



# Student Visa Guide Canada

## Canadian Student Visa Guide

### Essential Information for International Students

#### TYPES OF CANADIAN STUDY PERMITS & VISAS

##### 1. Study Permit

- **Definition:** The official document that allows foreign nationals to study at designated learning institutions (DLIs) in Canada
- **Requirement:** Mandatory for most international students studying courses longer than 6 months
- **Duration:** Usually valid for the length of your study program plus an extra 90 days
- **Not Required For:** Courses less than 6 months, children of certain foreign representatives, staff of foreign armed forces

##### 2. Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) or Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)

- **Purpose:** Entry document needed in addition to a study permit for citizens of certain countries
- **TRV:** For visa-required countries (paper visa in passport)
- **eTA:** For visa-exempt countries (electronic authorization linked to passport)
- **Note:** Automatically processed with study permit application

##### 3. Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP)

- **Eligibility:** Graduates from eligible Canadian DLIs
- **Duration:** 8 months to 3 years (depending on length of study program)
- **Work Rights:** Allows full-time work anywhere in Canada
- **Application:** Must apply within 180 days of receiving final marks

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## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for a Canadian study permit, you must:

1. Have acceptance from a designated learning institution (DLI) in Canada
2. Prove financial capacity to pay tuition fees, living expenses for yourself and accompanying family members:
  - Tuition and fees for first year
  - Living expenses (minimum \$10,000 for single student + \$4,000 per accompanying family member for 12 months)
  - Return transportation
3. Be a law-abiding citizen with no criminal record (may need police certificate)
4. Be in good health (may need medical exam)
5. Convince an immigration officer that you will leave Canada at the end of your authorized stay
6. Have valid passport/travel documents

## APPLICATION PROCESS

### Step-by-Step Guide

1. Receive acceptance letter from a designated learning institution (DLI)
2. Create online account with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)
  - Via GCKey or Sign-in Partner/Banking Credentials
3. Gather required documents:
  - Acceptance letter from DLI
  - Valid passport/travel documents
  - Proof of financial support
  - Digital photo
  - Immigration medical exam results (if required)
  - Additional documents based on country of residence
4. Complete online application
5. Pay required fees:
  - Study permit processing fee (\$150 CAD)
  - Biometrics fee (\$85 CAD individual or \$170 CAD family)
  - Temporary Resident Visa fee (if applicable)
6. Submit biometrics (fingerprints and photo) at a collection point
7. Attend interview if required by local visa office
8. Wait for processing (varies by country, typically 4-12 weeks)

## IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST

### Primary Documents

- Acceptance letter from a DLI
- Valid passport (valid for at least 6 months beyond intended stay)
- Proof of financial support:

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- Bank statements for past 4-6 months
- Proof of tuition payment
- Scholarship/education loan letters
- GIC documentation (if using Student Direct Stream)

## Supporting Documents

- Statement of purpose/letter of explanation
- Transcripts and certificates from previous education
- Proof of language proficiency (IELTS, TOEFL, etc.)
- Family information form
- Digital photo (specific dimensions required)
- Marriage certificate (if applicable)
- Custodianship declaration (for minors)

## Country-Specific Requirements

Processing times, required documents, and application procedures may vary based on country of residence. Check the IRCC website for country-specific requirements.

## MAINTAINING STATUS & COMPLIANCE

### Study Permit Conditions

As a study permit holder, you must:

- Remain enrolled at a DLI
- Make reasonable progress towards completing your program
- Respect any work limitations
- Stop studying if you no longer meet requirements
- Leave Canada when your permit expires unless renewed or extended

### Work Opportunities

- During studies:
  - Up to 20 hours per week off-campus during academic sessions
  - Full-time during scheduled breaks (spring/winter/summer)
  - Unlimited hours if work is part of your study program (co-op/internship)
- Post-graduation:
  - Apply for Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP)
  - Duration based on length of study program (8 months to 3 years)

## HEALTHCARE & INSURANCE

- Provincial Health Coverage: Varies by province, some provinces offer coverage for international students

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- Private Health Insurance: Mandatory if provincial coverage is not available
- University Health Plans: Many institutions offer health insurance plans for international students
- Coverage Needed: Doctor visits, hospitalization, prescription drugs, medical emergencies

## EXTENDING YOUR STAY

### Study Permit Extension

- Apply online at least 30 days before current permit expires
- Required documents:
  - Letter from school confirming enrollment
  - Updated proof of financial support
  - Current immigration documents

### Transitioning to Work/Permanent Residence

- Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP)
- Express Entry programs:
  - Canadian Experience Class
  - Federal Skilled Worker Program
  - Federal Skilled Trades Program
- Provincial Nominee Programs (PNPs)

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

### Official Government Resources

- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC): [www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship.html)
- Study in Canada: [www.educanada.ca](http://www.educanada.ca)
- IRCC Help Centre: [www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre)

### Student Support

- Canadian Bureau for International Education: [www.cbie.ca](http://www.cbie.ca)
- Your institution's international student office

### Emergency Contacts in Canada

- Emergency Services: 911
- Non-Emergency Police: Local police non-emergency number
- Healthcare Connect: Provincial healthcare information lines

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*Note: This guide is for informational purposes only. Requirements and procedures may change over time. Always verify current information with official sources before proceeding with your application.*

*Last Updated: May 2025*