



KOMOKA, ON

## Student VIP Announces Remote Study Health Program

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The Government of Canada has allowed international students to study remotely without impacting their post-graduate work permit eligibility, resulting in about 50% of international students enrolled at some post-secondary educational institutes across Canada studying online from their home countries during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Student VIP International, as a leader and innovator in student and provider-friendly plan designs, develops and facilitates insurance-based programs and services to support students, staff, and health care providers, with a focus on health and wellness in students' lives. When the effects of the Pandemic on the international education landscape started to highlight gaps in services for students, Student VIP International began to develop a program to help close these gaps.

Student VIP International has introduced the Remote Study Health Program, which allows international students to access 24/7 multilingual counselling and other mental health and wellness benefits globally while remaining physically-abroad. The Remote Study Health Program is unique to traditional Student Assistance Programs as counselling is provided by counsellors located in the home country of the student where available. Without access to on-campus counsellors, students would be required to rely on counselling services in their home countries. "This is particularly problematic for international students who reside in countries where there is no access to counselling, and countries where mental health is extremely taboo due to stigma, laws and even ramifications", cautions Samantha Morneau, Director of Student VIP International.

The Remote Study Health Program provides value not only to the students but to the institutions by augmenting post-secondary administrators' ability to showcase their efforts to enhance the remote learning offering for students globally. As of September 1, 2020, Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia has implemented the Remote Study Health Program for all of their international students studying in their home country due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Remote Study Health Program is available to any Post-Secondary Institution in Canada and can be customized to suit specific needs. For more information on the program and Student VIP International, please visit **internationalhealth.ca/learnmore**.

