DELTA
SCHOOL DISTRICT INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

# Delta Summer Programs 2027!

Thank you for your interest in summer programs in Delta! We are making plans so that students find their time with us both educational and enjoyable. This handout should answer some of the main questions you might have – but if it does not please feel free to email us at study@GoDelta.ca.

Over the past four years we have experimented with a new summer program format that proved to be highly popular with our students and also created a much better learning, social and homestay environment for them.

**Program #1 – July 3rd or 4th (Arrival at YVR) to July 24th (Departure from YVR) 2027**
**First Day of class is Monday, July 5th and last day is Friday, July 23rd**

Week 1 and 2 – All day classes in English – 9am – 3pm
Week 3 – Morning classes and afternoon sightseeing activities – 9am – 4:30pm

**Program #2 – August 7th or 8th (Arrival at YVR) to August 28th (Departure from YVR – unless staying for an academic program in September) 2027**
**First Day of class is Monday, August 9th and the last day is Friday, August 27th 2027 .**

Week 1 and 2 – All day classes in English– 9am – 3pm
Week 3 – Morning English classes and afternoon sightseeing activities – 9am – 4:30pm

An additional field trip to UBC will be a morning activity in Week 3.

## Age of Participation

We can currently only offer this program to those age 10 and older. There are some program options for students under the age of 10 coming with parents for the July program.

Please contact study@GoDelta.ca for summer options for students younger than 10 (July only).

Updated September 3rd, 2025

## When should my child arrive in Canada?

**The dates on the application form INCLUDES arrival and departure dates**. For example, the application indicates that Program #1 starts on July 3rd or 4th 2027. This means that students should **ARRIVE** on July 3rd or 4th (not before). Unless students are with their parents or with a private custodian and in private homestay, these arrival and departure times are firm and set. **We cannot accommodate early arrivals or late departures.**

## Who will pick them up at the airport?

For students staying in homestay, students are picked up by the homestay at the airport.

For some groups (20 or more) students MAY be picked up at the airport and brought to a central location for an orientation and pick up by homestay. This can be arranged. Cost will depend on number of students, etc. Please contact ksymonds@GoDelta.ca for group arrangements, including transportation, homestay for chaperones and activities for chaperones.

Students in a private homestay situation should be picked up at the airport by their private homestay or private custodian. For students arriving and staying with parents, parents are responsible for their transportation and living arrangements while in Canada. We do not offer homestay for parents.

## How do they get to school?

Homestays will often take students to school and pick them up. However, in other cases, if it is appropriate for the age, confidence level, and language level of the student, students may walk if their homestay is close to the school and once the homestay is confident they know where they are going. Elementary-aged students will either be driven or will have an adult or older teenager walk with them.

Some students with homestays in Tsawwassen, if attending Delta Secondary or Delta Manor, may take the bus, again only if age and language-level appropriate.

## What is provided at school?

Students are provided with all the necessary school supplies as part of the program. Students will bring a lunch that is provided by their homestay family if in a Delta homestay. Hot water and microwaves are provided. Students need to bring their own cutlery for lunch.

**Students are NOT allowed to leave the school grounds at lunchtime or breaks to buy food or for any other reason.**

## What happens on the first day of classes?

On the first day of classes, students will be escorted to a central location for a welcome, English assessment and orientation by the site Vice Principal. They will be versed on health and safety protocols. Students are placed in the appropriate class by age and ability. First day of classes is July 6th for the July program and August 10th for the August program.

**Remember – the program dates as outlined in the application form and page one of this document INCLUDE the arrival date and departure date. Please arrange arrivals for July 3rd or 4th or August 7th or 8th and departures for July 24th or August 28th .**

## Who are the teachers?

All the teachers are BC certified teachers, most of whom work in the Delta School District at our elementary and high schools.

Activity supervisors are experienced teachers, school support staff from Delta and neighbouring districts. Whenever possible, the sightseeing activities will be supervised by Delta International Programs' Staff.

## What do they learn?

The emphasis is English language learning – a combination of reading, writing, speaking and listening. But don't worry! It isn't going to be boring! With a variety of activities and lots of interaction, students will be kept engaged daily. Teaching will centre around a theme that will provide students with an anchor for meaningful English learning and deep thought. Although this is 'summer camp' we do have high expectations of our teachers regarding the quality of what the learning activities they provide.

