

International Students: Working During & After Studies



Heather Michaud
IRCC Outreach Officer
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Immigration, Réfugiés
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Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Canada

Presentation Topics

International Student Employment

On-campus employment

Off-campus employment

Co-op work permits

Post-graduation work permits

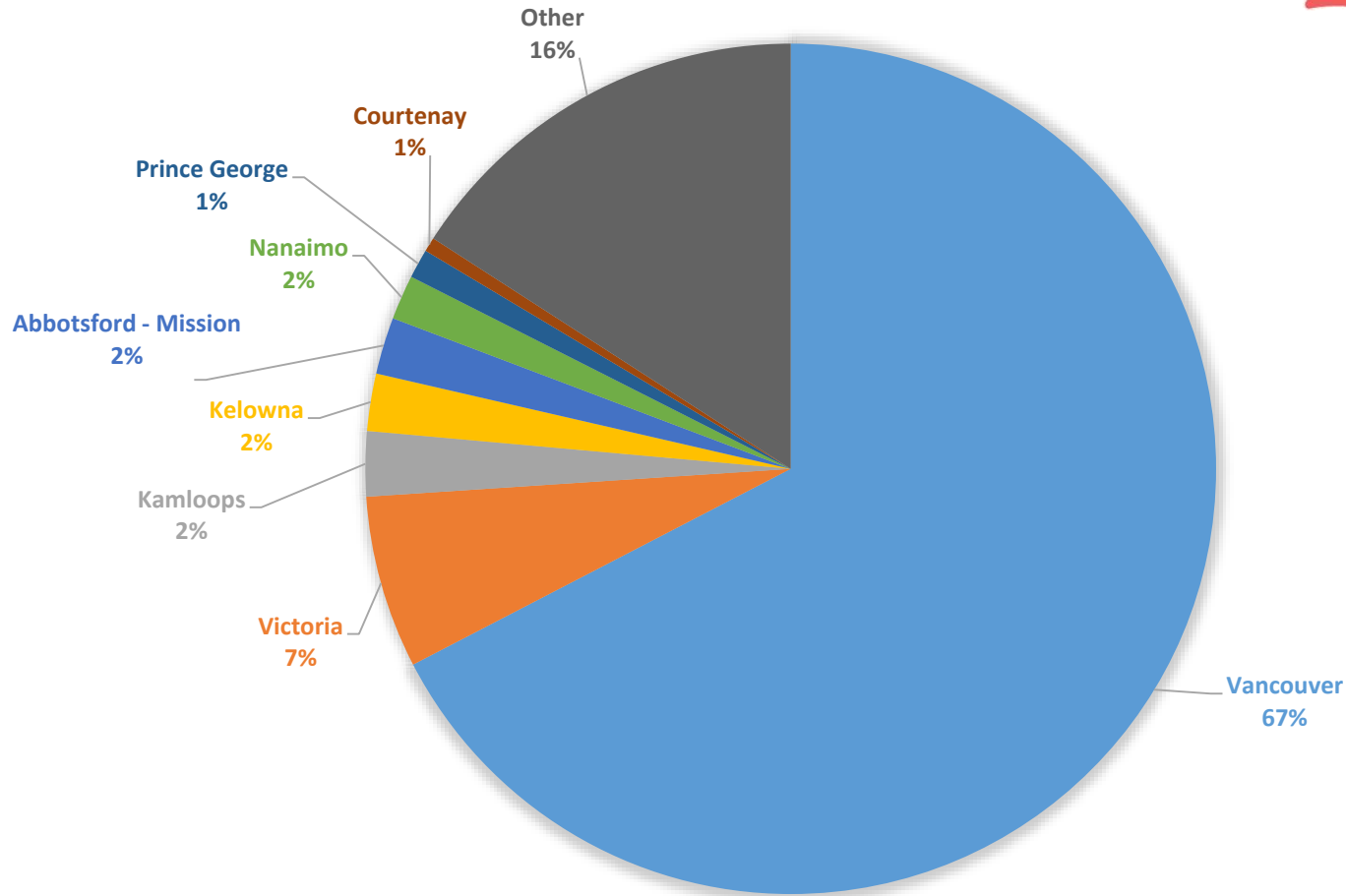
Spouse work permits

Restoration of status



International Students in BC

British Columbia





On-Campus Employment

International students may work on campus without a work permit

- **On the campus of the university or college where they are studying**
- **Must hold a study permit and be engaged in full-time studies**
- **NOTE: Students need a social insurance number (SIN) to work in Canada**

