATE STUDIES GUIDE

2026-27

stfx.ca

St. Francis Xavier University is located on Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw people.

The background of the slide features a dark blue color with a faint, light blue crest of StFX University on the left. The crest includes a shield with a cross, a book, and a scroll. A scroll with the letters 'RA' is also visible.

The Graduate Studies Guide is a step-by-step resource to help you prepare for StFX. It's also full of helpful information about life as a graduate student, support services, and more.

This is the beginning of an exciting new chapter in your life, and we want you to be ready for it!



@sarahmarieelliott



GET READY to be a StFX graduate student

Set up your StFX account	6
Arrange your finances	8
Visit your healthcare provider	10
Confirm your technology needs	12
Review the academic calendar	14
Registration information	16
Moodle and more	18
Stay connected	20

GET READY to live in residence

Apply to live in residence	22
Learn our residence community standards	23
Parking	23
Campus dining	24

GET READY to join the Xaverian community

Finding help when you need it	26
Welcome days	32
What does it mean to be Xaverian?	34
Important dates & milestones	36

GET READY to be a Xaverian parent/supporter

Preparing for a successful transition	38
---------------------------------------	----

Dear Graduate Students, Welcome to StFX!



Congratulations on beginning a graduate program, we are so pleased to welcome you into our academic community.

Your decision to pursue advanced studies marks a significant milestone, and we congratulate you on taking this next step in your personal and professional journey.

At StFX, we value the experience and perspective that post-baccalaureate students bring to campus. Your time here will be shaped by meaningful academic work, personal growth, and opportunities to connect with faculty, peers, and the broader StFX community. While your program may only span one or two years, your impact and engagement during this time can be lasting.

This Graduate Student Get Ready Guide includes important information to help you navigate

your time at StFX—whether you're here to engage in research, prepare for a new career, or grow in your chosen field. We encourage you to review it closely and take advantage of the supports and services available to you.

StFX is a community built on respect, inclusion, and academic excellence. You belong here—and we're excited to support you in making the most of this next chapter.

Wishing you a rewarding and successful year ahead,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Yeo". The script is fluid and cursive.

Elizabeth Yeo
Vice-President, Students

Welcome from the Associate Vice-President Research, Graduate & Professional Studies

Welcome to Graduate Studies at St. Francis Xavier University. By making your decision to pursue graduate work at StFX, you have joined a network of other students and alumni from around the world who have committed to the pursuit of academic excellence in a personalized and collegial environment. While StFX is best known for its strong tradition as a primarily undergraduate university, graduate students are a vital component of the StFX academic community. Graduate students enhance the StFX academic programs and contribute significantly to teaching, student mentorship, and research excellence.

Graduate students can excel in an intimate, primarily undergraduate university setting. StFX graduate students have received top national graduate scholarships from federal research granting councils such as NSERC and SSHRC. Our graduate students have gone on to stellar research careers and work in a variety of organizations. The StFX graduate student experience is a unique one, characterized by an opportunity to develop leadership skills, to interact with colleagues and faculty in a “peer-peer” setting, and to benefit from the kind of personal attention and camaraderie for which StFX is famous.

The administration of graduate studies and each student’s graduate program is a collaborative effort between my office and the individual departments and faculties offering graduate degrees at StFX. We work closely with the Offices of the Deans of Arts, Business, Science, and Education, as well as the Registrar’s Office and the Office of the Vice-President, Academic & Provost in the oversight and administration of our graduate programs.

I hope you find this booklet a useful guide to help you navigate through your graduate program at StFX. Please be aware that your program may have a handbook of its own to provide program-specific information, and the Academic Calendar is the final authority on issues related to academic regulations. There are also other useful resources available on campus and many people who will be happy to help you excel while at StFX.

Please accept my very best,

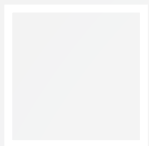


Erin Morton, PhD

Associate Vice-President Research, Graduate
Studies & Professional Studies



GET READY
to be a student



SET UP YOUR STFX ACCOUNT



All students can install StFX's Microsoft 365 license on up to 5 devices at no cost. We recommend installing the full Microsoft 365 suite on your primary device, including Teams, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, and Visio for Windows users. **To install:** Go to <https://m365.cloud.microsoft/apps>, log in using your StFX credentials, and click the "Install Office" button in the upper right corner.

