

10 and 5  
month programs  
available!

**Limestone**  
International Education

LIMESTONE DISTRICT  
INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENT PROGRAM  
*manual*



- ✓ OUR SCHOOLS
- ✓ BECOME A STUDENT
- ✓ HOW TO APPLY
- ✓ HOMESTAY
- ✓ AND MORE...



KINGSTON, ONTARIO IS A STUDENT CITY HOME TO  
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE AND ST. LAWRENCE COLLEGE

# How to apply to be an **AGENT** for Limestone District Board International Student Program



MONTHLY AGENT  
COMMUNICATION

Speak with the **Executive Lead** about how both Limestone and the agent can help **support** each other.

Agent will **sign** the Limestone Recruiting and Partnership **agreement**.

The **agreement** will be in place for **2 years**. Once signed by Limestone, the agent will receive **marketing materials**.

Agents will receive **monthly newsletters** and **access** to the Executive Lead directly about **questions** that they may have.



**NEWSLETTER:** CHECK OUT OUR MONTHLY AGENT COMMUNICATION

# Welcome to the Limestone

International Education

Limestone has been welcoming students from around the world into its international student program for over 20 years. That experience has given our staff members a deep understanding of what international students - and their parents - seek when they set off to study in Canada. The international education team is committed to care, responsiveness and global awareness in their work with the students from around the world. Consistently high satisfaction levels are reported by our students of their experience in our academic and home-stay programs.

**The combination of travel and study offers richness to life experience.** International cross-cultural immersion experiences present challenges to a student that ultimately result in personal growth and maturity: living with a new family, adapting to new friends and cultural norms, communicating in a second language, and discovering new ways of seeing ourselves and the world. Our goal at Limestone is to help bring the best of these possibilities to our international students.

**Our highest priority, without exception, is to provide the very best possible student care.** Accordingly, our home-stay program is managed internally. We do not outsource home-stay to a third party. Full-time Limestone staff members are dedicated to monitoring international home-stay students on a daily basis, both at school and at home.

**The purpose of this manual is to inform you about how to apply to Limestone,** what schools and programs we have and the ease of application. Technology brings the world together and having quick links QR codes to information is key to you being informed.

**Having lived, worked and studied in Kingston,** I assure you with conviction that your students experience here will be rich and rewarding. I welcome you to experience this life changing opportunity.

**Bob Seitz**

*Executive Lead, Limestone International Education*




**Limestone**  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD





The Limestone International Education Department strives to be **RESPONSIVE** to the needs of our students, families and agents. **CARE** for the students in our program as they would be our own. Think **GLOBALLY** in preparing students for the 21st Century through education and experience.


**CONTACT US**


 153 Van Order Drive- Room 109 Kingston - Ontario - K7M 1C1 - Canada

 (613) 544-7745 / FAX: (613) 544-8997

 <https://internationaled.limestone.on.ca/>

 international@limestone.on.ca

 limestoneinternational/

 @limestone\_international\_ed

**Our International Education Office is on your team**

The staff of the International Education program are available to help you with any concerns or questions you may have.

- Introduce you to your homestay family;
- School orientations & visits;
- Bus passes, Health Insurance;
- Field trips & activities;
- Help you to work through problems with school or your homestay;
- Help you with your course selection;
- Communicate with your agent.



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Homestay Coordinator  
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We are proud members of



**OASDI**  
**AOCSI**  
Ontario Association of School Districts International  
Association canadienne des Écoles Publiques - International



Canadian Association of Public Schools - International  
Association canadienne des écoles publiques - International



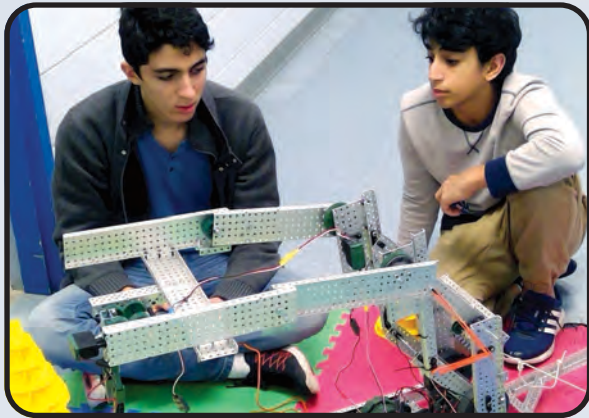
**EduCanada**  
A world of possibilities.  
Un monde de possibilités.



ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA



**Lead STAFF and GUIDANCE  
counselor for each school for  
International Students.**



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## OUR PROGRAMS

### ● AUGUST ENGLISH Preparation Program

The first day of school can be unnerving for any student, but especially for newly arrived international students, who face the mysteries of a new culture, immersion in English, and having to build a new circle of friends. The native English environment can be especially challenging for a newly arrived international student. "Wow, people here talk so quickly!" and "Canadians use many expressions that I have never heard before!" are comments we often hear from students when they first arrive.

