

Cannabis Legalization – The effect on University of Alberta Travelers

On October 17, 2018, Cannabis was legalized in Canada. If you are traveling for personal or University of Alberta business, you may need to carefully consider how different cannabis laws may impact your travels. As a traveler, it is your responsibility to inform yourself about the current laws in the countries and provinces you intend to visit. This includes the legal status of cannabis use and possession in any country, province or municipality you may travel to.

When investigating the cannabis laws of your destination, you may want to keep in mind some of the following:

- Is cannabis possession permitted? If so, are there limits on possession (e.g. 30 grams, etc.)?
- Are there age restrictions on cannabis possession and consumption?
- How can you legally purchase cannabis, if at all (e.g. regulated retailers vs. the “black market”)?
- Can you consume cannabis in public or only on private property?
- What are the laws around driving and cannabis?

Crossing the Canadian Border

Despite the fact that cannabis is now legal and regulated for adults in Canada, it remains illegal to transport cannabis across the Canadian border (whether you are leaving or entering the country). Cannabis remains illegal in most countries and it is illegal to transport cannabis across the Canadian border even if you are travelling to or from a country where cannabis is legal. If you attempt to travel internationally with any amount of cannabis in your possession, you could be subject to serious criminal penalties both in Canada and abroad. You could be denied entry at your destination country if you have previously used cannabis or any substance prohibited by local laws.

Visit [Cannabis and international travel](#) for more information on international travel requirements relating to cannabis. The Canadian government advises travellers to be prepared to answer questions about cannabis use and affiliations to the cannabis industry as well as not to travel with luggage that has previously transported cannabis.

Traveling within Canada

Each province, territory and municipality has the flexibility to set added restrictions to the federal requirements. You are responsible for knowing what is legal in the province, territory and city you visit. For further information, please see the link below (as well as provincial, territorial or municipal specific resources as applicable):

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-medication/cannabis/laws-regulations/provinces-territories.html>