

Twelve things to settle before you file

For international students in Canada with self-employment income. Rules current to 16 October 2026.

- ☐ **Get a SIN, or apply for an ITN**
Form T1261 where you are not eligible for a Social Insurance Number.
- ☐ **Settle your residency status**
Residential ties and the 183 day count. Not your study permit.
- ☐ **List everything you earned from your own work**
Tutoring, freelancing, online sales, gig platforms. No amount is too small.
- ☐ **Collect receipts for what you spent earning it**
Reasonable costs directly linked to the income, with dates and amounts.
- ☐ **Complete Form T2125 with your T1**
Gross revenue less eligible expenses gives the net figure that matters.
- ☐ **Treat equipment over \$500 as capital**
Capital cost allowance, not a full deduction. Most computers are Class 50.
- ☐ **Work out the workspace share honestly**
Only the portion used for work, with a floor plan or lease behind it.
- ☐ **Budget for CPP**
About 11.9% on net earnings above \$3,500, owed even when tax is nil.
- ☐ **Check the \$30,000 GST/HST threshold**
Registration is mandatory above it, voluntary below.
- ☐ **Enter your T2202 on Schedule 11**
Unused tuition credits carry forward to a year with more income.
- ☐ **File by June 15, pay by April 30**
Only the filing date moves. Interest runs from May 1 regardless.
- ☐ **Deal with any unfiled years now**
Voluntary Disclosures can reduce penalties before CRA makes contact.

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