

2018 Income Tax Help Sessions for SMU International Students



Friday, March 8th:

- **Burke Theatre A / 2pm** (for students who did not work in 2018)
- **Burke Theatre B / 2pm** (for students who worked in 2018)

Friday, March 15th:

- **Burke Theatre A / 2pm** (for students who did not work in 2018)
- **Burke Theatre B / 2pm** (for students who worked in 2018)

Friday, March 22nd:

- **Burke Theatre A / 2pm** (为中国学生提供中文的报税教程 (只针对没有在 2018 年工作的同学) This session is only in Chinese)
- **Burke Theatre B / 2pm** (for students who worked in 2018)

Friday, March 29th:

- **Burke Theatre A / 2pm** (for students who did not work in 2018)
- **Burke Theatre B / 2pm** (for students who worked in 2018)

Friday, April 5th:

- **Sobey Theatre 101 (S101) / 2pm** (for students who did not work in 2018)
- **Burke Theatre B / 2pm** (for students who worked in 2018)

Friday, April 12th:

- **Burke Theatre A / 2pm** (for students who did not work in 2018)
- **Burke Theatre B / 2pm** (for students who worked in 2018)

Friday, April 26th:

- **Burke Theatre A / 2pm** (for students who did not work in 2018)
- **Burke Theatre B / 2pm** (for students who worked in 2018)

Friday, May 3rd:

- **Burke Theatre A / 2pm** (for students who did not work in 2018)
- **Burke Theatre B / 2pm** (for students who worked in 2018)

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

SMU international students ONLY - SMU ID required.

2018 Income Tax for International Students - Questions & Answers

Q: I came to Canada for the first time in 2019. 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 (2018).

Q: I came to Canada to study at SMU for the first time in 2018. 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 2018.

Q: I came to Canada to study at the SMU Language Centre for the first time in 2018. 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 2018. **NOTE:** However, 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.

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/service-canada/service-canada/6202-Quinpool-Road). 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 2018. 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, if you were 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, 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.

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 2018 income tax return?

A: YES, you must file your income tax return by April 30, 2019. However, the earliest you may be able to file your income tax return might be at the end of February 2019 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 2018. 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, 2018. 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, 2018. **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, 2018).

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. You may get a refund if you worked and paid taxes in 2018.

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 2018 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 2018 and would like to claim moving expenses, please drop by the International Centre, Room 305, 3rd Floor, Student Centre to speak with Ysaac Rodriguez.

Q: I made a donation to a charity or organization in 2018. 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 2018. 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 2018; OR I am married (or common-law) WITH children and my spouse (or partner) and children DID NOT live in Canada in 2018; OR I am NOT married (or common-law), but I HAVE children, but they DID NOT live in Canada in 2018?

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 2018 OR I am married (or common-law) with NO children, but my spouse (or partner) LIVED in Canada in 2018; OR I am married (or common-law) WITH children; my children LIVED in Canada in 2018, but my spouse (or partner) DID NOT; OR I am married (or common-law) WITH children; my children DID NOT live in Canada in 2018, but my spouse (or partner) DID; OR I am NOT married (or common-law), but I HAVE children and they LIVED in Canada in 2018?

A: Come to the International Centre, Room 305, 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, but 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 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: Go to the Canada Revenue Agency's website @ <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/segments/students.html>

Q: What documents will I need to file my 2018 income tax return?

A: 1 - T2202A Tuition Certificate for 2018: If you were a degree student at SMU in 2018 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 2018 you cannot get a T2202A 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 2018 and then a degree student at SMU for part of 2018, you will get T2202A for the months in 2018 that you were a degree student at SMU.

2 - T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid for 2018: You will **ONLY** receive a T4 tax slip if you worked in 2018. 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 2018, you need to contact your off-campus employer to get your T4 tax slip.

3 - Notice of Assessment for 2017: You will **ONLY** receive this notice of assessment if you did your taxes last year. If you filed your 2017 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 2017 Notice of Assessment online. If you cannot find your 2017 notice of assessment, call the CRA at 1-800-959-8281. 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, address including the postal code and the total income on line 150 of your 2017-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 in any previous year (e.g. 2017, 2016, 2015, etc) you **DO NOT** need to submit these certified copies again.

5 - T4A Statement of Other Income for 2018: You will **ONLY** receive a T4A tax slip from SMU if you had a scholarship, fellowship or bursary in 2018.

6 - T5 Statement of Investment Income for 2018: You will **ONLY** receive a T5 tax slip from your bank or financial institution if you had investment income in 2018 (e.g. interest, dividends, etc).

7 - NR4 Statement of Non-Resident Tax Withholding for 2018: You will **ONLY** receive a NR4 tax slip from your bank or financial institution if you had investment income in 2018 (e.g. interest, dividends, etc).

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

A: Log in your SMU T2202A 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 2018 as the tax year. Select printable version (PDF). Click print.