



2025 Income Tax Help Sessions for SMU International Students

Friday, March 6th:

Burke Theatre A @ 2pm

- **New students** who arrived in Canada in 2025 and did not work in 2025.

Burke Theatre B @ 2pm

- **New students** who arrived in Canada in 2025 and worked in 2025, or have a T4A or T5 tax slip, or are married/common-law, or have minor children under 18 years old.

NOTE: Must save the Personal Information Sheet to your laptop and bring it to the session.

- **Returning students** who filed their income tax return for the 2024 tax year.

NOTE: Must save the Personal Information Sheet to your laptop and bring it to the session.

NOTE: Be on time. If you arrive late, we will not be able to go back to the beginning of the session, and therefore, you will have to attend another session.

Friday, March 13th:

Burke Theatre A @ 10am

- **New students** who arrived in Canada in 2025 and did not work in 2025.

Burke Theatre B @ 10am

- **New students** who arrived in Canada in 2025 and worked in 2025, or have a T4A or T5 tax slip, or are married/common-law, or have minor children under 18 years old.

NOTE: Must save the Personal Information Sheet to your laptop and bring it to the session.

- **Returning students** who filed their income tax return for the 2024 tax year.

NOTE: Must save the Personal Information Sheet to your laptop and bring it to the session.

NOTE: Be on time. If you arrive late, we will not be able to go back to the beginning of the session, and therefore, you will have to attend another session.

Friday, March 20th:

Burke Theatre A @ 2pm

- **New students** who arrived in Canada in 2025 and did not work in 2025.

Burke Theatre B @ 2pm

- **New students** who arrived in Canada in 2025 and worked in 2025, or have a T4A or T5 tax slip, or are married/common-law, or have minor children under 18 years old.

NOTE: Must save the Personal Information Sheet to your laptop and bring it to the session.

- **Returning students** who filed their income tax return for the 2024 tax year.

NOTE: Must save the Personal Information Sheet to your laptop and bring it to the session.

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Friday, March 27th:

Burke Theatre A @ 2pm

- **New students** who arrived in Canada in 2025 and did not work in 2025.

Burke Theatre B @ 2pm

- **New students** who arrived in Canada in 2025 and worked in 2025, or have a T4A or T5 tax slip, or are married/common-law, or have minor children under 18 years old.

NOTE: Must save the Personal Information Sheet to your laptop and bring it to the session.

- **Returning students** who filed their income tax return for the 2024 tax year.

NOTE: Must save the Personal Information Sheet to your laptop and bring it to the session.

NOTE: Be on time. If you arrive late, we will not be able to go back to the beginning of the session, and therefore, you will have to attend another session.

Friday, April 10th:

Burke Theatre A @ 10am

- **New students** who arrived in Canada in 2025 and did not work in 2025.

Burke Theatre B @ 10am

- **New students** who arrived in Canada in 2025 and worked in 2025, or have a T4A or T5 tax slip, or are married/common-law, or have minor children under 18 years old.

NOTE: Must save the Personal Information Sheet to your laptop and bring it to the session.

- **Returning students** who filed their income tax return for the 2024 tax year.

NOTE: Must save the Personal Information Sheet to your laptop and bring it to the session.

NOTE: Be on time. If you arrive late, we will not be able to go back to the beginning of the session, and therefore, you will have to attend another session.

Friday, April 17th:

Burke Theatre A @ 2pm

- **New students** who arrived in Canada in 2025 and did not work in 2025.

Burke Theatre B @ 2pm

- **New students** who arrived in Canada in 2025 and worked in 2025, or have a T4A or T5 tax slip, or are married/common-law, or have minor children under 18 years old.

NOTE: Must save the Personal Information Sheet to your laptop and bring it to the session.

- **Returning students** who filed their income tax return for the 2024 tax year.

NOTE: Must save the Personal Information Sheet to your laptop and bring it to the session.

NOTE: Be on time. If you arrive late, we will not be able to go back to the beginning of the session, and therefore, you will have to attend another session.

NOTICE: Must bring your valid SMU student ID card with you. Students without their SMU ID card will not be able to attend the sessions. Maximum 50 students per session. First come, first served.



2025 INCOME TAX RETURN GOT QUESTIONS? – WE GOT ANSWERS!

Q: *I came to Canada for the first time in 2026. 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 2025.