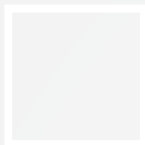
Everything begins with your StFX account. It's your key for accessing important campus services, including course registration, campus wifi, printing services, and Microsoft Office products. It's also how you will communicate with faculty and staff throughout your time at StFX.

Check your StFX email regularly to avoid missing important information about registration, move-in dates, welcome days, and more.

Here's how to log in to your email for the first time:

1. Visit **microsoft365.com**
2. Login using your StFX username & password
(provided in your acceptance package)
3. Set up your MFA/recovery information to ensure you can access your account
4. Click on the 'Outlook' tile
5. Download Office 365 to your laptop/tablet/phone
(including Outlook)

GET READY
to be a student



ARRANGE YOUR FINANCES

For information on tuition, fees, housing and meal plan rates, visit stfx.ca/student-accounts.



When do I need to pay my tuition & fees? Your tuition and fees are due twice a year. 65% of all tuition, residence, and meal plan fees are due on September 15, 2026. The remaining balance is due on January 15, 2026.

Now is the time to make sure that you have financial resources in place for your university education. There are financial aid options and supports available for all students studying at all levels.

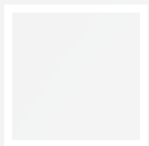
Not sure if you will require financial aid? Need help building a budget? Contact our Financial Aid office for assistance at 902.867.2374 or 902.867.2301 or email **financialaid@stfx.ca**. You can also visit the Financial Aid website at **stfx.ca/financial-aid** for helpful information and resources related to financing your education.

Accepted payments:

- Online banking – bill payment set up using your student ID number as the account number
- Wire transfer
- In-person (*cash, cheque, debit*)
- Directly from Canadian and American government financial aid programs

For more information on payment options: **stfx.ca/payments**

GET READY
to be a student



VISIT YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER



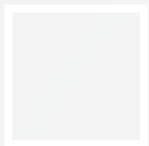
Planning to access supports from the Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning? These services are available for all students independent of their full-time or part-time status, or their undergraduate or graduate level studies. You will require recent documentation confirming your diagnosis—along with recommendations for accommodation—from a qualified professional. **For more information:** stfx.ca/accessible-learning

The StFX Health and Counselling Centre offers a range of health services to support students throughout the academic year, with select services available virtually. Before arriving on campus, we encourage you to re-new any prescription medications with your primary healthcare provider, ensure your routine immunizations are up to date, and discuss any ongoing healthcare needs. You may also wish to discuss the Meningitis B vaccine with your primary healthcare provider to determine whether it is appropriate for you.

Please note that you are the only person who can make an appointment for yourself at the Health and Counselling Centre, and that your health information is confidential.

For more information: stfx.ca/health-and-counselling

GET READY
to be a student



CONFIRM YOUR TECHNOLOGY NEEDS



View IT Services' full recommendations: stfx.ca/technology

Most StFX classes require regular computer access. Please review the hardware, connectivity, and operating system recommendations from our IT Services team to ensure your devices and systems are equipped to support your academic needs.

Computer hardware recommendations:

Minimum Requirements

Processor:

Intel Core i5
(*sixth generation or newer*)
or AMD Equivalent

RAM: 16 GB

Hard Drive: 256 GB

Display: 1024 x 768

Connectivity

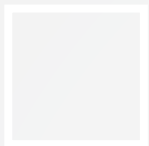
A high-speed Internet
connection, preferably
ADSL, Cable, or similar

Operating System

Windows 11*
Mac OS Ventura
or higher

*Due to software requirements,
Engineering students must purchase
a Windows 11 based computer.

GET READY
to be a student



REVIEW THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR

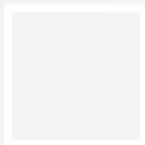
The academic calendar is a go-to source for program information, course descriptions, important academic regulations and dates, and much more. However, there is more information that is program specific that is important for you to know. This information can be found in the Guide to Graduate Studies or on their program and departmental webpage.

stfx.ca/programs-courses/graduate-studies/graduate-programs

stfx.ca/academiccalendar



GET READY
to be a student



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

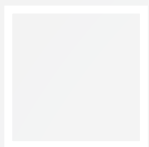


What is Banner Self Service? Banner is the software that supports StFX's student information system. You will use it to register in your courses, view your class schedule, view your grades, apply for graduation, or obtain your T2202A tax forms. **You can access Banner here:** stfx.ca/banner. Use the StFX email/username provided in your acceptance letter and your account password to log in.

