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Study permit

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Who can study without a permit

Most foreign nationals need a study permit to study in Canada. The cases below are exceptions.

▼ Short-term students

You don't need a study permit if you're coming to Canada for a program that lasts 6 months or less.

▼ Family or staff of foreign representatives

You may not need a study permit if you're a family or staff member of a foreign representative to Canada that has been accredited by Global Affairs Canada (GAC). Your embassy can contact GAC to find out if you need one.

▼ Members of the foreign armed forces of a country designated under the Visiting Forces Act (VFA)

You don't need a study permit if you're a member of a foreign armed force (as part of either the military or a designated civilian personnel) from a country that is designated under the VFA and you're on official

duties in Canada.

You should be in possession of a letter of acceptance from Canada's Department of National Defence.

If your family members, including minor children, want to study in Canada, they may need a study permit.

▼ Registered Indians in Canada

You don't need a study permit if you have Registered Indian status in Canada, even if you're a citizen of another country.

▼ Minor children in Canada

Minor children don't need a study permit if

- they're refugees or refugee claimants
- their parents are refugees or refugee claimants
- their parents are Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada
- they're in Canada attending preschool, primary school or secondary school, and they are accompanied by a parent who is authorized to study or work in Canada

- they're in Canada unaccompanied, and they're attending preschool, primary school or secondary school

Why you may still want them to get a study permit

Having a valid study permit means the minor may be able to

- get a secondary school co-op work permit
- have access to social services in some provinces or territories
- move between education levels without needing to change or apply for a new permit
 - When minor children reach the age of majority (18 or 19 years old, depending on the province or territory), they must apply for a study permit if they want to keep studying.

Learn more about minors studying in Canada.

▼ Temporary residents and asylum seekers taking French language and culture courses

You don't need a study permit to take French language and cultural integration courses in Quebec (linked page is available in French only). To be eligible for the courses, you need to be a temporary resident or


asylum seeker in Canada.


▼ Temporary residents taking settlement and integration courses

If you're taking settlement and integration courses offered by a provincial or territorial government to help you settle into Canada, you don't need a study permit.

▼ Construction apprentices in eligible trades

To be eligible to study without a study permit as a construction apprentice, you must meet all of the following criteria when you request your study permit exemption and once a decision has been made:

- You have a valid work permit.
- You have a job in an eligible construction occupation .
- You have an apprenticeship agreement registered with the relevant provincial or territorial apprenticeship and certification authority.

Find out more about this temporary measure .

▼ Other types of workers who can study without a study permit

You may be eligible to study without a study permit if you are in either of the following situations:

1. You have a valid work permit that you applied for **on or before** June 7, 2023.
2. You have been issued a letter authorizing you to work while we process your work permit extension application that was submitted on or before June 7, 2023.

[Find out if you're eligible.](#)

Why you may still want to get a study permit

If you have a study permit and you're registered as a full-time student at a DLI, you may be able to work on-campus or off-campus. If you are able to do so, your study permit will include a condition that says you're allowed to work while studying.

If you don't have a study permit, you can't work while you're studying in Canada. In this case, you need to [apply for a work permit](#).

[Learn more about working while studying in Canada.](#)

Get the right documents ➔

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