



Government  
of Canada

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du Canada

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## Study permit

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## Who can apply

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# Eligibility requirements

You can come to Canada to study if you

- are enrolled at a DLI
- prove you have enough money to pay for
  - your tuition fees
  - living expenses for yourself **and** any family members who come with you to Canada and
  - return transportation for yourself **and** any family members who come with you to Canada
- obey the law, have no criminal record and get a police certificate (if required)
- are in good health and get a medical exam (if required) and
- prove to an officer that you will leave Canada when your study permit expires

## Your responsibilities as a student

While studying in Canada you must

- make progress towards completing your program
- respect any conditions listed on your study permit
- stop studying if you no longer meet the requirements

Depending on your case, there may be conditions on your study permit such as

- if you're allowed to work in Canada
- the specific date you must leave Canada
- where you can study (a specific DLI listed on your permit)
  - You need to follow our instructions if you want to change schools at the post-secondary level.

- whether you need an immigration medical examination

## Other considerations

You may be able to stay and work in Canada after you graduate with a post-graduation work permit (PGWP).

Check if the DLI you choose offers PGWP-eligible programs.

### ▼ Who doesn't need a permit to study in Canada

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 has authorization 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.

## 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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