You will receive an email to your StFX account with specific instructions for your program. In the meantime, visit the webpage of your program/department website to learn more about the registration information for your program or reach out to your department chair or program coordinator.

The Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning provides extra registration support for students with disabilities.
For more information: cal@stfx.ca

GET READY
to be a student



MOODLE AND MORE

What is Kwe' (Moodle)? Kwe' is a learning management system (*LMS*) that gives both students and their professors an online platform to post assignments, download relevant coursework, have class discussions, and complete learning modules. **To access information:** stfx.ca/mycampus

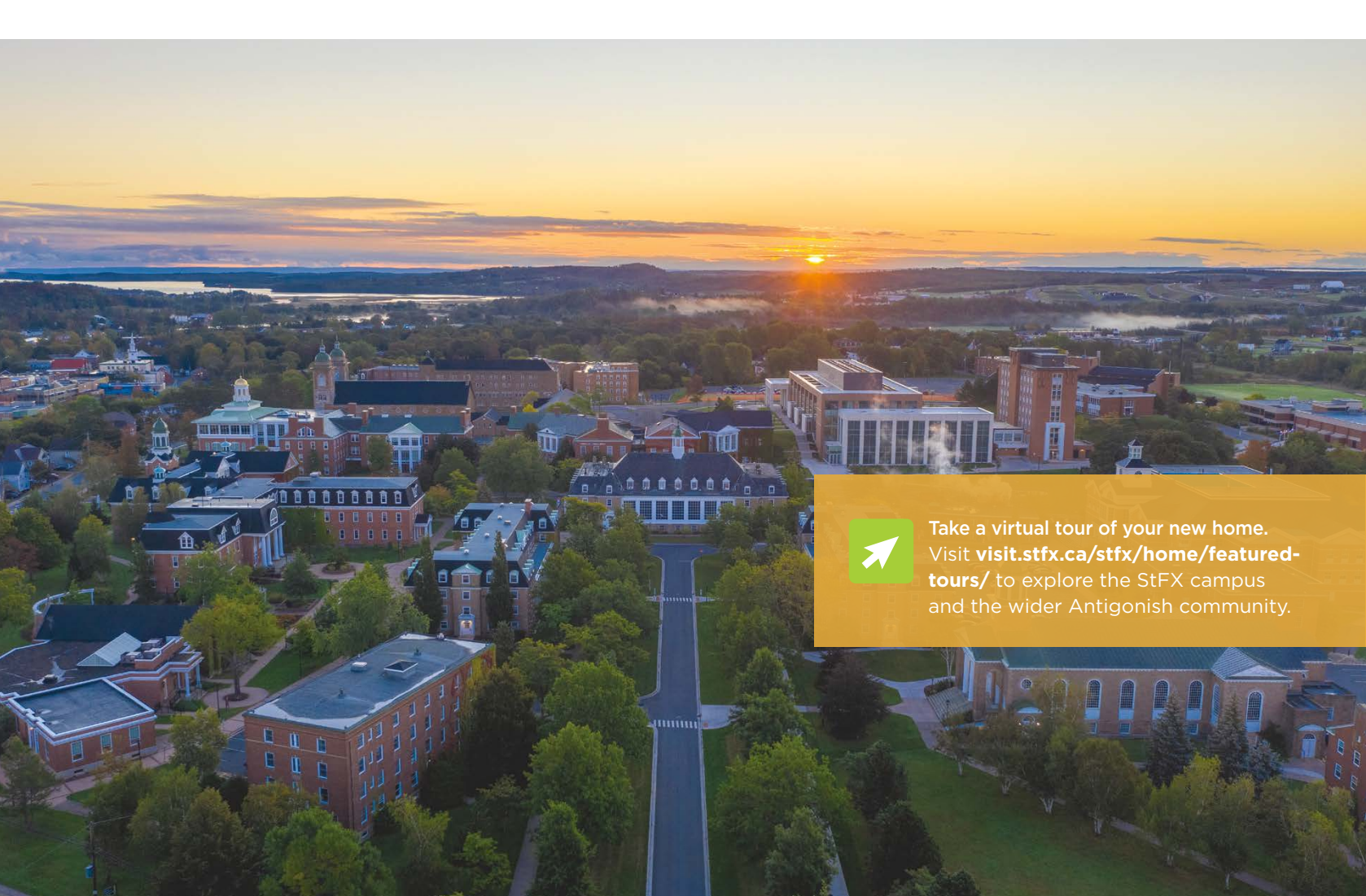




STAY CONNECTED

Follow the StFX University on social media to keep up to date with what's happening. You can also follow the UOfficial, the StFX Students Union page. Connect with your program coordinator, department chair or Graduate studies student senator to get information on other ways to connect.





Take a virtual tour of your new home. Visit visit.stfx.ca/stfx/home/featured-tours/ to explore the StFX campus and the wider Antigonish community.

GET READY

to live in residence

StFX has many residence options on campus. If you are studying in person during the fall and winter terms, you can apply to live in residence at stfx.ca/student-services/university-housing/residence-options. If you are on campus in the spring and summer for a short course, check out the on campus options stfx.ca/hotel. Both professional staff and students reside in and staff the residence buildings on campus.

LEARN OUR RESIDENCE COMMUNITY STANDARDS

