

Study Visit to Canada 2025

June 5–11, 2025

Practical information

Last update: 24 February, 2025

Registration to the ECStA study visit

Please register for participating in the ECStA study visit to Canada online before **30 April 2025** using the [ECStA registration form](#).

Registration for the CACUSS annual conference 2025

The study tour also includes participation in the CACUSS Annual Conference opening reception and first day of programming. You need to register for the conference separately:

- Visit the [CACUSS conference registration page](#)
- Click on "Register Now"
- Fill out the required information, indicate your attendance as „Monday"
- Click on „Attendee Selections" and choose „One Day Ticket – Conference 2025" with a price of \$359
- Save and finalize registration (this takes you to the payment page): in the box "Promo Code" apply "ECSTA_2025" which will give you a discount of 25% (\$89,25) off the one-day rate
- Submit your payment by credit card.

Please have a look at the cancellation policy (also to be found on the registration website).

Our host CACUSS

Our host, the Canadian Association of College & University Student Services (CACUSS) is a professional non-profit association representing and serving those individuals who work in Canadian post-secondary institutions in student affairs and services. Since 1973, CACUSS has provided professional development services and programs for members in all the Canadian provinces. Cross-divisional interest groups called communities of practice and networks were formed by members in 2015 based on their professional needs, focusing on areas such as student health and wellness, first-year students, new professionals, and leadership education. More information here: <https://cacuss.ca/>

Target audience

This study visit is designed for **higher education professionals** from Europe who are engaged in **student affairs and services**. It is particularly relevant for:

- **Senior leaders and decision-makers** in student affairs and services

- **Directors and managers** of student support offices, international student services, housing, financial aid, counselling, and campus life
- **Student affairs professionals** responsible for strategic development, policy implementation, and service innovation
- **Higher education administrators** interested in international collaboration and best practices in student support

Participants should have a keen interest in exploring Canadian approaches to student affairs, engaging in peer learning and knowledge exchange, and identifying best practices that can be adapted to the European context.

Goals of the study trip

- **Explore student affairs and services in Canada** – Gain insights into different support structures, policies, and best practices.
- **Visit a diverse range of institutions** – Tour universities, community colleges, and technical institutions in **Montréal and Halifax**.
- **Engage in peer exchange** – Discuss key topics such as **mental health support, student accommodation, financial aid, and international student services** with Canadian colleagues.
- **Participate in the CACUSS Annual Conference** – Learn about current trends in student affairs
- **Identify best practices for adaptation in Europe** – Exchange innovative ideas and foster long-term collaboration between European and Canadian student service organizations.

Language & Communication

The working language of the study visit is English, and a good knowledge of English (level B1-B2) is recommended. If needed, ECStA can provide support with the specific vocabulary and occasionally provide informal consecutive translation in group events. Please let us know ahead of time so that we can find solutions.

Travel organisation

Please book your flight to Canada yourself after receiving your registration confirmation. Following registration, DSW will make various suggestions for travelling together (from Germany or other places). In view of the long journey, however, all participants are free to extend their stay in Canada on their own.

Rail & Fly (Germany)

In Germany, [Rail&Fly](#) is an environmentally friendly way to travel by train from your railway station to the airport (and back again)

Airport transfer (Montréal)

There are several ways to get from [Montréal-Trudeau International Airport](#) (YUL) to the city centre: The easiest way (besides by taxi) to go to

downtown Montréal is by bus (**Line 747**). The line runs between YUL airport and the Gare d'autocars de Montréal (Berri-UQAM station) and makes 11 stops. The trip takes between approx. 40 minutes and tickets cost \$11. This fare is valid for 24 hours on the entire STM bus and metro network. You can buy tickets at the airport either from the vending machines located in the international arrivals area (payment by cash, debit card, or VISA/Mastercard credit card) or at the STM information desk in the international arrivals area. Note that the \$11 fare can also be paid in exact change directly on the bus (only coins are accepted – no paper bills).

Montréal-Trudeau International Airport website:

<https://www.admtl.com/en-CA/>

**Airport transfer
(Halifax)**

There are four primary ways to get to and from the [Halifax Stanfield International Airport](#) ranging from public transportation to car rentals. See the [CACUSS conference website](#) for travel recommendations.

Accommodation

Hotels in Montréal in June are in high demand and prices start at approx. 175€ per night (breakfast included). Here are some suggestions of hotels for Montréal and Halifax. **Please note: all participants should make their own hotel reservations.**

[Montréal \(city centre\)](#)

**** Le Dauphin Montréal Centre-Ville (DSW team will stay at this hotel)**

1025 De Bleury, H2Z 1M7 Montreal, Canada

<https://www.hotelsdauphin.ca/hotels/montreal>

** transfer by bus 747 from YUL airport: get off at station René-Lévesque / Jeanne Mance, the hotel is a 3-minute walk away.

