

**Friday, March 9th:**

- Burke Theatre A / 2pm (for students who did not work in 2017)
- Burke Theatre B / 2pm (for students who worked in 2017)

Friday, March 16th:

- Burke Theatre A / 2pm (for students who did not work in 2017)
- Burke Theatre B / 2pm (for students who worked in 2017)

Friday, March 23rd:

- Burke Theatre A / 2pm (for students who did not work in 2017)
- Burke Theatre B / 2pm (for students who worked in 2017)

Friday, April 6th:

- Burke Theatre A / 2pm (for students who did not work in 2017)
- Burke Theatre B / 2pm (for students who worked in 2017)

Friday, April 13th:

- Burke Theatre A / 2pm (for students who did not work in 2017)
- Burke Theatre B / 2pm (for students who worked in 2017)

Friday, April 20th:

- Burke Theatre A / 2pm (for students who did not work in 2017)
- Burke Theatre B / 2pm (for students who worked in 2017)

Friday, April 27th:

- Burke Theatre A / 2pm (为中国学生提供中文的报税教程 (只针对没有在 2017 年工作的同学) This session is only in Chinese)
- Burke Theatre B / 2pm (for students who worked in 2017)

Friday, May 4th:

- Burke Theatre A / 2pm (for students who did not work in 2017)
- Burke Theatre B / 2pm (for students who worked in 2017)

Do not forget to bring all **required documents** and a **calculator**.

SMU international students **ONLY** - SMU ID required.

2017 Income Tax for International Students - Questions & Answers

Q: I came to Canada for the first time in 2018. 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 last year (2017).

Q: I came to Canada to study at SMU (degree program or The Language Centre English program) for the first time in 2017. Should I file an income tax return?

A: YES you should 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 2017.

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 at the [Service Canada Centre \(6202 Quinpool Road\)](https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/about-canada-revenue-agency-cra/direct-deposit.html). If you are not sure whether your study permit allows you to work, drop by the International Centre and we will tell you.

Q: I worked in 2017. 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 8 weeks, if you file online in 2 to 4 weeks (we do not recommend you doing an online return by yourself unless you know how to do it as it's very easy to make mistakes and claim the wrong tax credits).

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 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, working income tax, and any other income tax related payments deposited directly into your bank account. For more information go to <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/about-canada-revenue-agency-cra/direct-deposit.html>

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, but 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. In addition, you may be eligible for the GST credit.

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 6 previous years. However, you must complete and file the appropriate income tax return forms for each previous year. You can find the income tax return forms from previous years at the Canada Revenue Agency's website @ <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/forms-publications/tax-packages-years.html>

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

A: YES you must file your income tax return by April 30, 2018. However, the earliest you may be able to file your income tax return might be at the end of February 2018 because in Canada most employers and schools usually do not have their tax slips/forms ready until the end February.

Q: I PERMANENTLY moved to another province in 2017. 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, 2017. For example, if you moved from Halifax to Toronto on December 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, 2017. **NOTE:** If you went to another province in December for a visit during Christmas and then came back to Halifax in January, you must still use the Nova Scotia provincial income tax return forms because visiting another province is not the same as permanently residing in that province (therefore, you are still considered a permanent resident of NS even though you were in another province as of December 31, 2017).

Q: I am sponsored by my government. 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, you **CANNOT** claim the tuition, education and textbook amounts. However, you can apply for the GST credit.

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 2017 for a summer or coop job. Can I claim moving expenses?

A: YES you may claim some moving expenses as long as you moved at least 40 kilometres closer to your summer or coop job. If you had a coop/summer job in 2017 and would like to claim moving expenses, please drop by the International Centre, Room 300, 3rd Floor, Student Centre to speak with Ysaac Rodriguez.

Q: I made a donation to a charity or organization in 2017. Can I claim it?

A: YES you can claim non-refundable credits, but this is only beneficial to you if you worked and paid taxes in 2017. To claim your donations, 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 2017; OR I am married (or common-law) WITH children and my spouse (or partner) and children DID NOT live in Canada in 2017; OR I am NOT married (or common-law), but I HAVE children, but they DID NOT live in Canada in 2017?

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 2017 OR I am married (or common-law) with NO children, but my spouse (or partner) LIVED in Canada in 2017; OR I am married (or common-law) WITH children; my children LIVED in Canada in 2017, but my spouse (or partner) DID NOT; OR I am married (or common-law) WITH children; my children DID NOT live in Canada in 2017, but my spouse (or partner) DID; OR I am NOT married (or common-law), but I HAVE children and they LIVED in Canada in 2017?

A: Come to the International Centre, Room 300, 3rd Floor, Student Centre to speak with Ysaac Rodriguez.

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 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. Please make sure that you have with you all the required documents, tax slips, a calculator and your SMU ID card.

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

A: NO. We only file paper income tax returns. (we do not recommend you doing an online return by yourself unless you know how to do it as it's very easy to make mistakes and claim the wrong tax credits).

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

A: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/international-non-residents/individuals-leaving-entering-canada-non-residents/you-international-student-studying-canada.html>.

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 area that offer free income tax help. More information at the Canada Revenue Agency's website @ <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/community-volunteer-income-tax-program/tax-preparation-clinics.html> (some of these organizations offer year-round free tax help, others only during the income tax season – February to April).

Q: Where can I find more information about filing my 2017 income tax return?

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

Q: What documents will I need to file my 2017 income tax return?

A: 1 - T2202A Tuition Certificate for 2017: If you were a degree student at SMU or an English student at the Language Centre in 2017 you need to login your SMU student account on [Self Service Banner](#) to print this certificate. Please Note: If you were an English student at the Language Centre for part of 2017 and then a degree student for the other part of 2017, you will only get one T2202A tax slip, but with both the degree and Language Centre programs' information included.

2 - T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid for 2017: You will **ONLY** receive a T4 tax slip if you worked in 2017. If you worked on-campus you need to login 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 2017, you need to contact your off-campus employer to get your T4 tax slip.

3 - Notice of Assessment for 2016: You will **ONLY** receive this notice of assessment if you did your taxes last year. If you filed your 2016 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 2016 Notice of Assessment online. If you cannot find your 2016 notice of assessment, call the CRA at 1-800-959-8281 and Press (*). Tell the agent that you cannot find your 2016 notice of assessment and 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, full name, date of birth, telephone, address including the postal code and the total income on line 150 of your 2016-T1 General Income Tax Form (make sure you have this information before you call the CRA).

4 - Certified copies of your current valid Passport & your current valid (and any expired) Study Permit(s): 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 (e.g. 2016, 2015, 2014, etc) you **DO NOT** need to submit these certified copies again.

5 - T4A Statement of Other Income for 2017: You will **ONLY** receive a T4A tax slip from SMU if you had a scholarship, fellowship or bursary in 2017.

6 - T5 Statement of Investment Income for 2017: You will **ONLY** receive a T5 tax slip from your bank or financial institution if you had investment income in 2017 (e.g. interest, dividends, etc).

7 - NR4 Statement of Non-Resident Tax Withholding for 2017: You will **ONLY** receive a NR4 tax slip from your bank or financial institution if you had investment income in 2017 (e.g. interest, dividends, etc).

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

A: Login 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 (T2202A, T4 or T4A). Select 2017 as the tax year. Select printable version (PDF). Click print. **NOTE: Your SMU student 2017 tax slips will be available on Banner February 28.**