This is a foundational document for all residence students that you should read and understand. It provides detailed information on how to access support, who residence staff are, standards of behaviour, and expectations for how we treat each other and our spaces. Please watch your email for this important information. The Residence Guidebook and Community Standards has everything you need to know about life in residence.

PARKING INFORMATION

Bringing a car to campus?

Please note there is a cost for both daily and overnight parking.

Daytime Parking: \$270 per year | \$165 per term

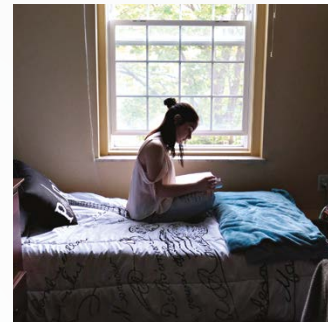
Overnight Parking: \$475 per year | \$285 per term

Monthly Parking: \$65 per month

Single Day Parking: \$15 per day

If you purchase an overnight pass, you'll have daytime parking privileges as well (*you wouldn't need to purchase a daily pass*).

For more information: stfx.ca/security/parking



CAMPUS DINING

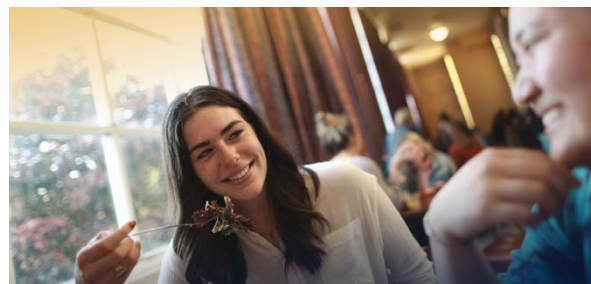
If you are living in residence, you will eat most of your meals in Morrison Hall—our main dining facility—where we offer delicious, freshly made choices to suit all tastes and appetites. Morrison Hall is also available for students not living in residence and is equipped with a GRAB & GO feature for convenience when you're eating on the run. Looking for more dining options? Take advantage of our food convenience stores located across campus, with each one offering a unique dining experience. StFX is also pleased to have a full-service Starbucks located in the heart of campus. Some locations and options are closed or limited during the spring and summer terms.

Find out more: stfx.ca/student-services/student-life/campus-life/campus-dining

SPECIFIC DIETARY NEEDS



Campus Safety and Security Safety & Security Services fosters and safeguards a healthy, safe, and welcoming campus community that supports the well-being of students, faculty, staff, and guests. Safety & Security Services provides 24-hour coverage 365 days per year via the Safety & Security Operations Centre (SOC). **For more information:** stfx.ca/security



Finding help when you need it.

