What is a Port of Entry?
When you arrive in Canada, you will arrive at a Port of Entry. A Port of Entry (POE) is a place which is selected
as an entry point into Canada by the Government of Canada. Usually the Port of Entry that you come through
will be the first airport or land crossing that you stop at in Canada. For example, if your last stop is Winnipeg
but you first arrive in Vancouver, your Port of Entry is Vancouver International Airport. At a Port of Entry,
every person is subject to ‘examination,’ which means that you will be asked to present identification
documents, and may be asked to answer questions and provide personal information to determine whether
you are allowed to enter Canada. The examination will usually be done by a Border Services Officer (BSO) who
is an employee of the Government of Canada’s Canada Border Services Agency. Likely, you will also receive a
stamp in your passport. If you do not receive a stamp in your passport, you may ask the BSO to put a stamp in
your passport before your leave the POE.
Prepare to enter Canada
You can prepare for your arrival in Canada by making sure that you: •obtain all of the recommended supporting documents and carry them with you when travelling: V1tMCID 9 >BDC
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What to Expect (Returning Students)
For more information on what to expect when arriving at the Port of Entry, please see ‘What to Expect at a
POE (New Students Arriving for the First Time)’ above. As a returning student you may be asked to present different
documents than a student arriving for the first time. For example, you may be asked a valid Study Permit, Temporary
Resident Visa (if required), and current Letter of Enrolment, recent educational transcript and/or proof of funds. You
should also be prepared to provide the receipts from any purchases that you have made outside of Canada during
your trip. As a returning student, you must be able to prove that you have followed the conditions of holding a Study
Permit (you have been enrolled in studies, are not inadmissible, you have not worked without authorization, etc.). If
you have not followed the conditions of your Study Permit, you may be refused entry into Canada. In most cases,
returning international students will not be required to go to ‘Secondary Services and Inspection’.
Bringing Items into Canada (Returning Students)
As a temporary resident of Canada, you may qualify for a ‘personal exemption’ which allows you to purchase
goods outside of Canada and bring them back into Canada for your own personal use without paying Canadian
duty and taxes. If you bring goods from outside of Canada which exceed your personal exemption, you may
have to pay duty and taxes. For example, if you return to your home country for a month and purchase a new
computer, you may have to pay Canadian duty and taxes on the computer if the cost of the computer exceeds
the personal exemption allowed for residents who are absent for more than 7 days ($800 CAN). You must
always report the amount you are claiming for your personal exemption in Canadian dollars. The personal
exemption for which you are eligible depends on how long you have been absent from Canada.
Personal Exemptions
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24 hours or more: Claim up to $200 CAN worth of goods without paying any duty.
48 hours or more: Claim up to $800 CAN worth of goods without paying any duty.
7 days or more: Claim up to $800 CAN worth of goods without paying duty.
When you are entering Canada by plane, you will be asked to complete a CBSA Declaration Card to state what
you are bringing into Canada and the value of these goods.
You may not be able to bring into Canada goods which:
•will be used by another resident of Canada;
•will be used on behalf(h)4 (i)-14(v)-5 (alu)5 76.637ill be used by an(s)-4 (ed b)3 (y)4 an(s)-4 (ed b)3 (y)4hen-USll b25W* n

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1 If you are ‘inadmissible’, it means that you are not allowed to enter Canada