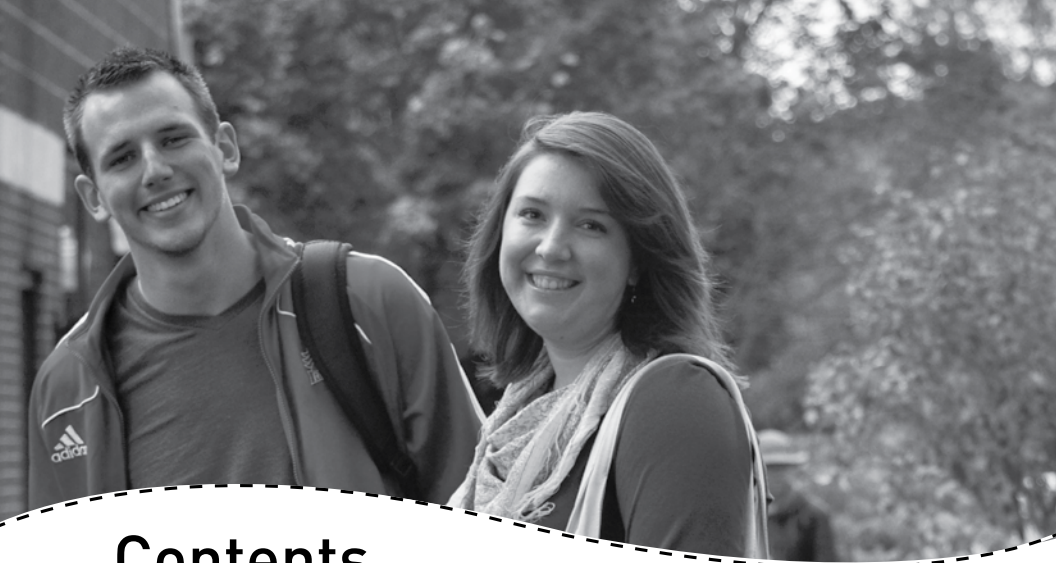


2011-2012
International
Student
Handbook



REDEEMER
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE



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Contact

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Hennie Schoon x4466, Student Life, hschoon@redeemer.ca

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WELCOME

We are excited that you have considered Redeemer University College as the institution in which to work towards a bachelor's degree. We trust that this handbook will assist you with your transition into the Canadian culture.

Some of this information you may already know, but maybe there are still some helpful hints in here! If you have questions or concerns, our International Student Services Coordinator, **Hennie Schoon**, and the International Student Acculturation Advisory Team is happy to help you.

Before you Arrive

It is helpful to know the climate in and around Ancaster, Ontario so you know what clothes to bring. In order to have a clear picture you can go to www.theweathernetwork.com and type in Hamilton, Ontario. It will give you the current forecast. If you then click on statistics, it will give you an idea of the weather for the year. You will need a winter jacket, mittens and hat for the winter as it does get very cold and snowy. It's probably a good idea to wear layers of clothes.

However, when you first arrive in September, shorts, t-shirts and sandals will be fine as it is warm. Evenings cool off pretty quickly. The academic building and residences are kept at approximately 20-21 degrees Celsius (or 70 degrees Fahrenheit) year round.

Please bring: Alarm clock, standard sheets and blankets/comforter, pillow and pillow case, clothing for warm/cold weather, laundry basket and detergent, camping/porch chairs, desk supplies, and hangers. Please note: We advise you not to bring more than one carload of belongings when you move into the residence halls due to limited amount of storage space.

Possibly bring: Bike and bike lock, outdoor sports equipment, computer/laptop, TV/CDs/DVD player/movies/music, weight lifting equipment, plants, extension cords, surge protectors, small refrigerator (four feet tall or smaller- limit one per residence). It is recommended that you talk to your future dormmates and RA about what you will be bringing so you don't have too many duplicates.

Please do not bring: Halogen Lamps (halogen lamps are prohibited in all residences due to the fire risk) or 5 light floor lamps (melting and fire hazard), small appliances except coffee pots and toasters, pets (except fish), waterbeds, alcohol or alcoholic beverage containers (empty or full, including those thought to be decorative), air conditioners, candles/incense, firearms or any kind of weapon (including paintball or air-soft guns), additional furniture (residence is already fully furnished)

Orientation!

We would like to cordially invite you to our International Student Orientation!! It will take place on Saturday, Sept 3rd and Sunday, September 4th. You can arrive on campus on Saturday morning and drop off most of your belongings in your residences. Then you can head over to the President's Residence (staff will be able to show you where this is) to begin the program at noon.

You will be staying there overnight so bring your overnight things- meals will be provided. At this point, you will meet your Orientation Guides and the International Student Staff. Then Sunday night, you officially move into your residence.