There are many people and places to find assistance on campus. Our goal is to support you as a graduate student, both inside and outside of the classroom. Using the available resources is what successful students do.

Program coordinators, department chairs and the VP Research offices can help you understand program requirements and assist with many other academic issues.

Diversity Engagement Centre | Bloomfield Centre
The Diversity Engagement Centre is home to advisors who offer support for students who identify as Indigenous, Black, or 2SLGBTQIA+ (*and their allies*). It is also home to our International Student Advisor who supports international students studying at StFX, as well as both the Manager amacdona@stfx.ca and the Director of Human Rights & Equity,

mfogarty@stfx.ca · stfx.ca/diversity. The team is available to support virtually as well as in person.

Health and Counselling | Bloomfield Centre

Our team of physicians, nurses, and mental health professionals provide primary health care and mental health services to students, at no additional cost. We pride ourselves on offering a warm, welcoming, respectful, and inclusive environment. We also offer community-based supports and services, including the Bloomfield Hub, which is part of our Flourish@X programming. **Support is available:** stfx.ca/health-and-counselling · 902.867.2263



Additional mental health services include:

Good2Talk—Free, confidential post-secondary student helpline that provides 24/7 professional counselling, and referrals for mental health, addictions, and well-being in Nova Scotia. Post-secondary students can connect with a professional counsellor by calling 1-833-292-3698. Post-secondary students can contact a trained, volunteer crisis responder by texting **GOOD2TALKNS to 686868**

Andrea Currie, in partnership with StFX, provides culturally relevant counselling for members of the StFX community who identify as Indigenous.

The Bloomfield Hub offers an inclusive space where students can connect with others, build community, and participate in programs that support their mental, emotional, and social wellbeing. The Hub is led by a Student Wellness Program Coordinator who facilitates wellness initiatives throughout the year.



Flourish@X Health and Wellness Resource Portal

The Flourish@X Health and Wellness Resource Portal provides quick and easy access to health-related resources available for StFX students, whether they are seeking supports and services on campus, in the community, or online. The resource portal includes a wide range of useful information for students, parents, faculty and staff, including details about how to make appointments at the Health and Counselling Centre, who to contact about various health-related questions/concerns, and links to curated resources, all in one central location.

flourishatx.portal.gs/en/

Kiknu Indigenous Student Centre | Coady West

Meaning 'our home' in English, the Kiknu Indigenous Student Centre is a safe space for Indigenous students and their families. The Centre fosters an environment that promotes friendship and the journey toward reconciliation, while supporting Indigenous student success and overall wellbeing.

stfx.ca/indigenous

Office of the Registrar | Nicholson Tower

Supporting students from application through to graduation, the Office of the Registrar can answer any questions you might have about the registration process, adding or dropping courses, exams, and more.

stfx.ca/registrars-office · registrar@stfx.ca

Academic Success Centre | Angus L. Macdonald Library

The Academic Success Centre can help you adjust to the expectations and workload of university-level classes. They provide free academic skills instruction/coaching, tutoring by subject, writing support, and these services are available virtually.

stfx.ca/student-success · sscentre@stfx.ca

Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning |

Angus L. Macdonald Library

If you have a permanent or prolonged disability, the Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning can provide assistance and supports to help you achieve your academic goals. To review documentation requirements and for further information on registering with our Centre, please visit **stfx.ca/student-services/academic-services/accessible-learning** or contact the Tramble Centre via email: **cal@stfx.ca**.

Visible@X/StFX's Sexual Violence Prevention

GET READY

to join the Xaverian Community

and Response Advocate | Bloomfield Centre

StFX's Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Advocate and the Sexual Violence Prevention Education Coordinator lead sexual violence prevention work on campus and provide support/advocacy to individuals who have experienced sexual violence. Confidential support is available to all members of the StFX community.

stfx.ca/visible-at-x · hblackbu@stfx.ca

Student Life | Bloomfield Centre

The Student Life team are navigators and problem solvers. Not sure where to go? Start with Student Life. stfx.ca/student-life · studentlife@stfx.ca

The Black Student Success Centre | Dr. Agnes Calliste

Academic and Cultural Centre, Mount Saint Bernard, Room 225. A space dedicated to success, growth, and empowerment for Black students that offers peer mentorship, advising, cultural events, and community support. bsaadvsr@stfx.ca

REES (Respect, Educate, Empower Survivors)

is StFX's secure online reporting and support platform. Through REES, members of the StFX community can learn about available supports and reporting options, document an incident, and report concerns related to sexual violence, harassment and discrimination, and Safe Sport. Anonymous reporting options are available, allowing you to choose what information you share and whether you identify yourself.

