



**Fort Erie
International
Academy**

**PRE-DEPARTURE
GUIDE 2025**



WELCOME TO FEIA

Our team is so excited to welcome you on campus!
Here are a few of the friendly faces you'll meet:



School Principal:
William Cockburn

Student Services Manager: Helena Zhang

Boys: Sr. Poline Chan

Girls: Sra. Kimberly Lum Kin

Course scheduling and Academics: Lisa Marie Thompson

Academic Director: Adam Nash

Activities and Entertainment: Ziqi Kong





BEFORE YOU DEPART



Fort Erie
International
Academy



PACKING LIST

ESSENTIALS

- ☐ Casual clothing for use outside of school
- ☐ Athletic wear
- ☐ Lace up shoes for school
- ☐ Jacket
- ☐ Sneakers
- ☐ Formal wear and shoes for celebrations, dances, etc. (Blazer/ jacket, shirt/tie, dress, shoes, etc.).
- ☐ Laptop
- ☐ A cell phone: *Very important* for communication
- ☐ Personal toiletries
- ☐ International convertor
- ☐ Prescription medicine including a Doctors' note in English
- ☐ Black trainers/school
- ☐ Comfortable shoes (crocs, etc)

FEIA WILL PROVIDE

- ☒ School backpack
- ☒ School uniform: Polo T-shirt, skirt or trousers
- ☒ Sports gear (sponsored by New Balance) for basketball and hockey student who are part of the sports academies.
- ☒ Bedsheets
- ☒ Pillows
- ☒ Linens
- ☒ Towels
- ☒ Laundry bag/basket
- ☒ Clothing hangers
- ☒ Shower curtain
- ☒ Bathmat
- ☒ Gym uniform (shirt and shorts)

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

- ☐ 4 binder notebooks
 - ☐ Lined paper
 - ☐ Blue or black.
- All other materials (e.g., art materials, graph paper, rulers) will be supplied by the school.

* Please note that supplies can be purchased on arrival to Canada.

Students will wear uniforms that they will receive on arrival!

DO NOT BRING

- ☒ Decorations or clothing with inappropriate content
- ☒ Alcohol, tobacco products, vapes, and any other illegal substance
- ☒ Weapons including knives and imitation firearms, such as airsoft guns
- ☒ Pets
- ☒ Small appliances, e.g., coffee maker, electronic blankets or heaters, hot plates, irons, microwaves, televisions, rice cooker, toaster, etc.
- ☒ Any medications that do not align with the Medication Policy in the Student Handbook



CELL PHONES

All students are required to have a cell phone for communication with FEIA staff. This is extremely important to ensure students' safety.

Upon arrival, students will have two options for procuring a cell phone plan.



FEIA will provide upon arrival a SIM card that students can easily top-up with credit throughout the school year. It's convenient and very easy to install and set-up.



Students may purchase a cell phone through a third party in Canada. Students must ensure their cell and data service is working properly throughout the year. Students should purchase unlimited talk, text, and data plans.



MONEY IN CANADA

While most expenses for your daily life are covered by FEIA, you will need to pay for personal services, incidentals, and other individual purchases out-of-pocket. In most instances, payment will be made by you at the time services are offered. Examples are services at medical facilities that are not covered by insurance (deductible, non-emergency dental work, pre-existing conditions), and school club activity fees, AP test fees, sports gear, etc.

INTERNATIONAL CREDIT CARDS

Students can use a family credit card with their parent's permission or endorsement. This is the most convenient and preferred form of payment. Parents appreciate having access to the transaction history.

BANKING IN CANADA

Students may choose to open a bank account in Canada. This allows parents to wire funds directly from a local bank in the home country. Students under the age of 16 are required to have guardian consent (school Principal) when opening a bank account in Canada.





YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY!



**Fort Erie
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ARRIVAL IN CANADA!

- ✓ Inform FEIA of your arrival information
- ✓ Arrive on designated arrival dates
- ✓ Pack your important documents and any medications in your carry on bag



WHO WILL PICK ME UP FROM THE AIRPORT AND PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO THE FEIA?

Students arriving on the FEIA specified move in dates and airport will receive transportation from the approved airport to the FEIA campus. The FEIA team will meet you at the airport outside of customs holding a FEIA welcome sign.

If you are arriving prior to or after the specified move-in dates, FEIA will provide a list of recommended transportation companies for you to make your own arrangements.

WHEN IS THE EARLIEST I CAN ARRIVE TO CANADA?

August 29th is the earliest day students can arrive on campus. If students would like to arrive earlier, they will have to organize transportation from the airport and accommodation. The campus cannot accommodate earlier arrival dates.

WHAT IF ONE OR BOTH OF MY PARENTS ARE FLYING WITH ME? WILL THEY RECEIVE TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS AS WELL?

FEIA provides transportation ONLY to students. We cannot accommodate parents or family friends arriving with students. FEIA is happy to provide a list of hotels that are near the campus.