Transportation

From the Airport

You will most likely be arriving at the Toronto Pearson Airport. This airport is located about one hour from Ancaster. Airways transit, an airport shuttle service, is recommended if you do not have someone to pick you up from the airport. They can be reached at **905.689.4460** or at www.airwaytransit.com

While at Redeemer

Bus - a shuttle bus comes to Redeemer several times a day connecting students with the Hamilton Bus System, called the Hamilton Street Railway (HSR). Each student will receive an HSR sticker for their student card. With that sticker they have access to the Hamilton bus system. You can pick up the bus map from the Student Senate Office. Taxi- taking taxis is quite expensive. The average taxi fare to downtown Hamilton is around \$30 Canadian dollars.

Car - it is expensive to own and drive a car in Canada. You must obtain a license, insurance (usually more than \$2000 per year) and registration before you can drive a car. If you plan to drive in the area, an international license is required. There are other students who have vehicles who may be willing to offer a ride. If they do, be prepared to offer a small amount of money to help them pay for gas as gas is expensive. For example, if they drive into Hamilton, \$3 would be appropriate.

Bicycle - a good way to get around if you don't have far to go. In cold weather this is not a recommended means of transportation. Cyclists under 18 are required by law to wear an approved bicycle helmet when riding a bike on a roadway or sidewalk.

Walking: Meadowlands, a local shopping area, is within walking distance from the school. It includes stores, restaurants, pharmacies, banks and theatres. If you walk at night, you should always walk with someone else.

Immigration

In order to extend your student visa, a student visa package can be obtained by downloading it from <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/> Your visa must be extended by mail. Please begin the extension application process at least a month in advance of the expiry date.

You will require a letter from the registrar for Canadian immigration. This letter should indicate your registration status and confirm your enrolment at Redeemer University College. Your final offer of admission will serve this purpose.

Social Insurance Number (SIN)

You will require a SIN to be able to work in Canada. A SIN card allows students to pay taxes, but this card does not authorize them to work. An application form can also be downloaded from <http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca> If you would prefer to apply in person, a Canadian Federal Office (Service Canada) in Hamilton located in the Upper James South Plaza. You will also require a letter from the College stating that you have been offered a job at the institution. This letter can be requested from the Financial Aid Office.

Financial Matters

Employment

If you are registered as a full time student at Redeemer you are able to apply for a job on campus, without completing an Employment Authorization form. For employment on

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campus (work study) you should contact Jeannette Lodewyks in the Financial Aid Office.

If you wish to seek employment off campus you must obtain Employment Authorization (work permit). It is illegal to begin work without such a document. If the employment is related to the student's studies (co-op or practicum) the student is able to get an Employment Authorization permit without the employer requesting an Employment Validation from Human Resource Development Canada (HRDC). The Employment Authorization will be granted for the same time frame as the Student Authorization and it will declare the College the employer. There is no fee for this Authorization.

Part Time Hours

During the school year, students are limited to working 10 hours per week. If you are able to work for 10 hours a week, this may cover the cost of books and additional expenses (clothing, transportation, phone) but generally it is not enough to assist with tuition as some things can be expensive in Canada.

Banking

For locations of banks in the area refer to the front of your Agenda Book. It is a good idea to open an account at a bank and keep any extra money in the bank. It is not safe to have large sums of money laying around....the banks are trustworthy in Canada.

If you do open an account at a bank you should ask to open a student account. Student accounts are provided on a complimentary basis for most banks. Cheques are quite uncommon and most stores will not accept them. Debit cards are commonly used for many financial transactions but do be aware of service fees. If you need help with this ask your Resident Advisor for assistance.

Taxes

Any money you earn in Canada is subject to Canadian income tax. Statements of earnings (T4 slips) are issued by the end of February for the previous calendar year and income tax returns must be filled out before April 30.

Shopping

The price stated on the sticker is the price the store will expect you to pay, plus tax. In Ontario we pay Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) which is 13%. In Canada, all items are based on a pre-tax basis. Generally speaking, grocery items are not taxed. Most retail stores will accept cash, VISA, MasterCard, and Debit cards. For purchases smaller than \$5, it is generally seen as rude to pay with a plastic card; cash is preferred then. Bartering is not part of typical Canadian business practice.

If you purchase something and then decide shortly there after that you do not want it, you may be able to return it for a credit or cash refund. This will depend on the store. In order to return the item it must not have been worn or used, and you must have the original sales receipt.

There are many second hand clothing stores in the area. Many sell good quality used clothes and household items at significant savings. Examples of such stores are Value Village, Salvation Army, Talize, and Bibles for Mission. If you have questions about this your Resident Advisor can help you.

