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Study permit

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How to apply

Generally, you must apply for a study permit **before you come to Canada**. Some people can apply for a study permit from within Canada. In some cases, you can apply when you arrive in Canada at the port of entry. Make sure you understand which option is available to you.

Get your documents ready

When you apply, you should submit

- the **letter of acceptance** from the designated learning institution (DLI) you'll be attending
- a provincial attestation letter (PAL) or territorial attestation letter (TAL)
 - You can upload your PAL/TAL into the **Provincial attestation letter (required)** field in your application. If this option is missing, you must upload your PAL/TAL to the **Client information** field. If you meet an exception, you must provide any evidence in the **Client information** field.
- as many of the documents needed for a complete application as possible
 - We won't be able to finalize your study permit until you've submitted a complete application.

- Waiting to submit documents will cause delays in processing.

Apply online

If you're applying for a study permit, you **must apply online**, whether you're outside of Canada or already in Canada.

You're only eligible to apply on paper if you

- have a disability that prevents you from applying online
- hold an identity or travel document for non-national residents, refugees or stateless persons

Get specific instructions on how to apply



In Canada study permit applicants: New rules about applying at a port of entry

Most foreign nationals **already in Canada** can no longer apply for a study permit at a port of entry. You must apply online for

- your initial study permit
- your study permit extension

If you're outside of Canada, you may still be eligible to apply for a study permit when you arrive at a port of entry.

If you're in Canada and leave as a student on maintained status, you'll lose your ability to study when you return. This means you can't study until your application is approved.

Venezuelan passport holders

You may need to complete extra steps when you fill out your application.

Answer a few questions to get the next steps for your situation.

*** Where are you applying from? (required)**

Outside Canada

Within Canada

At a port of entry

*** How do you want to apply? (required)**

Online (required, unless exempt)

On paper

Apply online from outside Canada

Step 1: Make sure you have what you need

To apply online, you'll need:

- a scanner or camera to create electronic copies of your documents
- a valid credit or debit card.

To make sure you have everything you need to apply, get your local visa office instructions by selecting the country or territory from which you'll be applying.

*** Select a country/territory (required)**

 

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Step 2: Read the instruction guide

Even if you apply online, you should read the instruction guide **before** you complete your application. The guide will explain how to complete each field on the form.

Step 3: Prepare your answers for the online tool

Before you can upload your forms, you must answer some questions. We use your answers to create a personalized document checklist for you.

Step 4: Know the fees you have to pay

In most cases, your fees will include:

- processing fees for you and anyone you include on your application and
- biometrics

We'll ask you to pay your fees at the end of your application.

Third-party fees

Depending on your situation, you may need to pay third parties for:

- medical exams
- police certificates

- language testing, and
- services at a visa application centre if you use one

You won't pay these fees in your online account. You'll pay them directly to the third party.

Biometrics fee

In most cases, you should pay a biometrics fee **when you submit your application**. Otherwise you may experience delays. The biometrics fee covers the cost of collecting fingerprints and a digital photo. [Find out if you need to give your biometrics](#).

Step 5: Create your online account or sign in

If you need an eTA or visa

If you need an electronic travel authorization (eTA) or visa, we'll issue it automatically at the same time as your study permit. You don't need to apply separately or pay another fee.

You need an account to apply online. You can use your account to:

- pay your fees

- submit your application
- check the status of your application

[Continue to IRCC secure account](#)

[After you apply ➔](#)

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