WHAT IF I HAVE CONNECTING FLIGHTS IN CANADA?

If you have connecting flights within Canada, allow enough time (at least 4 hours) between flights. Canadian customs may search your bag for unauthorized items. Your arrival will be registered electronically. You will only go through Canadian customs at your first entry point.



IMMIGRATION ON ARRIVAL

WHAT SHOULD I HAVE WITH ME WHEN I ENTER THE CANADA?

- ☒ Passport
- ☒ Study permit
- ☒ Guardianship letter

When entering Canada, you will need to show your passport, study permit and guardianship letter. Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your arrival.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT BORDER CONTROL?

You will be fingerprinted, photographed, and an entry stamp will be placed in your passport. You may be asked to go to another line where an Immigration Officer will look at your documents and ask you additional questions. Please do not let this worry you. This is a normal part of the process, and it may take 2-4 hours or longer to complete.

WHAT ARE SOME COMMON QUESTIONS ASKED BY THE IMMIGRATION OFFICER WHEN ENTERING CANADA?

1. What is the purpose of your trip?

The purpose of your trip is to come to Canada is to study in high school or middle school. You should know the name and location of your school. You should also be prepared to answer questions related to the grade you will be starting and why you chose to study in Canada.

2. How long do you intend to stay?

Students should be able to answer when they plan on going home, for example when your current school year ends.

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO DECLARE?

We highly advise against bringing any vegetables, fruits, or meats into Canada, as these items can be confiscated by border control. You can read more information here: <https://travel.gc.ca/returning/customs>



ARRIVAL TRANSPORTATION AT TORONTO PEARSON AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

August 29th and 30th

FEIA TEAM

Look for signage at the airport to
find the FEIA team

BUSES

We will transport students at 5pm
each day via bus



EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

JESSICA CONWAY +1 (905) 932 7606

PUNEET KAUR +1 (647) 550-0692



DEPARTURES FOR JAN 2026

DEPARTURE DATE

Jan 17th 2026

For students who are departing the program in January (semester students), the departure date will be as above. Buses will leave FEIA at 9am, so please schedule afternoon and evening flights if booking early.



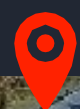
ONLY FOR STUDENTS DEPARTING IN JANUARY



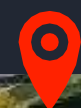
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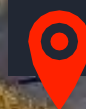
PEACE BRIDGE



FEIA STUDENT RESIDENCE



FEIA HIGH SCHOOL



FEIA MIDDLE SCHOOL

LIVING AT FEIA



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FEIA RESIDENCE

DINING PLAN

FEIA provides buffet-style healthy meals prepared by qualified chefs in our on-campus dining hall. There are a variety of food choices from different cultures, utilizing locally grown produce whenever possible, to encourage healthy eating habits. We are able to accommodate a wide variety of dietary restrictions and ensure students receive nutritious, delicious, and fresh meals.





FEIA RESIDENCE

STATE OF THE ART RESIDENCE

FEIA allows students to add a small refrigerator and/ or an additional small wardrobe to their room. FEIA will bring students shopping so they can purchase these items if they desire.





FEIA RESIDENCE

SAFETY

Our residence halls offer round-the-clock security, ensuring a safe and secure environment for all students. Additionally, student life counselors live on-site, providing ongoing support and guidance to students in need of assistance, fostering a supportive and caring community.





FIRST FEW DAYS AT FEIA

Orientation days will ensure students are familiar with FEIA and the residence. Students will:

- Learn about FEIA and the area
- Participate in activities to meet teachers, administration and other students
- Learn basics of self care while in residence (i.e. laundry, keeping room clean, etc.)
- Trips to stores to purchase necessary supplies for residence if needed





FEIA ORIENTATION SAMPLE SCHEDULE

	Tue. Jan. 21	Wed. Jan. 22	Thurs/Fri. Jan. 23/ 24	Sat. Jan. 25	Sun. Jan. 26	Mon. Jan. 27
9:00am - 12:00pm	Grades 6-12 English Placement Testing and Grades 6-12 Bring admin documents to Service Office (Classes in progress)	Welcome Orientation --Meet the staff --Principal --Guidance: learning --Marketplace on Campus (Service Booths)	Classes+ Active Clubs Art/ Badminton- sign up required	Explore the neighbourhood Library visit- Fort Erie Public Library	Niagara Falls --Butterfly Conservatory --Power Station Light show	Classes+ "Make your own snow cone"- Booth in the cafeteria
LUNCH 12:00pm – 1:00pm						
1:00pm - 4:00pm	All grades Course Selection/ Registration (Classes in progress)	--Marketplace (SIN, Banking service, Student Support, refreshments, Club sign-ups, uniform Booths)- Contd. -- School Tours	Classes+ Active Clubs Art/ Badminton- sign up required	Trip to Niagara Falls --Skylon Tower --Journey Behind the Falls --Floral Showcase --Incline Railway --Clifton Hill	Niagara On the Lake --Sightseeing the 18 th century classes English Architecture --St. Catherines --Brock University --Welland Canal --Canal Museum (Timings subject to change)	Educational Seminar --Introduction to OSSD --How to apply to Universities in Canada
4:00pm - 5:00pm	-	-	-			-
DINNER 5:00pm – 6:30pm						
7.00 pm	Board Game Night	Watch OSBA High School Basketball Match	Buses Leaving for Walmart (to get needed supplies)			Movie Night
9:00 pm			Back from Walmart			