Visit reescommunity.com, select My Campus, and choose St. Francis Xavier University to explore your options.



X Starts Here



Set yourself up for academic success.

Take the **X Starts Here** module on building your academic skills: moodle.stfx.ca



GET READY

to join the Xaverian Community

Welcome Days

The University and the StFX Students' Union host a series of events for new students beginning their studies in September.

Program coordinators, department chairs and the VP Research offices can help you understand program requirements and assist with many other academic issues.

For students attending in person, there will be resources set up to support your successful transition to campus life.

For new students who are attending classes remotely in any term, many of these resources are available online.

Paying fees:

stfx.ca/student-accounts/paying-your-tuition

Parking:

stfx.ca/safety-security/security/parking

Health and Counseling:

stfx.ca/student-services/support-services/health-counselling

Student Health Insurance:

mystudentplan.ca/stfxsu/en/mybenefits

Relaxed Start New students who have high anxiety or require a calmer atmosphere can register for Relaxed Start to move in on the 28th. **For more information:** studentlife@stfx.ca



@aannaobrien

The full welcome week schedule will be available in late July.
Check stfx.ca/new-students for updates.

Important Information

International Student Orientation is a program for international students on campus. For remote learners, contact the International Student Advisor for information.

Encouragement to participate! Some events, such as the Xaverian Welcome, Presidents Welcome and Academic day are an important part of learning what it means to be Xaverian and how your education at StFX will help you reach your goals. Check out the StFX website for the links to attend virtually.

Your academic program/department may also have an orientation session that will outline the program and introduce you to faculty that you will be working with.

What does it mean to be Xaverian?

Being Xaverian means being academically focused and socially responsible, and thinking about how our actions make our community stronger and improve the world around us.



At StFX, being part of the community is reflected not just in major milestones, but in the everyday moments—respect, collaboration, and shared commitment to one another’s success.

As a graduate student, your presence and perspective enrich our academic environment. Whether through research, teaching, community engagement, or leadership, you are an important part of what makes StFX special. We invite you to bring your full self to this next chapter—your curiosity, your experience, and your goals. The Xaverian spirit is about supporting one another, striving for excellence, and making a meaningful impact.

Welcome to the StFX graduate community. We’re proud to have you here.

GET READY
to join the Xaverian Community



Important dates & milestones

Spring

Accept your residence offer

Apply for financial aid
*(most jurisdictions open their
programs in the spring)*

Summer

Register for courses.

Check your StFX student email for
incoming Student Success Survey.

Check your StFX student email
and attend our information
sessions for important updates.

Attend your virtual information
sessions and meets about
your program.

Submit your Incoming Student
Success Survey, if you haven't
already done so.

Fall
(first term)

*No classes

Welcome Days.....	Sat.-Sun., Aug 29-30
First Day of Classes.....	Wed., Sept 2
Last Day to Change First-Term or Full-year Courses	Mon., Sept 14
December Exam Schedule Posted	Mon., Sept. 25
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*	Wed., Sept 30
Thanksgiving Day*	Mon., Oct. 12
Fall Study Break*	Mon., Oct. 12 - Fri., Oct. 16
Last Day to Drop First-Term Three Credit Courses	Wed., Nov. 4
Remembrance Day*	Wed., Nov. 11
X-Ring Day*	Thu., Dec. 3
Fall Convocation.....	Sat., Dec. 5
Last Day of Classes for First Term	Mon., Dec. 7
Exam Period Begins.....	Thu., Dec. 10
Exam Period Ends.....	Sat., Dec. 19
University Closed for Holiday Break	Wed., Dec. 23