Health Insurance

Students must have health insurance while studying in Canada. Redeemer offers health insurance through Caledon. The cost is approximately \$500 for a full year. For

more information regarding the application process please contact Hennie Schoon in Student Life. Once you arrive in Canada it is essential that you apply for this coverage immediately. For a list of doctors, medical clinics and dentists available in this area please see your agenda book.

Housing

It is a requirement that all first and second year students who are 20 years old (or younger) as of April 30, 2012 live on campus in university residences. First year students are placed in the residence with six or seven other first year students. They also live with one or two Resident Advisors (3rd or 4th year students). Your Resident Advisor should be getting in touch with you this summer and giving you more details about moving in. Feel free to ask questions!

Please note: The residences are closed during the Christmas Break. If you do not have a place to stay your Resident Advisor will assist you in finding suitable accommodation.

Emergency

If you have an emergency requiring firefighters, an ambulance or police, from campus, you would call 9911. After calling 9911 you should also contact Redeemer Security at **x4444** or **905-961-4444**. If it is not an emergency, look in the phone book for non-emergency numbers.

Academics (for more information, see the 2012 Academic Calendar)

Faculty Advising

Every student is assigned a Faculty Advisor. Please go to the Registrar's office if you do not know who your advisor is. It is important to meet with your faculty advisor when planning your class schedule. Academic advisors in the Registrar's office will help you plan your program and yearly schedule. There are learning communities for each field of study (major) that students can attend to help give them direction in course selection, as well as connect them with others in the same field of study

Computer Use

There are computers available for use in the computer lab, library and on the second floor of the academic building. You may wish to bring your own computer. You should ensure that you have the correct voltage adapter (110) for plugging in your computer and other electronic equipment.

Study Habits

Students are required to take their own notes unless they require a note taker because of a disability. Some professors use slides which can be printed off at: **www.redeemer.ca/courses**. You will be required to work independently, do reading on your own and at times will be tested on topics that you have been required to cover on your own. One student said AI found that I had to be dedicated to my studies all year round; I couldn't afford to start reading when exams were around the corner. Study Smart Sessions are offered the first six weeks of each semester. These sessions are available for every student. Time and place will be announced when classes begin.

Communications

WiFi/Phone/Calling Cards/Skype

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Redeemer College provides complimentary campus wide WiFi service for its students. Email and VoIP (Skype) can be reliably used on Campus. Canada has some of the most expensive cellular providers in the world. At the lower end students wishing to obtain a basic PayAsYouGo texting package should expect to pay at minimum \$15 per month. Local calling and unlimited texting plans are available- always ask about international calling charges and texting fees.

For bundle plans offering data, local minutes and texting it is not uncommon to pay in excess of \$60 per month. All incoming calls are billed in Canada at normal local rates regardless if you initiated the call. Dorms are equipped with landlines for which local calls are free. Long distance phone cards can be purchased at the Redeemer Bookstore or at most retail locations. A recommendation would be to talk to your housemates about their experiences with cell phones before signing a contract.

Cultural Issues

In Canada it is customary to arrive on time to social engagements. If you do not arrive on time your hosts may worry that something happened to you or that you forgot about the engagement. You are expected to arrive promptly for appointments with doctors, professors, etc. If someone has arranged to pick you up, it is important to be ready at the time set.

Most Canadians expect cleanliness. It is common for both men and women to shower on a daily basis. Strong colognes are considered inappropriate; however mild deodorants or mild cologne is used by most everyone.

Most Canadians value politeness and expect it when interacting with each other in various social gatherings with strangers. For example it is considered rude if someone is aggressive in line-ups or when waiting for a service of some kind. When interacting with faculty, it is appropriate to refer to faculty as Dr. or Professor. Staff are referred to as Mr or Ms. (and then their last name) unless they have given you permission to address them otherwise. Staff is here to assist students to succeed- please do not hesitate to ask questions or seek counsel- we are here to help!!

When working on campus it is expected that you come to work on time, work in a responsible and diligent manner and call/notify your supervisor when you are unable to work due to illness, etc. You also may be working at a job that you do not particularly enjoy. But on-campus jobs are scarce and there may not be too much choice. Students may indicate which types of jobs they would like to have and, whenever possible student interests are taken into consideration when jobs are assigned. All students at Redeemer receive minimum wage. The current rate is \$10.25 per hour.

We are looking forward to meeting you and working with you! Please let us know if you have any questions in the meantime.

Please find contact names and numbers in the front of this booklet.



COME UNTO ME
MATTHEW 11:28

09847007348

POLAROID 032

COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO ARE WEARY AND BURDENED,
AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST