

GOT INCOME TAX QUESTIONS? – WE GOT ANSWERS!

Q: I came to Canada for the first time in 2020. Can I file an income tax return this year?

A: NO, in Canada we file income tax returns for the previous year. The income tax return we are filing now is for 2019.

Q: I came to Canada to study at SMU for the first time in 2019. Should I file an income tax return?

A: YES, you should to apply for the tuition, education and textbook amounts. In addition, you may be eligible for the GST credit. You may get a refund if you worked and paid taxes in 2019.

Q: I came to Canada to study at the SMU Language Centre for the first time in 2019. Should I file an income tax return?

A: YES, you should as you may be eligible for the GST credit. You may get a refund if you worked and paid taxes in 2019. **NOTE:** However, you cannot apply for the tuition, education and textbook amounts for the months you studied at the Language Centre as language students do not qualify for these amounts.

Q: I don't have a Social Insurance Number (SIN) can I still file an income tax return?

A: YES, but you will need to apply for an Individual Tax Number (ITN). We will provide the ITN application at the income tax help sessions and we will help you to complete it. However, if your current valid study permit allows you to work, you **MUST** apply for a SIN. You can apply for a SIN at the [Service Canada Centre in Halifax](#) or any other Service Canada Centre near you.

Q: I worked in 2019. Will I get a refund? When will I get the refund?

A: You may get a refund if there was any income tax deducted from your pay or if you had any CPP or EI overpayment. If you file by mail, you should get your refund in 4 to 6 weeks, if you file online in 2 to 4 weeks.

Q: I am currently an international student at SMU (degree program or The Language Centre English program) and I have never worked in Canada. Should I file an income tax return?

A: YES, so that you apply for the GST credit. Also, if you are a degree student, by filing an income tax return, you will start accumulating the tuition, education and textbook amounts which you can use in the future when you start working to offset any taxes you may have to pay.

Q: When will I get the GST credit payments?

A: Your GST credit will be paid every three months (you will get a payment in July, October, January and April each year).

Q: Can I have my income tax refund, GST credit payments and any other income tax related payments deposited directly into my bank account?

A: YES, you can have your income tax refund, GST credit payments, Canada child benefit and any other income tax related payments deposited directly into your bank account. [Click here](#) for more information.

Q: Can I get money back from my tuition or textbooks (from my degree program and/or The Language Centre English program)? or Can I get money back from things I bought (e.g. groceries, electronics, clothes, etc)? or Can I get my rent money back?

A: NO.

Q: I have been studying at SMU for a few years and haven't filed an income tax return. Can I file for those years as well?

A: YES, you can file up to 10 previous years. However, you must complete and file the appropriate income tax return forms for each previous year. [Click here](#) for the income tax return forms from previous years.

Q: Is there a deadline to file my 2019 income tax return?

A: YES, you should file your income tax return by April 30, 2020.

Q: I permanently moved to another province in 2019. What provincial income tax return forms would I use?

A: You must use the provincial income tax return forms of the province where you were permanently residing as of December 31, 2019. For example, if you moved from Halifax to Toronto on August 20th, you must use the Ontario provincial income tax return forms because you were permanently residing in the province of Ontario as of December 31, 2019. **NOTE:** If you went to another province in December 2019 for a visit during winter break and then came back to Halifax in January 2020, you must still use the Nova Scotia provincial income tax return forms.

Q: I am sponsored by my government or my employer. Can I apply for the GST credit and claim my federal and provincial tuition, education and textbook amounts?

A: If your tuition was paid or reimbursed by your government or your employer, you **CANNOT** claim the tuition, education and textbook amounts. However, you can apply for the GST credit. You may get a refund if you worked and paid taxes in 2019.

Q: I have a student loan from my home country. Can I claim the interest on it?

A: NO.

Q: I temporarily moved from Halifax in 2019 for a coop/internship/summer job. Can I claim moving expenses?

A: YES, you may claim some moving expenses as long as you moved at least 40 kilometres from Halifax to start your coop/internship/summer job.

Q: I made a donation to a charity or organization in 2019. Can I claim it?

A: YES, you may be able to claim non-refundable credits. Bring your official donation receipt to the help sessions.

Q: I am married (or common-law) with NO children and my spouse (or partner) DID NOT live in Canada in 2019; OR I am married (or common-law) WITH children and my spouse (or partner) and children DID NOT live in Canada in 2019; OR I am NOT married (or common-law), but I HAVE children, but they DID NOT live in Canada in 2019?

A: Come to one of the help sessions listed above.

Q: I am married (or common-law) WITH children and my spouse (or partner) and children LIVED in Canada in 2019 OR I am married (or common-law) with NO children, but my spouse (or partner) LIVED in Canada in 2019; OR I am married (or common-law) WITH children; my children LIVED in Canada in 2019, but my spouse (or partner) DID NOT; OR I am married (or common-law) WITH children; my children DID NOT live in Canada in 2019, but my spouse (or partner) DID; OR I am NOT married (or common-law), but I HAVE children and they LIVED in Canada in 2019?