The **August English Preparation Program** is designed to prepare international students into their new surroundings so that, in September, they can start school with confidence. This program is offered exclusively to our students attending Limestone area schools in September. The program introduces students to the colloquial English expressions they will not likely have heard in their home country, and the academic English they will encounter in their new Canadian classrooms. Students will learn about the culture and expectations of Canadian schools, and discuss them in relation to those in their home country. The program instructor will work with students to develop strategies on how to be successful in their new Limestone school. With a class size of about 15, the program offers students a high level of individualized attention.

In addition, many of the program **activities will take place outside of the classroom**. They are designed to familiarize students with various services and venues around Kingston. This will include riding and understanding the public transit system, how to order food, what to do with phone plans, banking and Canadian courtesies. There are many local experiences included in this program!

MATERIALS INCLUDED!



### ● ONE-SEMESTER School (5 months)

Secondary school students have the option of enrolling for a **single semester**. Students enrolling for a one semester experience will take four credits in school and be eligible for activity trips and participate fully in school teams and clubs.

### ● FULL-YEAR School (10 months)

The Limestone District School Board hosts students from grades 7-12 in **Full Year Programs**. Students begin school in September and complete their year at the end of June. Secondary school students have the option of enrolling looking to graduate from Ontario and looking to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).



# What to expect from our programs



**COMBINATION PROGRAM**  
English and French semester immersion.



**DUAL CREDIT:** Earn high school credits and credits from St. Lawrence College at the same time.



**FULL-YEAR & SEMESTER PROGRAM**  
English or French immersion.



**GAP YEAR**  
Study for a semester or year to learn English or French.



**GUARDME HEALTH INSURANCE**  
Support available 24/7.



**ENGLISH PREP PROGRAM**  
English environment.



ISP staff weekly visits to schools. Support available 24/7.



Homestay Families, Custodians and Educational Agents.



Extracurricular activities, volunteer opportunities and peer helpers.



Designated ISP teacher and classroom teachers.



## OUR SCHOOLS

Bayridge Secondary School



[bayridgess.limestone.on.ca](http://bayridgess.limestone.on.ca)

GRADES OFFERED: 9-12

SCHOOL POPULATION: APPROXIMATELY 650

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE: 24

**BAYRIDGE** is an ideal size for a secondary school. It is large enough to offer a diverse program to all students regardless of their intended pathway beyond secondary school, and yet small enough to ensure each student feels well connected to the school. The school has an excellent athletics program producing numerous athletes playing at the Varsity level, semi-professional, and professional. At Bayridge Secondary School, the staff believe in and have a responsibility toward our students and one another. We feel that at the centre of this responsibility rests a commitment to the principles of success, community, and tradition.





## OUR SCHOOLS

Frontenac Secondary School



[frontenacss.limestone.on.ca](http://frontenacss.limestone.on.ca)

GRADES OFFERED: 7-12

SCHOOL POPULATION: APPROXIMATELY 1100

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE: 24



**FRONTENAC Secondary School** offers a full-service school with a full range of programs in all post-secondary pathways. We are home to a French Immersion program from Grades 7-12. Students can enter the French Immersion Program in grades 7 or 9. We also have English and Spanish language offerings. Furthermore, our school offers Advanced Placement and reach ahead in Mathematics. Frontenac Secondary School boasts a long tradition of excellence in the areas of academics, post-secondary and career preparation, athletics, and the arts. Our staff provides students with a well-rounded education. There is a special relationship at Frontenac between staff and students that is rooted in mutual respect. This results in a positive, safe, and welcoming environment.



## OUR SCHOOLS

Kingston Secondary School



Welcome to **KINGSTON Secondary School!** The school offers English programming in university, college and workplace pathways, including the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program, and intermediate and secondary extended French and French Immersion (Module Vanier). The building features 34 secondary classrooms and 9 intermediate classrooms including several special and multi-purpose spaces. Our staff is committed to providing an accepting and safe learning environment for all students. We provide students with a variety of co-curricular activities such as clubs, athletic programs, special events and other opportunities to enrich their high school experience. We highly recommend that all students get involved in the school's co-curricular program: to meet new friends, discover more about themselves and be more connected to our school.

[kss.limestone.on.ca](https://kss.limestone.on.ca)

**GRADES OFFERED:** 7-12

**SCHOOL POPULATION:** APPROXIMATELY 1000

**AVERAGE CLASS SIZE:** 24





## OUR SCHOOLS

LaSalle Intermediate & Secondary School

**LASALLE** is an impressive building and was built in partnership with the Government of Canada as it is near Canadian Forces Base Kingston. We are a full Grade 7-12 school with University, College and Workplace programming available. LaSalle speaks to the motto 'Do all things well'. This motto has been the example at LaSalle for over 50 years. A rich tradition in the Arts, Athletics and Academics, LaSalle is during a full-service school for any students that are looking to achieve their goals. Located in the quickly developing East Kingston Area, the rapid expansion here has caused the numbers of students in the area to swell. The East Kingston Community prides itself on connections with the school and is supportive in both spirit and with financial supports.