Off-Campus Employment



Certain international students may work off campus without a work permit

- **Part time (up to 20 hours a week) during a regular academic session**
- **Full time during regularly scheduled breaks between academic sessions**



Off-Campus Employment

Continued



Eligibility Requirements

- Valid study permit
- Full-time student enrolled at a designated learning institution (DLI)
- Enrolled in a post-secondary academic, vocational or professional training program
- Program of study is at least 6 months in duration and leads to a degree, diploma or certificate

Ineligible Programs of Study

- General interest, self-improvement
- ESL/FSL
- Pre-requisites to enrollment at DLI



Off-Campus Employment

Continued



Full-Time Status

- Students must stop working off-campus as soon as they begin studying part-time during a regular academic session (e.g. if they drop a course)
- They will no longer be authorized to work off campus
- *Exception:* final academic session of their program

Regularly Scheduled Break

- Must be part of the DLI's academic calendar (e.g. winter or summer holiday, reading week)
- Each break should not be longer than 150 days
- Taking into account all regularly scheduled breaks, students may only work off campus on a full-time basis for a total of 180 days during each calendar year



Off-Campus Employment

Continued



Working on campus *and* working off campus

- There are no restrictions on the number of hours students can work on campus in addition to working off-campus

Exchange Students

- Eligible to work on or off campus if they:
 - Are completing studies in Canada as part of a program that leads to a degree, diploma, or certificate from a school in a foreign country
 - Hold a valid study permit

Non-Compliance with Conditions

- Non-compliance with study permit conditions or working without authorization may:
 - result in enforcement action
 - negatively affect future applications, for example, a subsequent study permit or work permit may not be issued



Off-Campus Employment Continued



Work after completion of a program of studies

- **Students eligible to work off campus may continue to do so after completing the final academic requirements of their program of study if they have *not yet* received written confirmation of program completion**
- **Once they receive confirmation (transcript, official letter or email), they are no longer authorized to continue to work *unless* they have applied for a subsequent study or work permit or a program of studies**
- **Students who will be starting a new program of study within 150 days may work off campus on a full-time basis until the start of their new program**





Co-Op Work Permits

International students may be eligible for a co-op work permit

- **The work must be an essential part of a post-secondary academic, vocational or professional training program at a DLI**
- **The work cannot form more than 50% of the program of study**
- **The acceptance letter provided should clearly establish that:**
 - **the work is an essential part of the program**
 - **all participants enrolled in the program are required to complete in order to receive their degree, diploma or certificate**



Co-Op Work Permits

Continued



Working on Study Permit *and* Co-Op Work Permit

- An international student may be eligible to work off campus in addition to their co-op work hours

“Flagpoling” to Apply for a Co-Op Work Permit

- Applicants can use the IRCC Web form to request expedited processing
- Applying at the port of entry is not recommended, as it is subject to the Canada Border Service’s Agency’s capacity (long wait times, limited service hours)
- Students could be denied entry to the US if they do not meet US requirements

Working Before Receiving a Co-Op Work Permit

- Once an applicant has received confirmation that their co-op work permit application is approved, they may begin working



Co-Op Work Permits

Continued



All Co-Op Work Permits are Open Work Permits

- Can be used to work in any occupation, for any employer participating in the DLI's co-op program

Conditions on Co-Op Work Permits

- If a medical examination has not been completed, the occupational sector will be restricted, e.g. ***“Not authorized to work in 1) child care, 2) primary or secondary school teaching, 3) health services field occupations”***
- The condition ***“not authorized to work for any employer other than stated”*** should *not* be printed on the work permit
 - Applicants whose work permit includes this condition are nonetheless able to work for co-op participating employers
 - To have this condition removed, submit a [request for a change to the conditions of their work permit](#)
- ***“Employment practicum cannot form more than 50% of the total program of study. Authorized to undertake employment which forms integral part of studies as certified by the institution”***



