



# Visa for exchange study and internship in Canada


## Exchange study

You can study in Canada for less than 6 months without a **Study Permit**  (<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit.html>) if you have a valid visitor status.

Depending on your situation, you'll need one of the following:

- a **visitor visa**  (<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/visitor-visa.html>) (aka temporary resident visa, or tourist visa)
- an **electronic travel authorization (eTA)**  (<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/eta.html>)
  - eTA is a new entry requirement for visa-exempt foreign nationals travelling to Canada by air. It will allow Canada to screen travellers before they arrive. The authorization is electronically linked to your passport and is valid for five years or until your passport expires, whichever comes first.


There may be benefits to getting a study permit, even if you don't need one. **More info here**  (<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/eligibility.html#sp-benefits>).

Within certain limitations, you are allowed to **work off campus as an exchange student**  (<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/work/work-off-campus.html>), without the need of a work permit.

## Internship

As a student, you'll need both a study permit and a work permit to do an internship or traineeship in Canada.

If your internship is part of a study programme of a Canadian university with which Howest has an exchange agreement, then these are the key requirements:

- **Study Permit**  (<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit.html>): you must have a valid study permit to be enrolled in an academic, professional, or vocational training program at a designated learning institution in Canada.

- **Co-op or Intern Work Permit** ➞ (<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/work/intern.html>): if your study program includes a mandatory work experience component, such as a co-op or internship, you will need a co-op work permit. A co-op work permit is an open work permit that lists the institution or school as your employer. To qualify, you must:
  - have a valid study permit;
  - provide proof that the work experience is essential to completing your program (e.g., a letter from your school or a copy of the school curriculum);
  - ensure the work experience does not exceed 50% of your total program of study.
- If you meet these conditions, you can apply for the co-op work permit online. There are no fees for this permit.  
If you haven't already applied for your study permit, you can apply for your co-op work permit at the same time.

If you are not eligible for the co-op or intern work permit, then you must apply for a regular **work permit** ➞ (<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/work-canada.html>).

#### More/other info:

- **Canadian Government Help Center Study in Canada** ➞ (<https://www.ircc.canada.ca/english/helpcentre/results-by-topic.asp?top=15>)
- **General info on Study in Canada as an international student** ➞ (<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada.html>)
- **Work off campus as an international student** ➞ (<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/work/work-off-campus.html>)
- **INTERNeX** ➞ (<https://internexworld.com/>) offers different support programmes for people wanting to study, work or travel in Canada.
  - Mr. Jacques Allemeersch is an INTERNeX agent, located in Kortrijk. You can contact him via [jacques.allemeersch@telenet.be](mailto:jacques.allemeersch@telenet.be) (mailto:jacques.allemeersch@telenet.be) for more info.