[lasalle.limestone.on.ca](http://lasalle.limestone.on.ca)

**GRADES OFFERED:** 7-12

**SCHOOL POPULATION:** APPROXIMATELY 650

**AVERAGE CLASS SIZE:** 24



## OUR SCHOOLS

### Loyalist Collegiate & Vocational Institute

**LOYALIST Collegiate & Vocational Institute** fosters the notion of Grit, Growth and Gratitude. We believe in taking care of ourselves, each other, and our school. As a result, our school is a respectful and safe place for all students to grow emotionally, socially and academically while pursuing a healthy lifestyle. We want our school to help students become responsible citizens engaged with their community country and the world. We champion diversity, individually and foster a positive relationship with the Central Kingston Community. LCVI has a depth of programming in the Arts including Dramatic Arts, Bands, Vocal Choir, Media Design Dance and Visual Arts. The Creative Arts and Media Design Academies draw the best talent from the Kingston Area to study for full day programs. These programs are highly competitive and bring a life to all aspects of the school.

[lcvilimestone.on.ca](http://lcvilimestone.on.ca)

**GRADES OFFERED:** 9-12

**SCHOOL POPULATION:** APPROXIMATELY 650

**AVERAGE CLASS SIZE:** 24



## Our International Education Office IS ON YOUR TEAM!

**We care about you and your time here with us in Kingston.** We are thrilled that you have chosen Kingston as a wonderful place to study and improve your English and learn about Canada. Kingston has a great tradition of education and history. Kingston was the first capital of Canada and is home to Queen's University, the Royal Military College, and St. Lawrence College. The Limestone District School Board and Kingston sits on the shores of beautiful Lake Ontario.

We understand that the decision to leave your home and make a new home in Kingston is a big step! **We are here to help make the transition smooth and welcoming.** Kingston has so many things to offer. You will find people here friendly and helpful. Our team at the International Education Office is no different. We will look to help, assist, listen and communicate with you and your homestay family on a regular basis.

**During your stay with us, it is our pledge to you that we will make every effort to ensure you...**

- ✓ Have fun and are given the opportunity to explore different parts of Ontario;
- ✓ Learn about Canada and the diversity of our country;
- ✓ Learn in an Education system that is recognized world-wide;
- ✓ Learn in a homestay environment supported by the LDSB;
- ✓ Are supported by our own LDSB Homestay Coordinators;
- ✓ Have an opportunity to make potential life-long lasting relationships.

## SCHOOL FACTS

In Ontario secondary schools there are two semesters in the school year, each semester has 87 instructional days. Semester 1 is from September to the end of January, and Semester 2 is from February to the end of June.



## Ontario High School graduation requirements

- ✓ Successful completion of the **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)**;
- ✓ A minimum of **5 hours of voluntary community service** for each semester you are a registered student or a total of 40 hours. (See student services for a list of community organizations);
- ✓ A **minimum of 30 credit** (each course = one credit) of which **18 courses are mandatory**. Your prior learning will be evaluated and course equivalencies awarded by guidance staff. Students requiring **ESL courses** will graduate with more credits, and that is perfectly normal.

### Students must earn the following compulsory credits to obtain the Ontario Secondary School Diploma:

4	credits in English (1 credit per grade) <sup>(a)</sup>
3	credits in mathematics (1 credit in grade 11 or 12)
2	credits in science
1	credit in Canadian history
1	credit in Canadian geography
1	credit in the arts
1	credit in health and physical education
1	credit in French as a second language
0.5	credit in career studies
0.5	credit in civics
<b>In addition, students must complete:</b>	
12 optional credits. <sup>(d)</sup>	
40 hours of community involvement activities.	
The provincial literacy requirement.	

### Plus one credit from each of the following groups:

1	<b>GROUP 1:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English or French as a second language<sup>(b)</sup></li> <li>• a Native language</li> <li>• First Nations, Metis, and Inuit studies</li> <li>• a classical or international language</li> <li>• social sciences and the humanities</li> <li>• Canadian and world studies</li> <li>• guidance and career education</li> <li>• cooperative education<sup>(c)</sup></li> </ul>
1	<b>GROUP 2:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• health and physical education</li> <li>• the arts</li> <li>• business studies</li> <li>• French as a second language<sup>(b)</sup></li> <li>• cooperative education<sup>(c)</sup></li> </ul>
1	<b>GROUP 3:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• science (Grade 11 or 12)</li> <li>• technological education</li> <li>• French as a second language<sup>(b)</sup></li> <li>• computer studies</li> <li>• cooperative education<sup>(c)</sup></li> </ul>

**(a)** A maximum of 3 credits in English as a second language (ESL) or English literacy development (ELD) may be counted towards the 4 compulsory credits in English, but the fourth must be a credit earned for a Grade 12 compulsory English course. **(b)** In groups 1, 2 and 3, a maximum of 2 credits in French as a second language can count as compulsory credits, one from group 1 and one from either group 2 or group 3. **(c)** A maximum of 2 credits in cooperative education can count as compulsory credits. **(d)** The 12 optional credits may include up to 4 credits earned through approved dual credit courses.