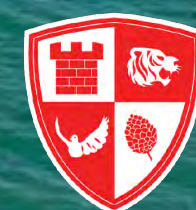
SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2025-2026

Month	Instructional Days	Professional Activity Days /Turnaround Day	Scheduled Examination Days	1 st Week					2 nd Week					3 rd Week					4 th Week					5 th Week					
				M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	
August 2025								1	4 H	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29	
September 2025	21			1 H	2 S1	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30				
October 2025	22					1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13 H	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31	
November 2025	20			3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28						
December 2025	15			1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22 W	23 W	24 W	25 W	26 W	29 W	30 W	31 W			
January 2026	18	2	3				1 W	2 W	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14 E	15 E	16 E	19 T	20 T	21 S2	22	23	26	27	28	29	30	
February 2026	19			2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16 H	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27						
March 2026	17			2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16 M	17 M	18 M	19 M	20 M	23	24	25	26	27	30	31				
April 2026	20					1	2	3 H	6 H	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30		
May 2026	20							1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18 H	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29	
June 2026	4	2	3	1	2 E	3 E	4 E	5 T	8 T	9	10	11 G 8	12 G 12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30				
July 2026						1 H	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31	
	176	4	6																										

LEGEND: E – Exams G8 – Grade 8 Graduation G12 – Grade 12 Graduation H – Statutory Holiday M -March Break
S1 - First Day of First Semester S2 - First Day of Second Semester T – High School Turnaround Day W – Winter Break

Turnaround Day	Instructional Days	Holidays – 2025-2026
January 19, 2026 January 20, 2026 June 5, 2026 June 6, 2026	Two semesters – 88 days each including 3 Days for exams and/or culminating activities. This calendar is based on a daily class time of 75 minutes per course. 75 X 88 / 60 = 110 hours	Labour Day - Sept 1, 2025 Thanksgiving - Oct 13, 2025 Winter Break - Dec 22, 2025 - Jan 2, 2026 Family Day - Feb 16, 2026 March Break - March 16-20, 2026 Good Friday - April 3, 2026 Easter Monday - April 6, 2026 Victoria Day - May 18, 2026

AROUND FORT ERIE



Fort Erie
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Academy

20 min from Niagara Falls



10 min from Buffalo, USA



90 min from Toronto



5 IMPORTANT TIPS AT CANADIAN HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

1

YOUR WORK MUST BE YOUR OWN

In Canada, academic integrity is important. This means that any work you do for school originates from your own thoughts and evaluations. Even answers found from outside sources must be either rephrased so that they reflect your own thoughts and word choices, or attributed to the source.

2

YOUR CANADIAN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE IS A MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT

A marathon is a long race that requires consistent effort, while a sprint is a short race that requires a quick burst of effort. Canadian school is more like a marathon, where your consistent contributions and efforts will be rewarded.



3

GET READY TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN CLASS

An Canadian classroom is full of activity, with lots of discussion, debate, and vocal participation. Understanding the material is important, and Canadian teachers like to see that students are able to show their understanding of the material and contribute to the discussion.

4

TECHNOLOGY IS FOR SCHOOLWORK— NOT JUST FOR SOCIALIZING

Many of your courses will require that you use a laptop or iPad in conjunction with written or physical materials. Although it is tempting to use your device for other purposes (gaming or browsing the internet), this is something that is not permissible in school and can lead to disciplinary action.

5

MAKE SURE TO SCHEDULE ONE-ON-ONE TIME

Make appointments with teachers and guidance counselors — this will afford you even more one-on-one time with some important people in the school so you can build a relationship.





PARENT COMMUNICATION

We encourage families to stay in close contact with the dorm parents/ dorm mother using FEIA's WhatsApp and WeChat channels. Our student service department and dorm parents are available 24/7.

Parents should read the weekly Principal communication, bi-weekly scorecards and reports. This will ensure you have the most up-to-date information about what's happening at school.

Parents will be invited to attend parent/ teacher webinars throughout the year. And parents are always able to request a 1:1 meeting with the Principal or Academic Director as needed.





**WELCOME
TO FEIA!
WE WILL SEE
YOU SOON!**





Fort Erie International Academy

Website: feia.ca / **Instagram:** [@feia.ca](https://www.instagram.com/feia.ca) / **Youtube:** [@feia-ca](https://www.youtube.com/feia-ca)