Information on International Students and Designated Learning Institutions

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In response to student concern, the DSU reached out to the Dalhousie International Centre, Provost, and Student Affairs Office for information regarding the arrival of international students on November 02, 2020.

As of November 03, 2020, Dalhousie University was re-added to the list of Designated Learning Institutions in Nova Scotia. This means that Dalhousie is among the post-secondary institutions that the government has re-approved to locally accommodate international students. This designation is not a new process (several years old) and is required. Without this designation, international students registered at Dalhousie would be refused at the border, regardless of study permit status. DLI status was revoked from many institutions in response to Covid-19 but is now slowly being reinstated.

To receive DLI status, Dalhousie University had to assure the government that they could and would comply with the requirements outlined in the International Student Institutional Readiness: Public Health Requirements (ISIR: PHR) document (attached to Council package). The University must comply with these requirements or risk losing their DLI status. The ISIR: PHR document was created by the NS and Federal Governments and communicated to NS post-secondary institutions. According to Dalhousie, international students were not consulted during its development. Dalhousie was also not directly consulted, but did stipulate that the university is in regular communication with government and advocacy organization partners.

Under the ISIR: PHR, Dalhousie must (key points):

- Oversee a mandatory 14-day quarantine;
- Communicate before, during, and after an international student’s quarantine;
- Communicate the need for completion of mandatory daily digital check-ins (email);
- Communicate the need to monitor for symptoms;
- Encourage students to use the ArriveCAN application (mobile app);
- Arrange or provide suitable quarantine accommodations for all international students (and co-arriving family members). These accommodations must be provided regardless of where the student will be living after they complete quarantine. The quarantine accommodation may be located on or off campus. Suitable accommodations generally mean a place where:
  - There is access to basic necessities
- They are not in a group or community living arrangement
- They will not have contact with people who are 65+, have underlying medical conditions, and/or have compromised immune systems;

  - Ensure additional requirements for food, accommodation infrastructure, logistics, transportation, and daily health monitoring are met during quarantine;
  - Provide post-quarantine support for students are their immediate family members, including: mental and physical health supports, anti-racism supports, Covid-19 stigma supports, and mitigation of social barriers to support compliance and infection control practices;
  - Communicate with off-campus landlords and community to inform them of returning students;
  - Ensure that messaging and information provided to international students is both culturally and language appropriate.

The original cost for quarantine (hotel, meals, supports) was estimated to be $1,800-$2,000 per student. Dal Conference Services has since negotiated better rates, and the cost for a 14-day quarantine with 3 meals a day will now cost $1,625. The SA Office also noted that they expect to have updates regarding financial assistance by early next week. The cost of quarantine for students with co-arriving families will depend on the number of rooms required. The SA Office also committed to reviewing the quarantine process and assessing the potential for using on-campus accommodations once residences are vacated at the end of this academic year.

All communication to international students thus far has been conducted in English due to timing constraints and ongoing adjustment to details.