

## **VRO EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION STREAMS**

The two streams of employment authorization for VRO students that have been recommended are outlined below. **ALL criteria must be met in one of the streams in order to proceed.** If all criteria are NOT met, or should you have any questions or concerns, please contact [iesc-immig@uwo.ca](mailto:iesc-immig@uwo.ca)

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### **VISITOR STATUS**

#### **Self-Funded Academic Researcher (SFAR)**

The research term is for less than 6 months

Conducting independent research or doing research training for the student's thesis or dissertation at home institution on a complimentary research topic

Funding to cover travel, living expenses, and any ancillary fees are from the student's personal account or from an organization/institution abroad by way of a scholarship

No funding from Western

Note: Independent research includes observing research techniques, use of library resources, meeting with other researchers and professors on campus to discuss shared or complimentary research issues and topics, planning of a research project, or use of Western's research equipment/materials for personal use or training.

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### **WORK PERMIT STATUS - \$230.00 Employer Compliance Fee is required**

#### **Research Award Recipient (Canadian, Western University, or Foreign institution/ government)**

\* Note: If the VRO student is studying at the undergraduate level, you must ensure that the student has "a significant role to play or value to add, and not just be a member of a research team (doing data collection or principally involved in the more mundane aspects of the research being conducted)" as per IRCC's Temporary Foreign Worker Guidelines.

The research term is for a maximum of 12 months (see below for exceptions)

The student will actively contribute to and benefit a Canadian research project

The student should have a significant role to play or value to add to the research project \*

The award is a result of a competitive assessment and review process, in Canada\*\* or abroad

The student is the direct recipient of the award which is granted on the basis of academic excellence

The award is not primarily for recruitment or commercial purposes

\*\* Note: Should you be offering a department research award to the student, please consider the source of funds (e.g. NSERC, industry source, etc.) that will cover the department award, and whether financial support to a foreign visiting research student was included in the application for funding, or whether there are any restrictions on the use of research funds. Please contact Erin Daley at SGPS ([edaley2@uwo.ca](mailto:edaley2@uwo.ca)) to arrange award funding payment for a VRO student who holds a work permit under the 'Research Award Recipient' stream. Funds will be provided directly to the VRO student's student account and a T4A receipt will be issued at the end of the calendar year.

**Exceptions to the 12-month rule:** Exceptions must be approved by Dr. Linda Miller, Vice-Provost (SGPS) unless Western University has entered into an agreement with an institution or funding organization abroad allowing research terms for 12+ months. Requests for exceptions will be forwarded to SGPS upon WI's receipt of your documents. Please ensure that you provide reasons for why a 12+ month research term is required.