## ASSESSMENT AND ACADEMIC HONESTY

Teachers will assess your work based on completion of assignments, presentations and tests. If you have difficulty in completing your assignments or need extra time talk to your teacher before the assignment or project is due. The teacher may allow extra time or offer you some help. Teachers will also evaluate your work based on your work habits and learning skills. There are three (3) types of assessment:

- ☑ **Diagnostic** - what you already know at the start of the course;
- ☑ **Formative** - An attempt to 'practice' or show what you have learned to a point. You will get feedback on this formative work to reflect on and make your Summative better.
- ☑ **Summative** - Your best and final understanding on concepts being taught.

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all school classes is mandatory (required) unless you have a valid reason not to be there; such as illness or appointment. Your homestay or you (if over 18 years of age), must notify the attendance office of your school if you will not be at school. Your attendance is recorded at every period and your homestay will be called and emailed if you are not in class. Your achievement is directly related to attendance and that is why you are here!

## SECONDARY SCHOOL TIMETABLE

While the start and end of the school day will vary from school to school. A typical day would be from 8:15 AM to 2:35 PM. Second-

ary students' timetable consists of four (4) courses per semester.

PERIOD	TIME
Period 1	8:20 - 9:35 AM
Break	9:35 - 9:42 AM
Period 2	9:42 - 10:57 AM
Period 3 (Lunch. Some classes may run at lunch)	10:57 - 11:57 AM
Period 4	11:57 - 1:12 PM
Break	1:12 - 1:19 PM
Period 5	1:19 - 2:34 PM

## SCHOOL RULES

You will make friends at school if you have a positive attitude. You will find Canadians as very accepting and open students that will help you navigate school. Here are some expectations that staff and students have for you at a Canadian school.

- ☑ Be at school on time;
- ☑ Be respectful to teachers and staff; to your friends and classmates;
- ☑ There is zero tolerance for Abuse or harassment of any kind including: verbal & physical abuse, physical or cyber-bullying, and sexual harassment at any time in school or in your homestay. If you feel like a victim of abuse, report it to your teacher, Homestay Coordinator or homestay family;
- ☑ Cell phone use is not allowed during class times.



# HOW TO APPLY STEP BY STEP



1




APPLICATION  
FORM

2



PARTICIPATION  
AGREEMENT

# APPLICATION PACKAGE

 **International Education Department**  
Limestone District School Board  
164 Van Order Drive,  
Kingston, Ontario K7M 1C1 Canada  
Phone: +1 (613) 544-7745  
Email: international@limestone.on.ca  
Web: www.limestone.on.ca

### APPLICATION FORM

Please use a keyboard to complete this form, including Part D. When finished, save it to your computer and send it by email.

Application Date (yyyy-mm-dd):

**STUDENT'S INFORMATION**

Family name:	Given names:	English nickname:
Date of birth (yyyy-mm-dd):	Citizenship:	Gender: --- Select ---
Street address:	City:	
Province:	Country:	Postal code:
Email:	Method of Interview: --- Select ---	I.D.:

**FATHER'S INFORMATION**

Family name:	Given names:	
Date of birth (yyyy-mm-dd):		City:
Street address:	City:	
Province:	Country:	Postal code:
Email:	Home phone:	Mobile phone:

**MOTHER'S INFORMATION**


Family name:	Given names:	
Date of birth (yyyy-mm-dd):		City:
Street address (if different than father's):	City:	
Province:	Country:	Postal code:
Email:	Home phone:	Mobile phone:

**EDUCATION AGENCY INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)**

Agency name:	Counselor's name:	
Street address:	City:	
Province:	Country:	Postal code:
Email:	Phone:	

1 of 8

**International Education Participation Agreement**  
164 Van Order Drive, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7M1C1  
Office: (613) 544-7745 Fax: (613) 544-8997

  
**Limestone District School Board**  
220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, ON K7M 0G2 P: 613-544-6920

Limestone District School Board (LDSB) welcomes international students as guests to its schools. This agreement outlines the terms that international students must abide by while attending a Limestone school, living in Canada and, where applicable, living in a Limestone homestay.

**Instructions:** Please read the following information carefully and print. After signing the last page, either scan or take a picture of it, and include it with the requested documents when submitting the application package.  
If a student needs support to understand this document, then language assistance will be provided.