Q: *I came to Canada to study at SMU for the first time in 2025. Should I file an income tax return?*

A: YES, so that you can apply for the tuition, education, and textbook amounts. In addition, you may be eligible for the GST credit. You also may get a refund if you worked and paid taxes in 2025.

Q: *For part of 2025 I was studying English/French as a second language in a language school. Can I claim the tuition, education, and textbook amounts for that language school?*

A: NO. You can only claim the tuition, education, and textbook amounts when you start your postsecondary studies at a university/college.

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

A: If your current valid study permit allows you to work, you **MUST** apply for a SIN at [Service Canada](#) in order to be able to file an income tax return.

Q: *I worked in 2025. 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 about 8 weeks. If you file online, you should get your refund in about 2 weeks.

Q: *I am currently an international student at SMU, and I have never worked in Canada. Should I file an income tax return?*

A: YES, you should, as you may be eligible 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 four 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, Canada Child Benefit and any other income tax related payments deposited directly into your bank account. The best and fastest way to set up direct deposit with the CRA is through your CRA online account. However, since you will not be able to register for a CRA account until after you file your taxes, we recommend setting up direct deposit with the CRA through your financial institution before you file your taxes so it will be ready by the time you file your taxes. All the information on how to set up direct deposit can be found [here](#).

Q: *How to register for a CRA online account?*

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

Q: *What happens if I forget my CRA account's login credentials?*

A: If you forgot your sign-in information:

1. Go to [Sign in to your CRA account](#)
2. Under "Help," select "Your account is locked"
3. Follow the on-screen steps

Q: *What happens if my CRA account is locked by the CRA for security or other reasons.*

A: If you are locked out of your CRA account:

1. Go to [Sign in to your CRA account](#)
2. Under "Help," select "Your account is locked"
3. Follow the on-screen steps

Q: *Can I get money back from my tuition or textbooks? 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 in Nova Scotia (in Canada every province has its own provincial tax breaks).

Q: *What happens if my marital status changes?*

A: You must inform the CRA about your new marital status by the **end of the following month after** your

status changed. We recommend sending this information to the CRA immediately after the change so you will not forget as a change to your marital status during the tax year may impact your entitlement to credits and benefits, and how your income is reported. **Note:** If your marital status changed to separated, you must wait **at least 90 days** before informing the CRA. Once you have been separated for 90 days because of a breakdown in the relationship, the effective date of your separated status is the day that you started living apart.

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. 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: *When does the tax season begin?*

A: The online filing opens on February 23. However, employers have until March 2nd to issue their T4 and other tax slips. So, it will depend on when your employer issues your tax slips. At SMU all your student tax slips should be ready and posted on Self-Service Banner by the end of February.

Q: *Is there a deadline to file my 2025 income tax return?*

A: YES, you must file your income tax return by **Thursday, April 30, 2026**.

Q: *I permanently moved to another province in 2025. 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, 2025. For example, if you moved from Halifax to Toronto on August 20, 2025 you must use the Ontario provincial income tax return forms because you were permanently residing in the province of Ontario as of December 31, 2025. **NOTE:** If you went to another province in December 2025 for a visit during the holidays and then came back to Halifax in January 2026, you must still use the Nova Scotia provincial income tax return forms. **NOTE:** We are only filing income tax returns for students who lived in Nova Scotia as of December 31, 2025.

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 may be eligible for the GST credit. You may get a refund if you worked and paid taxes in 2025.

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 2025 for a coop job/internship/practicum/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. Your job must be at least 40 kilometres from your home, and you must have temporarily moved there to do the job (if you drove to work every day, even if it is 40 kilometres or more away from your home, you are not eligible).

Q: *I made a donation to a charity or organization in 2025. Can I claim it?*

A: YES, you may be able to claim non-refundable charitable credits. You need to get your donation receipt from the charitable organization you made the donation to.

Q: *I am married (or common-law) or I have children?*

A: Regardless of whether you worked in 2025, if you have a spouse/common-law and/or minor children, sign up for one of the sessions for students who worked.

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. However, if you are attending the sessions for students who worked in 2025, it is on a first come, first served basis (maximum 50 students per session). You must bring your SMU student ID card.

Q: *Do I need a computer for the sessions?*

A: If you are attending the sessions for students who worked in 2025, you must save the **Personal Information Sheet** to your laptop and bring your laptop to the session so we fill it in together and I can answer any question you may have. **NOTE** If you came to Canada in 2025 and you did not work in 2025, or don't have a T4A, or a T5 tax slips, or are single, or have no children, you do not need to bring your laptop as we are doing paper filing for new students who did not work.