Post-Graduation Work Permits

International graduates may be eligible for a Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP)

- This program allows students who have graduated from eligible Canadian DLI to obtain an open work permit to gain valuable Canadian work experience
- A PGWP may be issued based on the length of the study program for a minimum of 8 months up to a maximum of 3 years
- Skilled Canadian work experience in the national occupational code 0, A, or B helps graduates qualify for permanent residence in Canada through the [Canadian experience class](#), within Express Entry



Post-Graduation Work Permits

Continued



PGWP Validity

- Validity is based on length of study program, including regularly scheduled breaks
- May not go beyond applicant's passport validity; can only be extended if not issued to maximum length due to passport expiry

Program of Study

8 months up to 2 years

- PGWP Issued to same length as study program

Program of Study

2 years or more

- PGWP issued to 3 years



Post-Graduation Work Permits

Continued



Accelerated Studies

- If a student participates in an accelerated program and completes their studies in less time than the normal program length, the PGWP validity will be based on the normal length of the program of study

Transfers Between Educational Institutions

- If a student graduated from an eligible DLI after having transferred from an ineligible institution, only time spent at the eligible DLI counts



Post-Graduation Work Permits

Continued



Programs with an Overseas Component

- If a student completes a program of study in Canada that has an overseas component, they are eligible for the PGWP, as long as they earn a Canadian educational credential from an eligible DLI
- The length of the PGWP is based on the length of time they studied in Canada

Distance Learning

- If more than 50% of the program of study's total courses are completed by distance learning, the applicant is ineligible for a PGWP
- If less than 50% of the program of study's total courses are completed by distance learning, a PGWP may be issued with validity based on the length of the program



Post-Graduation Work Permits

Continued



When to Apply

- **Within 180 days of receiving written confirmation (such as an official letter or transcript) from the educational institution indicating that they have met the requirements for completing their program of study**

Where to Apply

- **From within Canada or from overseas**
- **If the study permit is no longer valid and they wish to remain in Canada, they must apply for visitor status before their study permit expires**



Post-Graduation Work Permits

Continued



Eligibility

- Applicant was not previously issued a PGWP
- Applicant outside Canada or on valid status in Canada
- Graduated from an eligible DLI in a program leading to a degree, diploma or certificate
- Maintained full-time student status in Canada during each academic session
 - Exceptions: final semester or authorized leave from studies
- Received a transcript and an official letter from the DLI confirming they have met the requirements to graduate



Post-Graduation Work Permits

Continued

Authorized & Unauthorized Leave

- International students are able to take authorized leave of up to 150 days without it having an impact on their PGWP eligibility
- Leave must be authorized by the DLI and is for unexpected life events like medical reasons or pregnancy, family emergency, death or serious illness of a family member
- Periods of authorized leave should be recorded in the DLI Portal
- International students cannot work on or off campus during an authorized leave from their study program, even if their study permit says they are allowed to work in Canada
- Unauthorized leave, including academic suspensions, will make an international student ineligible for a PGWP
- Students who fail to meet study permit conditions may be banned from applying for a PGWP for 6 months from the date they stopped their unauthorized study, work, or leave



Post-Graduation Work Permits

Continued



Supporting Documents

- Letter issued by DLI confirming completion of the program of study
- Official transcript or transcript copy from DLI's website

Ineligible Applicants

- Applicants are *ineligible* if they:
 - have previously been issued a post-graduation work permit
 - completed the majority of the credits toward the completion of their program of study by distance learning
 - completed a program of study delivered by a non-Canadian institution located in Canada, regardless of their length of stay in Canada
 - Completed an English as a second language or French as a second language course or program of study
 - Completed general interest or self-improvement courses
 - Completed a course or program of study at a private career college