**Winter/
Spring**
(second term)

*No classes

Residence Reopens.....	Sun., Jan. 3
University Reopens	Mon., Jan. 4
First Day of Classes Second Term	Tue., Jan 5
Last day to drop full-year or change second-term courses	Thu., Jan 14
April Exam Schedule Posted.....	Fri., Jan 29
Nova Scotia Heritage Day*	Mon., Feb. 15
Winter Study Break*	Mon., Feb 15 - Fri., Feb 19
Last Day to Drop Second-Term Three-Credit Courses	Wed., Mar. 10
Good Friday*	Fri., Mar. 26
Last Day of Classes for Second Term.....	Tue., Apr. 6
Exam period begins	Fri., Apr. 9
Exam period ends.....	Wed., Apr. 21
Spring Convocation	Sun., May 2

What we do if you need help

Once we have been alerted to an emergency we will respond as quickly as possible with staff trained to support students in crisis. Student safety and wellness is our main concern, and our staff will assist through a range of urgent issues.

Human Rights and Equity:

Megan Fogarty – Director
mfogarty@stfx.ca

Aimee MacDonald – Manager of Human Rights
& Equity and 2SLGBTQia + Student Inclusion
amacdona@stfx.ca

Amy Abe – Manager, Conflict Resolution & Investigations
aabe@stfx.ca

Akua Amankwah-Poku – Black Student Advisor
bsaadvsr@stfx.ca

Sanghun Son – International Student Advisor
sson@stfx.ca

Cynthia Sewell – Indigenous Student Advisor
csewell@stfx.ca

Student Life:

Jacqueline DeLeebeeck – Director
jdeleebe@stfx.ca

Laara Richardson – Manager of Student
Development and Engagement
lrichard@stfx.ca

Proactively, to help prevent problems from developing using a number of tools

- Our StFX Code of Conduct is a foundational document that guides student activities and our response to student behaviour or discipline. This is a proactive tool that students should be aware of and understand their responsibility to know.
- The Residence Community Standards is a critical document for residence students to know. This document provides detailed information on how to access support, who residence staff are, standards of behaviour, and expectations for how we treat each other and our spaces. Honouring these standards can help students live a fun and safe life on campus.
- Peer supports! Peer support and mentorship is an important aspect to campus life and to boosting student success. You will encounter opportunities to engage with students who are in defined leadership roles. These senior students are critical in supporting students' academic success, mental health and wellness, and assisting to develop a strong sense of belonging within our community.



Students' Union Health and Dental Plan

The StFX Students' Union Health and Dental Plan will cover select medical costs that are not included under most provincial health care plans, including dental work and pharmaceutical drug costs. If unexpected medical issues arise, you will want to have coverage. Domestic students with alternative coverage may opt out. You may only opt out if you can provide proof of coverage from another provider.

We encourage you to investigate the benefits offered by the Students' Union plan before deciding to opt out. Some students with alternate coverage choose to stay enrolled in the plan because it covers student-specific needs that some other plans do not, such as partial coverage toward psychological assessments for accommodations with the Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning.

To learn more about your benefits and how to coordinate coverage between two plans: mystudentplan.ca/stfxsu

Confidentiality Policy

Ensuring your health and wellbeing is our top priority. This extends to your right to privacy. StFX will only release the following personal information with your student's written consent to a designated support person or advocate:

- Registration Status
- Grades/marks
- Use of StFX support services
- Disciplinary Information
- Financial Information
- Health and Counseling Centre Records, including confirmation of visits
- Housing Contracts

Please note that access to personal medical information is strictly governed by NS Personal Health Information Act. The only exceptions involve cases where there is a serious and imminent safety risk, and where a medical professional deems it necessary to contact next of kin.





Driving Directions

Off the Trans-Canada Highway 104, take exit 32 and follow the signs to Antigonish. Drive through a set of lights to West Street, and then take your first right (*at the next set of lights*) onto Convocation Boulevard. Follow the signs for parking.



Transit

Maritime Bus | maritimebus.com provides transportation from Halifax Stanfield International Airport to the StFX campus. Please check their online schedule as bus routes are subject to change.



Family staying over?

Families dropping off students can find a list of accommodations at visitantigonish.ca/stay. Book your hotel early! There are also a number of restaurants in town, from fine dining establishments to casual food outlets.

stfx.ca





[stfx.ca/programs-courses/
graduate-studies](https://stfx.ca/programs-courses/graduate-studies)

Check back often for updates about how
to get ready for life at StFX.