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 several 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 [here](#).

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

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

Q: *What tax slips and documents will I need to file my 2025 income tax return?*

1 - If you came to Canada for the first time in 2025 and did not work in 2025:

A: T2202 Tuition and Enrolment Certificate for 2025. If you were a degree student at SMU in 2025 you need to log in your SMU student account on [Self-Service Banner](#) to save this certificate. You will be filing a paper income tax return by mail to prove residence for tax purposes and you will also need to bring copies of your passport and study permit to the International Student Centre so we can certify it.

2 - If you came to Canada for the first time in 2025 and worked in 2025, or have a T4A, or T5, or are married/common-law, or have children, or are a returning student who filed an income tax return for 2024:

A: 1 - T2202 Tuition and Enrolment Certificate for 2025: If you were a degree student at SMU in 2025 you need to log in your SMU student account on [Self-Service Banner](#) to save this certificate.

2 - T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid for 2025: You would receive a T4 tax slip if you worked in 2025. If you worked on-campus for any SMU department you need to log in your account on [Self-Service Banner](#) to save this statement. If you had more than one SMU job, you would receive only one T4 with all the information for all the jobs. **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, you need to contact your off-campus employer to get your T4 tax slip.

3 - Notice of Assessment for 2024: You would **ONLY** receive this notice of assessment if you did your taxes last year. If you filed your 2024 income tax return last year, and if you open a CRA account, your notice should have been posted in your account. If you did not open a CRA account, your notice should have been mailed to you. If you cannot find your 2024 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, full name, date of birth, telephone, full address including the postal code (this is the address on your 2024 income tax return) and the amount on one of the following lines from your 2024 income tax return: Line 10100, or 15000, or 2360, or 26000 (make sure you have all this information before calling the CRA)

5 - Donation Receipts: If you made a donation in 2025, please include your official donation receipts.

6 - T4A Statement of Other Income for 2025: You would receive a T4A tax slip:

- If you had a SMU scholarship, fellowship, grant or bursary in 2025.
- If you worked for a company and you got paid by commission.
- If you received the COVID-19 Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) with the CRA.
- If you received the COVID-19 Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB).
- If you received the COVID-19 Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB).
- If you received the COVID-19 Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB).
- If you received the COVID-19 Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB).
- If you received the COVID-19 Provincial or territorial COVID-19 financial assistance payments.

7 – **T4E Statement of Employment Insurance and Other Benefits for 2025:** You would receive a T4E slip if you received the COVID-19 Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) or any Employment Insurance (EI) benefit payments.

8 - **T5 Statement of Investment Income for 2025:** You would **ONLY** receive a T5 tax slip from your bank or financial institution if you had investment income earned in 2025 more than \$50 (e.g. interest, dividends, GICs, bonds, etc.). However, even if you did not receive a T5, if you had any investment income, you must report it even if it is less than \$50.

Q: *How to save my T2202, 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 save (T2202, T4 or T4A). Select the tax year. Select PDF printable version and save the documents on your computer. **All your 2025 SMU student tax slips should be posted on Self-Service Banner by the last week in February (anywhere February 23rd to the 27th).** If you have any problems accessing/saving your SMU tax slips, please contact the Service Centre located on McNally Main 108 at 1-902-420-5582 or service.centre@smu.ca.

Q: *What happens if I get a NR4 Statement of Non-Resident Tax Withholding from my financial institution?*

A: You would **ONLY** receive a NR4 tax slip from your financial institution if you had investment income in 2025 more than \$50 (e.g. interest, dividends, GICs, bonds, etc.). However, if you received a NR4 is because your financial institution has you classified as non-resident. You need to contact your financial institution and inform them that you are an international student studying and living in Canada; that you have a SIN, and that you are permanent resident in Canada for tax purposes, and that they need to issue you a T5 instead of a NR4. If they cannot issue a T5 for 2025 (because it is too late), you will have to file a non-resident income tax return. Unfortunately, **WE ARE NOT TRAINED TO FILE NON-RESIDENT INCOME TAX RETURNS**, and you will have to go to an accountant or a tax preparation company. Even if it is too late for this year, you should go to your financial institution, so they change your status from non-resident to resident for tax purposes and issue a T5 next year. However, even if you did not receive a NR4, if you had any investment income, you must report it even if it is less than \$50.