Post-Graduation Work Permits

Continued



PGWP Applicants and Travel

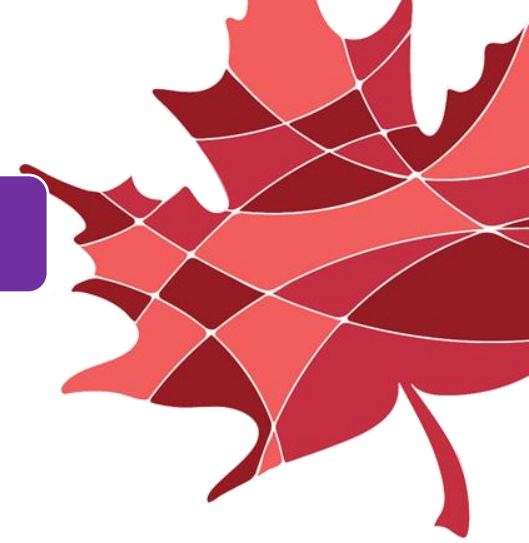
- Applicants who leave and seek to re-enter Canada before a decision is made on their application must be in possession of either a valid eTA or TRV
- Note: Applicants requiring a visa to travel to Canada who are applying for a PGWP within Canada should not apply for a TRV until they have received their PGWP, as the TRV is issued only for the length of the applicant's current status document or travel document

Work Authorization after Submitting a PGWP Application

- Graduates who apply for a work permit before the expiry of their study permit are eligible to work full time without a work permit while waiting for a decision on their application if all of the following apply:
 - They have completed their program of study
 - They met the requirements for working off campus without a work permit
 - They did not exceed the allowable hours of work



Spouse Work Permits



Spouses of Study Permit Holders

- Spouses or common-law partners of certain foreign students may themselves be authorized to work
- Applicants must provide evidence that they are the spouse or common-law partner of a study permit holder who is a full-time student at an eligible DLI
- Open work permits are unrestricted if the applicant has passed a medical examination, and are issued with the same validity as the student's study permit

Spouses of PGWP Holders

- Spouses or common-law partners of skilled foreign workers may themselves be authorized to work
- If the principal foreign worker is the holder of an open work permit (e.g., post-graduation work permit), the spouse or common-law partner applying for the exemption will need to attach proof that the principal worker is employed in an occupation in NOC skill level 0, A or B



Restoration of Status



Eligibility for Restoration of Status

- **A visitor, worker or student has lost their status may apply to reinstate or restore their status if:**
 - **They have not been out of status for more than 90 days, and they have not failed to comply with the specified conditions of their study or work permit**
 - **They still satisfy the officer that they are a genuine temporary resident and meet all the requirements of the Act, in order to qualify for restoration**



Restoration of Status

Continued



Important Notes

- **Contrary to applicants eligible for implied status when they apply to extend a study or work permit while they are still in status, persons awaiting restoration have lost their status and may not continue to work or attend school**
- **Restoration of status cannot be granted at the port of entry; if a foreign national leaves Canada, they will be deemed to be seeking a new entry on their return**
- **Foreign nationals applying for a restoration must pay the restoration fee \$200.00**
- **If they require a work and/or a study permit, they must also pay processing fees for each permit**



How to Contact IRCC

Outreach Mailbox:

- IRCC.DNEngagement-SensibilisationRN.IRCC@cic.gc.ca
- Contact your local outreach officer for program information and to schedule “Pathways to Permanent Residence” information sessions

Representatives Mailbox:

- IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.IRCC@cic.gc.ca
- RISIAs and RCICs can use this mailbox to request guidance on immigration programs, including study permits and co-op work permits

Designated Learning Institutions Mailbox:

- IRCC.IPGDLIlist-ListeEEDOPI.IRCC@cic.gc.ca
- DLIs can use this mailbox for guidance on using the DLI Portal and compliance reporting

IRCC Web Form:

- www.cic.gc.ca/english/contacts/web-form.asp
- Applicants or their authorized representatives who want case-specific information can contact the office processing their application by using the IRCC Web form

Thank You!

Any Questions?



English: [@CitImmCanada](https://twitter.com/CitImmCanada)

French: [@CitImmCanFR](https://twitter.com/CitImmCanFR)



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