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

if you’re allowed to travel within Canada

the specific date you must leave Canada

where you can study (a specific DLI listed on your permit)

You must change your DLI in your IRCC secure account before you can study at a different DLI.

whether you need an immigration medical examination

How To Apply:

Mail delivery is resuming but there will be delays

We’re still processing applications normally, but there may still be delays with

sending applications mailed within or to Canada

getting mail from us

We still encourage you to apply online if possible. If you need to apply on paper, use a courier to send us your application more quickly.

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

Provincial attestation letter or territorial attestation letter:

Upcoming changes to temporary residence programs

Changes have been announced for some of our temporary residence programs. Read more about the upcoming changes.

Most study permit applicants need to provide a provincial attestation letter (PAL) or territorial attestation letter

(TAL).

Unless you meet one of the exceptions, you must submit a PAL/TAL

with your application, not after

even if you’re applying for a prerequisite course or program, including language courses or programs

for each study permit applicant, even if you’re applying as a family and submitting your applications

together

How long a PAL/TAL is valid for

Your PAL/TAL only needs to be valid when we receive it with your application. Unless it has an expiry date on it,

it’s valid until January 21, 2025. You can resubmit a study permit application with the same PAL/TAL if

it’s still valid.

How to get a PAL/TAL

For schools outside of Quebec

Provincial attestation letters and territorial attestation letters are now available

Contact your school to find out how to apply for a PAL/TAL. Once you have one, you can apply for a study

permit.

For schools in Quebec

Quebec Acceptance Certificate

If you want to study in Quebec, you need an attestation of issuance of your Quebec

Acceptance Certificate (CAQ), which is issued by the Government of Quebec. Contact your

school to find out how to apply for the CAQ.

For your CAQ to act as your provincial attestation letter, it needs to include the following line:

“This attestation letter confirms that the applicant has a place in Quebec’s share of the

distribution of study permit applications or is exempt from it.”

CAQs for applications received before 8:30 a.m. ET on January 22, 2024, do

not require the above line.

Find

out which documents you need to study in Quebec.

Who doesn’t need a PAL/TAL

You don’t need a PAL/TAL when applying for a study permit if any of the following applies to

you.

You’re applying to study at a

preschool

primary school (including kindergarten)

secondary school (up to grade 12)

school participating in the Francophone Minority Communities Student Pilot (FMCSP) and you have a letter of acceptance from this school identifying you as an applicant under the FMCSP

federally designated military college or

school in Quebec in a vocational training program that leads to one of the following:

a diploma of vocational studies (DVS)

an attestation of vocational specialization (AVS) or

a skills training certificate (STC)

You’re applying to study in a master’s degree or doctoral degree program.

You’ve received a scholarship from Global Affairs Canada.

You’re eligible for an exemption from study permit requirements based on a public policy as part of a

migration response to a crisis or other pressure.

You’ve entered Canada and one of the following situations applies to you:

You’re applying for a study permit extension or to restore your status.

You have a work permit, unless you received it through International Experience Canada.

You’re a temporary resident who is a visiting or exchange student studying at a designated learning

institution (DLI).

You’re under a removal order, but can’t be removed from Canada at this time.

You have a temporary

resident permit valid for at least 6 months.

You’re a protected person.

You’re eligible for permanent residence

based on humanitarian

and compassionate grounds

based on a current public policy, or

as a spouse or common-law partner (through the spouse or common-law partner in Canada

class).

You’ve entered Canada and you’re the family member of a foreign national who lives in

Canada and who is in one of the following situations:

a study permit holder

a work permit holder

a temporary resident permit holder with a permit that’s valid for at least 6 months

a member of armed forces in another country under the Visiting Forces Act

an accredited foreign government

representative

a participant in certain sports activities or events

a worker in Canada who is a member of a foreign news

company

a religious worker

a protected person

eligible for permanent residence based on humanitarian

and compassionate grounds

eligible for permanent residence based on a current public policy

eligible for permanent residence as a spouse or common-law partner (through the spouse or common-law

partner in Canada class)

You need to provide

proof that you meet one of the above exceptions if you don’t provide a PAL/TAL with your study permit

application.

Learn

more about changes for international students.

Protected person in Canada

You’re a protected person if either

the Immigration and Refugee Board has found that you’re either

a Convention refugee

a person in need of protection

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada has approved your application for a pre-removal risk

assessment

Accredited foreign government representative

This includes

an employee of a foreign government who works for a Canadian government department under an exchange

agreement

an accredited diplomat, consular officer, official or representative of another country

an accredited representative or official of the United Nations or

an accredited representative or official of an international organization of which Canada is a member

Sports activities or events

This exemption applies if your family member is

a foreign athlete or coach

a member of a foreign team competing in Canada

a member of a Canadian amateur team

Member of a foreign news company

This exemption applies if your family member is

a news reporter or member of a reporter’s crew

a member of a film or media crew who will not enter the Canadian labour market

a journalist who works for a print, broadcast or Internet news service (journal, newspaper, magazine,

television show, etc.)

a resident correspondent

a manager or member of clerical staff, as long as the event is short term (6 months or less)

Provincial attestation letter or territorial attestation letter:

Religious worker

This exemption applies if your family member is in Canada

helping a congregation to reach spiritual goals

preaching doctrine

leading worship or

providing spiritual counselling

Examples of religious leaders include

missionaries

monks

pastoral animators

archbishops

bishops