A: Come to the International Centre, Room 305, 3rd Floor, Student Centre during walk-in hours to speak with Ysaac Rodriguez.

Walk-in hours: Monday-Thursday: 9:30am – 10:30am

Friday: 9:30am – 10:30am

Q: If I work after graduation, will I pay taxes?

A: YES, but because you filed income tax returns for all the years you were studying and paying tuition, you can use your tuition, education and textbook amounts to offset some of the taxes you may have to pay. Your employer will take taxes off your paycheck, but you can use your tuition, education and textbook amounts when you file your income tax return to offset some of these taxes.

Q: Do I have to register for the income tax help sessions?

A: NO, but please make sure that you have with you all the required documents, tax slips and your SMU student ID.

Q: Do I need to bring my laptop to the income tax help sessions?

A: NO.

Q: I am an international student, where should I mail my income tax return?

A: [Click here](#) for the information.

Q: I missed the income tax help sessions. Where else can I get FREE income tax help?

A: There are a number of organizations in the Halifax Regional Municipality that offer free tax clinics. [Click here](#) for a clinic near you.

Q: Where can I find more information about Canadian taxes?

A: Go to the Canada Revenue Agency's website @ www.cra.gc.ca

Q: Where can I find more information about income tax specifically for students?

A: [Click here](#) for the information

Q: What documents will I need to file my 2019 income tax return?

A: 1 - **T2202 Tuition and Enrolment Certificate for 2019 (formerly T2202A):** If you were a degree student at SMU in 2019 you need to log in your SMU student account on [Self Service Banner](#) to print this certificate. **NOTE:** If you were a student at the SMU Language Centre in 2019 you cannot get a T2202 tax slip as you cannot apply for the tuition, education and textbook amounts for the months you studied at the SMU Language Centre as language students do not qualify for these amounts. However, if you were a student at the SMU Language Centre for part of 2019 and then a degree student at SMU for part of 2019, you will get T2202 for the months in 2019 that you were a degree student at SMU.

2 - **T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid for 2019:** You will **ONLY** receive a T4 tax slip if you worked in 2019. If you worked on-campus you need to log in your account on [Self Service Banner](#) to print this statement. **However**, if you worked on-campus for **Aramark** or **SMUSA** you need to contact them to get your T4 tax slip. If you worked off-campus in 2019, you need to contact your off-campus employer to get your T4 tax slip.

3 - **Notice of Assessment for 2018:** You will **ONLY** receive this notice of assessment if you did your taxes last year. If you filed your 2018 income tax return last year, you should have received your notice of assessment in the mail; or if you have an online account with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), you can access your 2018 Notice of Assessment online. If you cannot find your 2018 notice of assessment, call the CRA at 1-800-959-8281 (press 4 and then 0 to talk to a CRA agent). Tell the agent that you need your **federal and provincial tuition, education and textbook amounts**. Write down the two amounts and bring this information with you. **NOTE:** You will need to provide your SIN or ITN, full name, date of birth, telephone, full address including the postal code (this is the address on your 2018 income tax return) and the amount on line 101, 150, 236, or 260 of your 2018 income tax return (make sure you have all this information before calling CRA).

4 - **Certified copies of your current valid Passport and your current valid (and any expired) Study Permits:** You will **ONLY** need these certified copies if you are filing your income tax return for the first time (bring these copies to the income tax help sessions and we will certify it for you). **NOTE:** If you filed an income tax return before in any previous year (e.g. 2018, 2017, 2016, etc) you **DO NOT** need to submit these certified copies again.

5 - **T4A Statement of Other Income for 2019:** You will **ONLY** receive a T4A tax slip from SMU if you had a scholarship, fellowship or bursary in 2019. You may get a **T4A** if you worked for a company and you got paid by commission.

6 - **T5 Statement of Investment Income for 2019:** You will **ONLY** receive a T5 tax slip from your bank or financial institution if you had investment income earned in 2019 in excess of \$50 (e.g. interest, dividends, GICs, Bonds, etc).

7 - **NR4 Statement of Non-Resident Tax Withholding for 2019:** You will **ONLY** receive a NR4 tax slip from your bank or financial institution if you had investment income in 2019 (e.g. interest, dividends, GICs, Bonds, etc).

Q: How to print my T2202, T2202A, T4 and T4A tax slips from my SMU student account on Banner?

A: Log in your SMU student account on [Self Service Banner](#). Click on student. Click on Canadian tax forms. Click on the tax slip you want to print (T2202, T2202A, T4 or T4A). Select the tax year. Select printable version and print. **All your 2019 SMU student tax slips will be posted on Banner and ready for printing on February 29th.**