**Part A: General Policies**

The student and his/her parents or legal guardians hereby agree that:

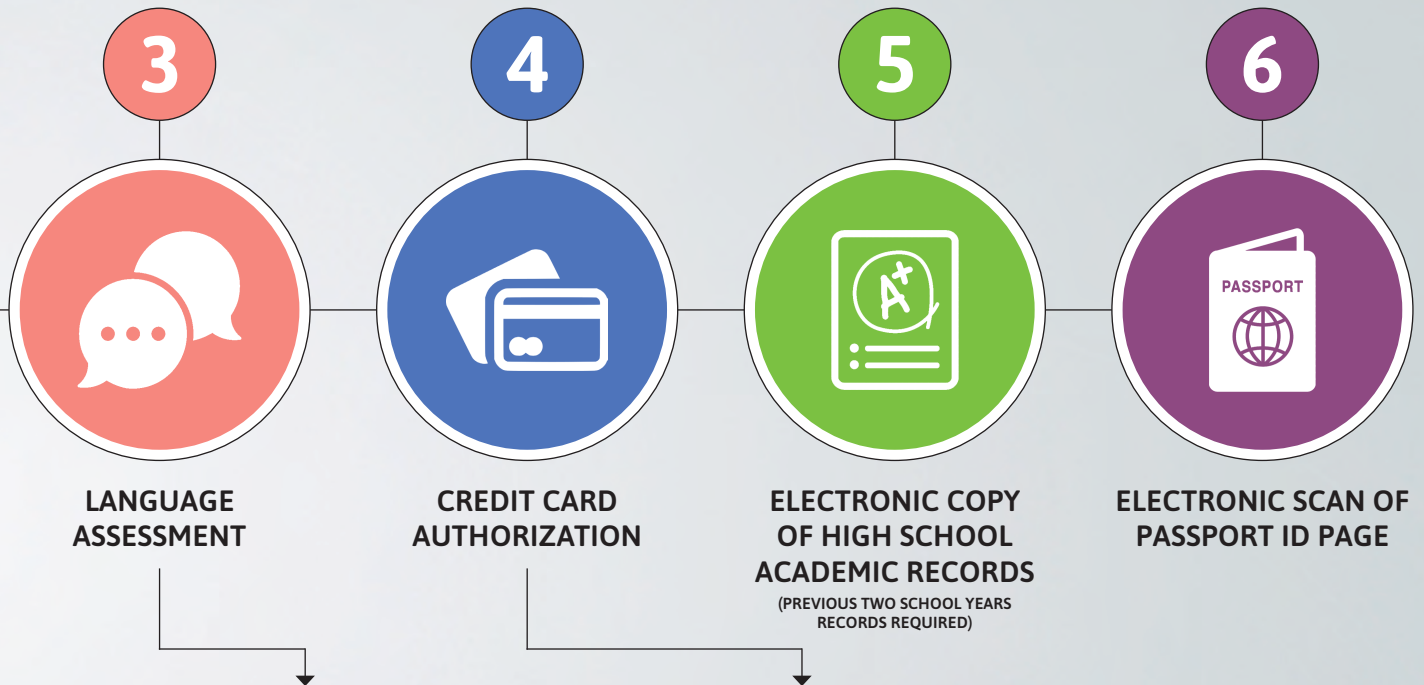
1. the student must obey the laws of Canada, the Province of Ontario, follow the policies/procedures of the LDSB, and the terms outlined in this Participation Agreement.
2. the student must follow all school and board regulations regarding attendance, course responsibilities and behaviour. These behaviours are outlined in each school's code of conduct.
3. inaccuracies in the student's application may result in immediate dismissal from the LDSB International Education Program without refund of tuition fees.
4. the LDSB has the right to make educational decisions, including placement and program selections in the best interests of the student with available resources. This may include a language assessment to determine a level of ESL programming.
5. the student will use the International Education Homestay program in the Kingston and surrounding areas. If there are disputes or issues at the homestay, the student must initiate a discussion or submit a letter to the Homestay Coordinator. This should be well in advance of a critical issue. Any change of Homestay will be done in consultation with the student, Homestay Coordinator and custodian. Any change of homestay must be approved by the International Education Office (IEO).
6. the student must attend all registered classes unless unable by reason of illness or injury, in which case the student must provide a note from a Parent, Agent, Custodian or Homestay family for any absences. In many cases a Doctor's note will be required.
7. the student must not withdraw from courses without consent of school officials. In addition, students cannot substitute online courses in place of face-to-face courses if they are available (September-June).
8. the student must maintain a current study permit from Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Questions regarding this process can be directed to the International Education Office. The student shall not accept employment in Canada.
9. the student must refrain from purchasing, possessing or consuming any illegal substance including, but not limited to, tobacco, cannabis, alcoholic beverages or any other controlled narcotic without a prescription from a physician.
10. the student must refrain from driving a motor vehicle unless legally insured and licensed to drive in Ontario.
11. the IEO may communicate information to a student's parents and/or referring agency in the home country, regardless of the student's age.



Now your application can be made **on-line** using our **TRUE NORTH** platform and **secure payment** integration using **Fly Wire** International funds transfer. This safe and secure method of payments will help agents and students apply to Limestone.



