

Travelling To Canada

School of Ministry

This document contains information relating to traveling to Canada and the preparations applicants will need to make in order to successfully enter Canada and attend the School of Ministry. Please note, the following is not professional legal advice and is intended to serve as helpful guidance for applicants preparations.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the School of Ministry office at som.toronto@catchThefire.com.

Canadian Applicants

Each student will need a passport that is valid for at least 6 months from the end date of the school. This is vital in order to participate in the outreach. Most countries will not admit visitors whose passport expires within six months. Please bring this valid passport with you to the school.

US Applicants

In order to enter Canada, US students will need to have a passport that is valid for at least 6 months from the end date of the school. The School of Ministry is under 6 months long and is therefore considered a short term program by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. This means American applicants do not need to apply for a study permit or visitors visa. Once accepted, applicants will be sent an SOM letter of acceptance which, if necessary, can be presented at the border to explain the nature of the School of Ministry (SOM) program.

International Applicants

Before applying to SOM please ensure you have researched and understand all requirements needed to enter Canada. You will need to determine whether you need a visitors visa OR an eTA (Electronic Travel Authorization), all visitors to Canada will need one or the other. To help you determine whether you need a visa or an eTA to enter Canada, you can use this link to the Canadian government website: <https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>

APPLICANTS WHO NEED AN eTA

To apply for an eTA, please visit <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp> Each student will need a passport that is valid for at least 6 months from the end date of the school. This is vital in order to participate in the outreach.

Once accepted, applicants will be sent an SOM letter of acceptance which, if necessary, can be presented at the border to explain the nature of the School of Ministry (SOM) program.

APPLICANTS WHO NEED A VISITORS VISA

If you are a national of a country that needs a visitor's visa to enter Canada, **you will need to provide SOM with a copy of your Canadian visitors visa in order to proceed with your application.**

The School of Ministry is not a Designated Learning Institute and therefore can not assist applicants in getting a visitors visa. Due to the high number of applications SOM receives from nationals needing a visitors visa to enter Canada, **applicants who do not provide a copy of their Canadian visitors visa will automatically have their application paused and will not be able to continue their application until a Canadian Visitors visa is provided.**

PLEASE NOTE:

1. Catch The Fire Toronto School of Ministry (SOM) is not a Designated Learning Institute (DLI), and is therefore not recognized by Canadian Immigration as an official school. This means if you need a visa to enter Canada, the SOM letter of acceptance and SOM travel package or any other document/letter from SOM **will not help you attain a Canadian visa**. For this reason we do not give out any documents/letters expressly for the purpose of obtaining a Canadian visa.
2. No matter what your citizenship, for the purpose of attending SOM, you are **entering Canada as a visitor not as a student**, since SOM is not a DLI (a student visa is only needed if you are attending a DLI). It will be helpful for you to keep this in mind when you land at the Canadian border.
3. Not all fees paid to SOM are refundable, including; \$50 application fee, 3% of all fees and some fees which are completely non-refundable. Please see our financial information package for further details. For this reason we strongly recommend that you wait to pay any fees to SOM until after you have obtained a Canadian visa and are sure you can enter Canada.
4. Heart & Advance Module applicants only; if you do need a visa, please **ensure you request a 'Multiple Entry Visa'** in order to enable you to re-enter Canada when you return from outreach.
5. Catch The Fire School of Ministry does not take any responsibility for any applicant's or student's immigration status. Obtaining the appropriate visa and any other necessary travel requirements is the applicant's responsibility. If you have any questions please contact us at som.toronto@catchthefire.com.

One Module

For students taking one 5-month Heart Module or the 3-week Leaders School (LSOM), Citizenship and Immigration Canada classify you as a visitor to Canada and typically grant you permission to stay 6 months in Canada. This is enough to complete either the Heart Module or LSOM.

Multiple Modules

Students from outside of Canada wishing to complete more than one module in successive schools will need to plan & prepare accordingly.

STUDENTS USING AN eTA

If you were given 6 months to stay in Canada during your first module, please check what requirements you need to meet in order to enter Canada for your second module and plan accordingly. Most likely you will need to leave Canada and re-enter (leaving Canada on Outreach MAY accomplish this) in order to stay for a second module. You will also need to ensure that your eTA is valid through your entire stay for the second module. If it is not you will need to re-apply for one or extend the one you have.

Visit <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/extend-stay.asp> for more information.

STUDENTS USING A VISITOR'S VISA

When applying for your visa, ensure that your visa allows you to stay for 1 year, AND that your visa is a 'Multiple Entry' visa.

Other Opportunities - Catch The Fire India

If you are unable to get a Canadian visitors visa, but you are able to travel to India then you could attend a school facilitated by Catch The Fire India! For more information visit Catch The Fire India's website [here](#).