

# Canada's Study and Work Permits for International Students

## Determine your eligibility

You can study in Canada without a study permit if:

- the duration of your course or program of study is six months or less; and
- you will complete your course or studies within the time you are allowed to stay in Canada.

Please note that while a study permit is not required, most people still need a Temporary Resident Visa (TVR) or an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) to travel to Canada. Some people may only need their valid passport. To find out what documents you need to travel to, or transit through, Canada, please visit: [▶ \*\*cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp\*\*](https://cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp).

**If you are enrolling in a study program lasting more than 6 months you must first apply for a study permit.**

To be eligible for a study permit in Canada, you must:

- Have been accepted by a designated learning institution in Canada. A list of designated learning institutions is available at: [▶ \*\*canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/prepare/designated-learning-institutions-list.html\*\*](https://canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/prepare/designated-learning-institutions-list.html);
- Prove that you have enough money to pay for your tuition fees as well as the living and return transportation costs for yourself and any family members who come with you to Canada;
- Be a law-abiding citizen with no criminal record and not be a risk to the security of Canada. You may have to provide a police certificate;
- Be in good health and willing to complete a medical examination, if necessary;
- Satisfy an immigration officer that you will leave Canada at the end of your authorized stay.

## Apply for a study permit

You must apply for a study permit from outside of Canada, either online or in person at the visa office responsible for your country or region. A list of visa application centres (VACs) is available at: [▶ \*\*canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/contact-ircc/offices/find-visa-application-centre.html\*\*](https://canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/contact-ircc/offices/find-visa-application-centre.html).

A document checklist, as well as all necessary forms, are available at: [▶ \*\*canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit.html\*\*](https://canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit.html). Note that many visa offices have specific local instructions on their respective websites about which documents you must submit with your application. Original documents in languages other than English or French must be accompanied by a certified translation.



You may need to provide in-person biometrics within 30 days of submitting an application. Please see: [▶ \*\*canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/campaigns/biometrics/facts.html\*\*](https://canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/campaigns/biometrics/facts.html).

## Obtain your study permit

If you are approved for a study permit, you will receive a Letter of Introduction (LOI). Upon arrival in Canada, you must present the LOI and any other necessary documents to an officer from the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). Once you meet all the necessary conditions, a study permit will be issued to you. The list of required documents is available at: [▶ \*\*canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/prepare-arrival.html\*\*](https://canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/prepare-arrival.html).

## Renew your study permit

You can apply to renew your study permit should you wish to study longer. It is important to apply at least 30 days before your current permit expires. More information on how to renew your study permit is available at: [▶ \*\*canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/extend-study-permit.html\*\*](https://canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/extend-study-permit.html).

## Work while you study in Canada

To be able to work in Canada while you study, you must be registered and enrolled at a designated learning institution and your study permit must state that you are authorized to work on- or off-campus. You must also get a Social Insurance Number (SIN) before you can work. More information is available at: [▶ \*\*canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/sin/before-applying.html\*\*](https://canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/sin/before-applying.html).

If you are a full-time student with a valid study permit pursuing an academic, professional, or vocational training program that leads to a degree, diploma or certificate, you may be eligible to:

- Work on campus without a work permit;
- Work off campus without a work permit for up to 20 hours per week during a regular academic session and full time during regularly scheduled breaks; and/or,
- Have your spouse or common-law partner also apply for a work permit.

More information is available at: [▶ \*\*canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/work.html\*\*](https://canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/work.html).

## Work as a co-op student or intern

Some programs include work experience as part of their curriculum. You may apply for a co-op/intern work permit if:

- You have a valid study permit;
- Working is required to complete your study program in Canada;
- You have a letter from your school that confirms all students in your program need to complete work placements to get their degree; and,
- Your co-op or internship is 50% or less of the total program of study.

You are not eligible for a co-op work permit if you are studying:

- English or French as a second language (ESL/FSL); or,
- General interest courses or courses to prepare for another study program.

More information is available at: [▶ \*\*canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/work/intern.html\*\*](https://canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/work/intern.html).

## Stay and work in Canada after graduation

If you have graduated from an eligible program at a designated learning institution and are interested in working in Canada after graduation, you can apply for a post-graduation work permit (PGWP). A PGWP may be issued for the length of the study program, up to a maximum of three years. Check the designated learning institution list to see if the program you plan to enrol in will make you eligible for a PGWP at: [▶ \*\*canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/prepare/designated-learning-institutions-list.html\*\*](https://canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/prepare/designated-learning-institutions-list.html).

If you are interested in becoming a permanent resident of Canada, you can apply for a number of programs, each with its own requirements. You can find the details of programs that lead to permanent residence at: [▶ \*\*canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/work/after-graduation.html\*\*](https://canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/work/after-graduation.html).

## Other Useful Links

### EduCanada portal

[▶ \*\*EduCanada.ca\*\*](https://www.educanada.ca)

Includes a program finder, cost calculator, study permit information and links to provincial, territorial and individual school information.

### Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC)

[▶ \*\*cicic.ca\*\*](https://www.cicic.ca)

Provides the only Canadian online and authoritative directory of universities, colleges and schools recognized and authorized by Canada's provinces and territories. This site includes information on foreign credential evaluations and qualification recognition.