## HOW TO APPLY STEP BY STEP




To apply to Limestone, complete the FORMS and submit them to us by email.

### REFUND POLICY

#### WITHDRAWALS DUE TO STUDY PERMIT OR VISA REASONS:

- **New applicants:** A full refund, less a \$500 administration fee, will be granted if a study permit application is not approved by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.
- **Returning students:** A full refund, less a \$100 administration fee, will be granted if a study permit application is not approved by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Requests for refunds must be submitted in writing. They must include the original rejection letter from Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the original Letter of Acceptance from Limestone District School Board.

#### VOLUNTARY AND INVOLUNTARY WITHDRAWALS:

- **Two-thirds of the tuition fee** will be refunded if the student withdraws prior to the first day of the semester.
- **One-half of the tuition fee** will be refunded if the student withdraws at any time during the first calendar month of the semester (i.e., September or February).
- Tuition fees **will not be refunded** if the student:

- 1) Withdraws **after the first calendar month** of the program;
- 2) Is withdrawn from the program due to a **violation of the participation agreement, school rules, or Canadian law.**

## PREPARATION

### BEFORE TRAVELING TO CANADA

# STUDY PERMITS AND VISAS

Students are responsible for ensuring that their study permits and visas are current. You are responsible for applying for renewal of your study permit at least three months before the expiry date. You can renew your study permit online at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/study-extend.asp>. You will need to submit letter of acceptance from the International Education office, photo identification, as well as copies of your passport and visa. The documents you need to enter Canada are:

- ☑ a valid passport or travel document;
- ☑ a valid temporary resident visa (if required);
- ☑ the letter of introduction from the visa office that you received when your study permit was approved (this letter contains your permit reference number and the CBSA officer needs this letter to issue your study permit);
- ☑ a copy of the letter of acceptance from the school at which you are permitted to study;
- ☑ proof that you have enough money to support yourself during your stay in Canada;
- ☑ Letters of reference or any other documents recommended by the visa office where you applied.

The CBSA officer will ask to see your travel documents when you arrive in Canada. Make sure they are with you and not packed in your luggage. This will help speed up your entry to Canada. Carry these items and all other valuable papers, cash and traveller's cheques with you at all times. Do not put them in your checked luggage. If any of your documents are missing or if any of the information on your application or letters of reference is incorrect, it is possible you will be ineligible to enter into Canada.

Possession of these documents does not guarantee entry. All persons must establish that they meet all the requirements of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and Regulations before being authorized to enter or re-enter Canada. If there are no problems at the point of entry, the officer will let you enter Canada and will issue your study permit. You should:

- ☑ Check the study permit to make sure your personal information is accurate and;
- ☑ Check the expiry date on your study permit. You must leave Canada by this date.

**NOTE:** some countries require a temporary residence visa in order to return to Canada.



## PREPARATION

### BEFORE TRAVELING TO CANADA



**guard.me**<sup>®</sup>  
International Insurance

## HEALTH INSURANCE

All international students who stay in a Limestone homestay must purchase health insurance through the International Education Office. Insurance forms, and instructions on what to do if a student needs medical care in Canada, are issued to all international students upon their arrival in Kingston. International Education Office staff work closely with students and their homestay families in the event that a student needs medical attention and submits an insurance claim.



## CUSTODIANSHIP

International students under the age of 18 who live and study in Canada without a parent must declare a legal custodian who lives in Ontario (and in some cases, lives close to Kingston). A custodian is a Canadian citizen, or permanent resident of Canada, who takes legal responsibility of minor children. Applicants may declare a family member or friend as a legal custodian. Limestone District School Board provides legal custodianship to international students who do not have such a person in Canada.

## PREPARATION

BEFORE TRAVELING TO CANADA

# HOW to get READY?

In order to travel to Canada and have everything ready for the first day of classes, students must obtain certain documents in advance. You can check here what to do and how to plan every step.



### JANUARY

Review school and program options. Make a list of travel documents you will need such as Visa, passport, and Study Permit.

### FEBRUARY

Obtain documents necessary for application: 2 years or more of school transcripts and immunization records translated into English and notarized and Letter of Recommendation.



### MARCH

Forward completed application along with necessary documentation to International Education Office.



### APRIL

Apply for Study Permit, Visa and Passport.



### MAY

Book your travel arrangements and forward details to the International Education office.



### JUNE

Receive school and homestay profile. Start to communicate with your host family.



### JULY

Continue to correspond with homestay family. Plan what you will bring with you and buy any necessary items and toiletries.



### AUGUST

Pack. Plan to arrive in Kingston the last week of August.

### SEPTEMBER

Start classes and International Program Orientation. You will receive information about the program, health insurance and upcoming activities.

**NOTE:** the preparation timetable suggested is based on a regular workflow. Please observe the processing time can take anywhere from a couple weeks to many months, depending on your home country and particular circumstances.