## Who are the students?

This is ESL programming. For students, English is a second (or third or fourth language). There may be some Canadian ESL students, as well as students from other countries – typically China, Japan, Korea, Germany, Mexico, Thailand, Brazil, Vietnam, Italy, Spain and others. The exact mix varies from year to year and program to program. We do our best to ensure a diverse and inclusive program.

## What are the sightseeing activities?

Sightseeing activities will be determined closer to program start time based on number of students and availability. Previous activities included a visit to Stanley Park and the Aquarium, going to Granville Island and Lynn Canyon Park, Grouse Mountain, Laser Tag, boating on Deer Lake, a Canadian's Baseball game and a visit to the iconic Tim Horton's donut shop to experience 'Canadian Culture'. Guest speakers may also be invited to schools during the first two weeks to enhance students learning, understanding and enjoyment of a topic.

As of the Summer 2025 season we also will have an ADDITIONAL ½ day field trip to visit the UBC campus. This will be added as a morning activity in Week 3.

## What supports do students receive?

Students are supported in a variety of ways.

- District homestay and custodial support (if they have district homestay and custodian)
- Site Vice-Principals and/or Lead Teachers on site through class time
- Multicultural staff – Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese and Spanish
- District administration and administrative staff
- Amazing, caring teachers and activity supervisors

## What do students receive at the end of the program?

All students receive a report card reflecting their progress during the program as well as a certificate.

## What do students do after school time and on weekends?

Some of the best learning there is! Students spend time with their host family doing what Canadian families would typically do on weekends. Please note that although we expect host families to actively engage students, they are not tour guides. Students will get to experience real Canadian life – they may see some sites, go to the beach, have a BBQ in the backyard, go for a hike or whatever else their homestay may have happening. This past year, many students enjoyed heading to downtown Vancouver, going to the Beach in Tsawwassen and going to Tsawwassen Mills Mall among other activities.

## What should they pack?

Summers in the Vancouver area are mild, but it can rain; it is a coastal climate and evenings can be chilly. Students should be prepared for a variety of temperatures and activities and should bring shorts, t-shirts, pants, and a light jacket and sweatshirts in case of chilly evenings. Students should have practical and comfortable footwear as well as activewear like bathing suits. Canadian schools and sites tend to be very casual, but students might want to have one item of ‘nicer’ clothes in case they go out with a homestay to a restaurant or a family event. In terms of personal hygiene, students should pack toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrush and sunscreen.

## How much spending money should they bring?

Spending habits depend on the age and preference of the student. No more than $100 per week should be necessary.

## Can my child change homestay?

Due to the short time frame of summer programs, homestay changes are not permitted during summer programs. Of course, if there are extenuating circumstances regarding student health and safety or an emergency in a homestay house that means they can no longer host, alternatives will be found.

## When should students plan to depart?

The last day of the program is the day that students need to return home. Program #1 ends on July 24th so that is the day that flights home should be arranged. Flights home should be arranged for Program #2 on August 28th . That being said, Program #2 is an excellent "soft landing" option for students starting school in Delta in September or a great option for returning students in Grade 8 through 10 who need to improve their English skills.

Students who are joining a regular school program in September are welcome to join Program #2. We will do our best to place students in the same host family as they will be in for the school year.

## What is the cancellation policy?

Students whose visa is rejected will receive a full refund (except for the application fee and homestay placement fee).

Students may withdraw before they attend and receive a 66% refund.

Once students have arrived in the country they cannot receive a refund, even for future weeks.

If the program needs to be cancelled by the School District, all funds will be reimbursed.

All refund requests are subject to a $100 administration fee.

It is the responsibility of agents and parents to ensure that students apply for any visitors' visas in plenty of time for the program. Although there are full refunds for visa rejections, visa delays are subject to the same policy as above.

## What about natural parents?

We do have students every year who come with their natural parents. If natural parents are coming, we suggest that students stay with them in a hotel, VRBO, Air BnB or other rental accommodation. When parents are in the area but students are in a homestay situation, it typically leads to an awkward situation where the students never become fully settled or bonded with the homestay and this can have a negative impact on all parties involved.

## Who do I contact if I have any questions or concerns?

Please contact the director of International Student Program, Karen Symonds, with any questions or concerns.

KSymonds@GoDelta.ca

1-604-396-6862

For more program information, please go to –

https://www.godelta.ca/programs/summer-programs/