L'Appartement Hôtel, 455 rue Sherbrooke Ouest, Plateau Mont Royal, H3A 1B7 Montreal

<https://www.appartementhotel.com/>

Novotel Montreal Center, 1180 Rue De La Montagne, H3G 1Z1 Montreal

[Link to hotel](#)

Best Western Plus Hotel, 161 Rue Sainte-Catherine E, H2X 1K8 Montreal

[Link to hotel](#)

SENS Høtel, 1808 rue Sherbrooke Ouest, H3H 1E5 Montreal

<https://www.senshotel.com/>

Costs

Halifax

CACUSS has held hotels within walking distance of the Convention Centre where the conference is occurring. Please visit the website for hotel recommendations and booking links:

<https://site.pheedloop.com/event/CACUSS2025/hotel>

Please note: all participants should make their own hotel reservations.

Participants cover all costs for their flight and travel arrangements as well as the hotel nights.

A participation fee will be charged to cover the organisational costs of the campus tours. ECStA will send participants an invoice before the study trip.

Please calculate the following approximate costs:

Flight costs: approx. 650 – 900 € (depending on your departure point), please find information on the domestic flight from Montréal to Halifax at the [travel recommendations of CACUSS](#)

Hotel costs: hotels are quite expensive in Montréal. Plan approx. 700 € for three nights in Montréal. Hotels are slightly cheaper in Halifax. Plan approx. 500 € for three nights in Halifax.

CACUSS conference fee: CAD 270,- (approx. 180€) for opening dinner and 1-day-ticket)

Participant fee for organisation costs and campus tours on site:

- **ECStA-Members: 300 € per person**
- **Non-members: 600 € per person**

The participation fee includes the costs of participation in the study visit, the organisational costs and some of the meals during the study visit. Travel and accommodation costs (hotels) as well as the conference fee for the CACUSS Annual Conference are to be paid **additionally and separately** by the participants.

Cancellation policy

By completing the online registration form, participants make a binding commitment to the trip. Cancellations must be received at least two weeks before the start of the event. Later cancellations will be charged 80% of the participation fee. Please also consider the cancellation policies of your airline, the hotel bookings, as well as of the CACUSS Annual Conference.

Visa & Entry to Canada

Entry is possible for European Union citizens with a **valid passport**. EU citizens do not require a visa to enter and stay in Canada for stays of up to six months for tourism, business or transit.

EU-nationals wishing to enter or transit Canada by air **must apply for an electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) before travelling**. This eTA is not required for entry by land or sea. For longer stays and gainful employment, a visa must be applied for prior to entry. More information on Canadian entry requirements can be found on the [Canadian government website](#).

Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA)

The electronic travel authorisation must be applied for on the website of the Canadian government for a fee of 7 CAD (approx. 5 EUR) before the start of the flight. This is also possible for representatives of persons with physical or mental disabilities. Further information and instructions can be found on the [website of the Canadian government](#).

Apply for the eTA as early as possible. In the event of rejection, long processing times are to be expected and the request for further evidence is at the discretion of the Canadian authorities.

Only use the official government website. Non-official websites offer the procurement of the eTA for significantly higher fees, some of which are not recognised by the Canadian authorities.

Insurance

ECStA and DSW recommend that all participants take on an adequate insurance for international health coverage, liability and loss of baggage. Please make sure that you have sufficient protection.

Money on site

The national currency is the Canadian dollar (CAD). The acceptance of credit cards is very high and cash withdrawals with bank and credit cards are possible in many places at appropriately labelled ATMs.

Electricity

The North American power grid operates on 120 V / 60 MHz. Please make sure that your electric devices are suitable for the different voltage. Please remember to bring the appropriate adapter or buy one at the departure airport.



Telecommunications	Wireless internet connections are available in most hotels. Free wireless internet access for members of academic institutions can also be provided through the eduRoam-network. See www.eduroam.org for further information and to connect with your home account.
What else you can bring with you	Please do not forget to pack some business cards and small gifts/give-aways from your home institution to pass on to your Canadian colleagues.
Time difference	At the time of travelling, summer time applies in Europe. Montréal (Eastern Daylight Time – EDT) is 6 hours behind Central European Summer Time (CEST). Halifax (Atlantic Daylight Time – ADT) is 5 hours behind CEST. For example, when it is 12:00 PM (noon) in central Europe , it is 6:00 AM in Montréal and 7:00 AM in Halifax .
Weather	<p>In early June, Montréal typically experiences mild to warm temperatures, with daytime highs ranging from 18°C to 25°C (64°F to 77°F) and cooler evenings around 10°C to 15°C (50°F to 59°F). The weather is generally pleasant, but occasional rain showers are possible, so it's good to have a light jacket or umbrella on hand. Humidity levels can be moderate, and some days may feel slightly warmer.</p> <p>Halifax tends to be cooler and breezier compared to Montréal, with daytime temperatures around 15°C to 22°C (59°F to 72°F) and night time lows between 8°C and 12°C (46°F to 54°F). The city's coastal location means it can be windy, and there's a chance of light rain or fog, especially in the mornings. A light jacket and layers are recommended for comfort throughout the day.</p>
Checklist	<p>Did you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Register for the study visit with ECSTA? - Register for the conference with CACUSS? - Book your flight to Montréal? And your return flight from Halifax? - Book your domestic flight from Montréal to Halifax? - Reserve a room in Montréal? - Reserve a room in Halifax? - Check the validity of your passport? - Apply for an eTA? - Bring an adapter for North American power grid?
Questions	Sven H. Engel (he/him) Director of International Relations



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