KINGSTON IS  
A SAFE AND FRIENDLY  
CITY TO STUDY  
AND LEARN!

# *A window to Canadian culture*

Limestone offers international students the opportunity to live with a Canadian family while attending school in Kingston. For international students and their parents, this trusted network of local families offers many important benefits: a safe and secure living environment, an opportunity to develop English language through full immersion, and a gateway to experiencing Canadian life up close.



# HOMESTAY

## STUDENT SUPPORT

Supporting international students comes hand-in-hand with homestay. Having hosted international students for over two decades, we understand the impact on students of studying abroad. On one hand, it is an exciting, life-changing experience. On the other hand, there are many challenges: being away from family and friends, living with a new “family” in an unfamiliar culture, and being expected to perform well in school in a new language. We understand this and will help make the transition a smooth process... it is what we do every year!

## EXPECTATIONS OF HOMESTAY

Limestone expects homestay families to treat their host student just like one of their own children. International students are expected to be included in all regular family activities, such as meals, outings or trips, and recreation. Families monitor student achievement at school and advocate for students when required, such as at school or in the community.

## INTERNAL HOMESTAY PROGRAM

Limestone runs its own homestay program. The advantage? Better quality student sup-



STAY WITH A  
CANADIAN FAMILY  
WHILE LEARNING  
ENGLISH AT AN  
ONTARIO SCHOOL!



port. Limestone dedicates two full-time employees to support its international homestay students. As regular employees of the school district, they have open access to schools. This allows them to see our students, and their school counsellors, almost every day, resulting in closer relationships with them and a better understanding of their needs. In practice, it is a round-the-clock responsibility that is taken seriously and proudly by our coordinators.

## HOMESTAY FAMILIES

We select the majority of our homestay families by referrals from within our trusted network of existing homestay families and their friends. Each homestay applicant is carefully screened to ensure their home is clean and meets proper safety standards. Most importantly, the family must be motivated by the idea of providing support and care to an international student, not simply a bedroom and meals. All applicants undergo police background checks, which must be updated every two years. All homestay families are visited by our staff in Limestone periodically and develop an excellent relationship as part of the International team.



# GETTING TO KINGSTON




TRAVEL  
BY CAR



TRAVEL  
BY TRAIN



TRAVEL  
BY PLANE

## PLANNING FOR YOUR ARRIVAL IN CANADA

Once you receive your **letter of acceptance**, there are many things you will need to do before your arrival in Kingston. This is the time to make sure you have **all required documentation**, including passport, study permit, visa, original signed, stamped transcripts from school and your original immunization record. You should start to communicate with your new **homestay family** by email, Facebook or Skype once you receive

your homestay profile. Each school will have their **own website** and it is important that you visit that site to learn more about your school and the opportunities it offers. Most schools have **orientations planned** for the last week of August. It is very important that you notify the International Education office about your **flight information** and **travel arrangements** as soon as you have booked your flight.

## CITY OF KINGSTON



With a population of approximately **125,000**, **Kingston** combines a **small-town feel** with many **big-city amenities**. Our city is located at the mouth of Lake Ontario, where the St. Lawrence River and Cataraqui River meets. Kingston is minutes away from the world-famous **Thousand Islands** and the **Rideau Canal** (a UNESCO World Heritage site). Large Canadian cities; **Toronto**, **Montreal** and **Ottawa** are all less than a three hour drive away. Kingston is a stunning, historic city that consistently ranks as one of the most beautiful and desirable places to live in Canada. Kingston has a **vibrant music, festival, arts** and **'foodie'** scene Kingston also boasts the most restaurants per capita in Canada. A sparkling waterfront, nature trails and parks are all here!

As the **home of Queen's University, Royal Military College of Canada, and St. Lawrence College**, Kingston attracts many top students

from across Canada and around the world, helping to make Kingston a vibrant, innovative community. Kingston has the most PhD graduates per capita making us the "smartest" workforce in Canada. Kingston is home to a wealth of burgeoning green technologies and alternate energy sectors, and was the first Canadian city to adopt a sustainable energy procurement protocol. While Kingston's **high quality of life** and **educational opportunities** attract people from **around the world**, English is the dominant language spoken in Kingston.

Kingston is home to several **UNESCO World Heritage sites**; Fort Henry, the Kingston Fortifications and the Rideau Canal. Bellevue House was the home of Sir John A. Macdonald, the father of Confederation and Canada's first Prime Minister. Kingston has well as a wealth of **museums** and the best **freshwater sailing harbour** in North America .





Canadians love to talk about the weather! Kingston has a humid continental climate with warm summers. The temperature ranges from an average low in January of  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$  to an average high in July of  $22^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Kingston has four distinct seasons: winter, spring, summer and fall.

## WINTER (DEC. 21 TO MARCH 20)

Kingston can receive a lot of snow depending on the year and the weather can be unpredictable. Winter temperatures average between  $-12^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $2^{\circ}\text{C}$  but can sometimes drop below  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  especially with the wind chill. It is important to be prepared for winter weather and to dress warmly in a winter coat and boots, with a hat, scarf and gloves or mittens. You will need to purchase winter clothing after you arrive in Canada.



## SPRING (MARCH 20 TO JUNE 21)

Brings warmer weather. The snow and ice begin to melt and you can put away your winter clothing, although sometimes you will still need wear a light jacket, and it can be damp. Spring temperatures average between  $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$  in March and  $22^{\circ}\text{C}$  in June. In the Spring Kingston gets an average of 8 rainy days per month.



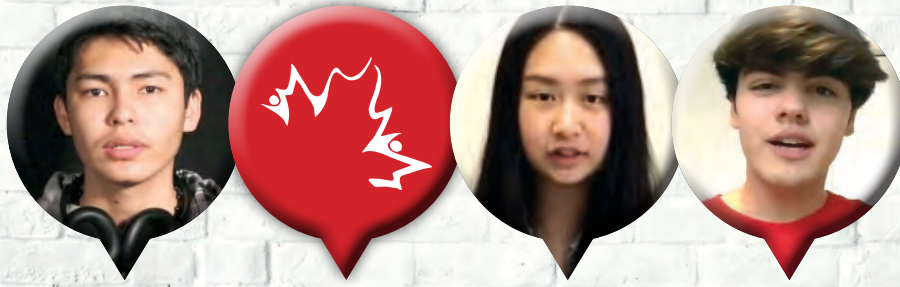
## SUMMER (JUNE 21 TO SEPT. 21)

Average temperatures range from  $15^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Clothing is lighter, and sunscreen is a necessity during the day. In the summer months shorts and sandals are commonly worn as the summer is much warmer.



## FALL (SEPT. 22 TO DEC. 20)

Brings cooler weather and warmer clothing. September and October are truly beautiful months as the leaves change colour and it is still warm during the day. It is common to see snow in November. Temperatures during the fall months' average between  $1^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $19^{\circ}\text{C}$ .



# TESTIMONIALS



## WHY STUDENTS SHOULD CHOOSE LIMESTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

- ✓ Full service student-centred city;
- ✓ French immersion;
- ✓ IB, STEM and Advanced Placement Programs;
- ✓ ACADEMIC ACADEMIES IN: Creative Arts, Studio and Film, Emergency Response, High Performance Athletics;
- ✓ Four distinct seasons;
- ✓ Close to World Heritage sites;
- ✓ Embedded into the Thousand Islands World Tourist Site.



## JÚLIA DA COSTA DIAS COELHO

In September, I had the greatest experience of my life. I went to Canada to live for five months with a homestay family and to study in a Canadian high school. I've been blessed to stay with such an amazing family and meet great people from all around the world. At first it was weird not being in your own country, eating different food and experiencing new customs. But I got used to it with time. I thought the school experience was very interesting. In Brazil we study 12 subjects in a year. In Canada it was 4 subjects in one semester. I had never experienced temperatures below zero degrees in my life, and I had never seen snow. I thought it was amazing! I think going away from all you are makes you grow up, and get to know yourself a little better. It's not only about learning another language. It is about learning a different culture, getting to know yourself and the world around you.

## WESLY ZHAN

I have been studying in Loyalist Collegiate & Vocational Institute (LCVI). In June of this year I will graduate from LCVI, so this is my last year studying here. To be honest I love Kingston very much, and I feel very comfortable living in this city. At LCVI, I am not only studying, but I also participated in lots of activities such as: badminton club, mathlete and more. After school I usually spent my time volunteering. Basically, it's pretty easy to get a volunteer job and I did many types of volunteering. For me, the most impressive one was at St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital. I spent almost 70 hours here with patients, talking, bringing food doing trays, and primary care. Doing volunteer work is definitely a good way to improve English, especially for all international students. It also helped with the social experience and university requirement. At last, I have to say, studying English is a long process, there is no path for jumping to success. So be patient and do more practice, I believe everyone can make it.



## PATRICIA LOYA

I was given the opportunity to study in Canada for a year, and it has become one of the best experiences of my life. I was 17 years old at the time, and I studied at Bayridge Secondary School. It's not just about learning a language; it's about being in a different culture; learning how to be more independent; meeting a lot of people; developing social skills; and growing up as a human being, knowing that you are the only one who can make this a one in a million experience. The program and the coordinators were definitely helpful throughout the whole year. They were always there to support the exchange students. We all enjoyed spending time with them on the road trips & activities they organized to get to know each other better and to get involved with the Canadian culture. My home stay family of course, was the most important part of this experience; they made me feel at home the whole time. I'm really thankful I got to meet them, and these are people I will never forget. Being in the exchange student program was an opportunity I will always remember. Thanks to everything I lived and learned, I became the person I am today.

# Limestone

International Education



*We are proud members of*



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**AOCSI**  
Ontario Association of  
School Districts International  
Association Ontarienne des  
Écoles Scolaires - International



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