Western International

Study Permit Extensions and Amendments

Presented by: Heidi Liu, RCIC International Student Advisor February 27, 2025





AGENDA

- Your responsibilities as a study permit holder
- Apply to extend your study permit
- Provincial attestation letter (PAL)
- Changing Designated Learning Institutions (DLI)
- Apply for an amendment or to change conditions on your study permit

Note: This presentation contains accurate information as of the date indicated. For the most up-to-date information on visas and permits, visit <u>Immigration</u>, <u>Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)</u>.

STUDY PERMIT

- Authorizes you to study and stay in Canada.
- May include specific conditions that may authorize you to work on- and/or off-campus.
- Usually valid for the period of your academic program plus 90 days.
- If you need to study longer, you can apply for an extension of your Study Permit from within Canada.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS - YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A STUDY PERMIT HOLDER

Study at a Designated Learning Institution (DLI)

- You must hold a study permit if you are in a program of 6+ months
- Students may study without a study permit if the program is under 6 months in duration

Actively pursue your program of study

- Remain enrolled and make reasonable and timely progress towards completing your program
- You do not need to notify IRCC or change your study permit if you wish to change your program at the same DLI
- DLIs are required to report on students status to IRCC

Comply with the conditions on your study permit

- Study permits may authorize on- or offcampus employment if you are a full-time student
- Off-campus employment is only allowed for students enrolled in programs of at least 6 months and leading to a degree, diploma or certificate

CHANGING YOUR DLI

Starting **November 8**, **2024**, you must be enrolled in the designated learning institution (DLI) named on your study permit. To change DLIs, you need to get a new study permit. You may not begin your studies at Western University until you have received a study permit that authorizes studies at Western University.

If your study permit application is still in progress

you can change your DLI by submitting a new Letter of Acceptance and a PAL letter (if needed) using the <u>IRCC web form</u>.

Changing DLI from outside Canada

• If your study permit application has been approved and you change your DLI, you must submit a new SP application with a new LOA and a new PAL letter (if needed). You must also pay all the fees for the new application.

Changing DLI from inside Canada

• If you are transferring from a different DLI (high school or another post-secondary institution), you need to get a new study permit by applying to extend your current one.

https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/get-documents/provincial-attestation-letter.html



ACTIVELY PURSUING STUDIES

If you are a study permit holder in Canada,

and there are gaps during studies due to any one of the following reasons:

- Changing institutions or programs
- Leave from studies

- Deferred enrollment
- School closures



150-day rule

AND if you can't resume studies within 150 days (even if your study permit is till valid), you must do one of the following:

Change status to visitor or worker (if you would like to stay in Canada)

Leave Canada



CAN I BE A PART-TIME STUDENT OR TAKE AN APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE?

Part-time

Yes. But...

 You can't work on or off campus and you may not be eligible for a PGWP, unless you are part-time only in your final academic session

Leave of absence Yes. But...

You can't work on or off campus even if you are on an authorized leave

*If you had to stop studying or change to part-time studies between March 2020 and September 2020 because of reasons related to COVID-19, you may still be eligible for a PGWP.



WHAT IF MY STUDY PERMIT IS EXPIRED AND I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

Not good ⊗

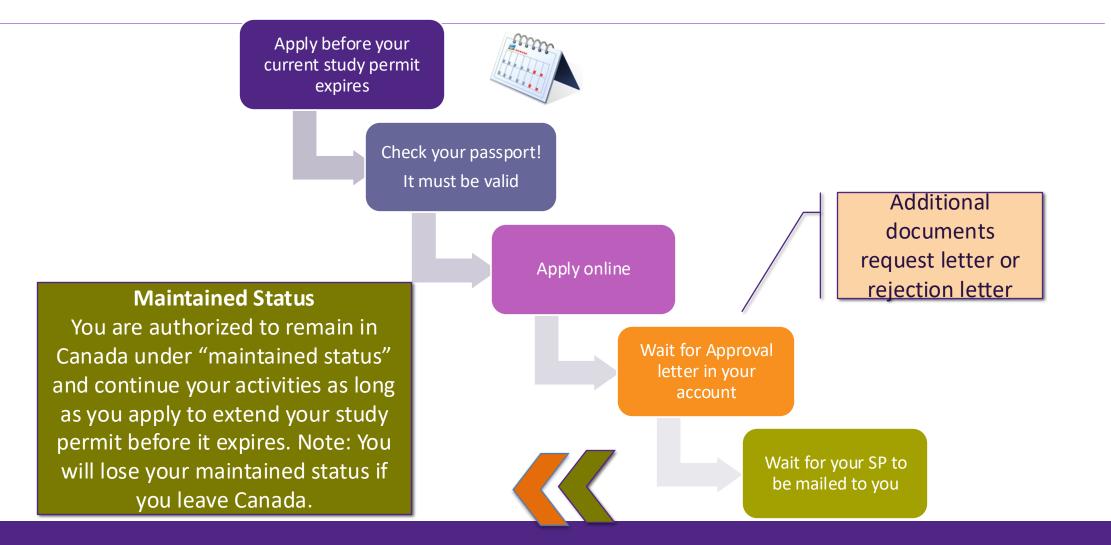


You must studies and any work activities immediately! **Restoration Application**

- Apply within 90 days of the expiry of your SP
- Pay an additional \$239.75 (total will be \$389.75, including study permit fee \$150)
- Explain why you did not apply for extension on time
- *You may not resume your studies until your student status is restored but you may remain in Canada and wait for a decision.

If the 90 day restoration period has elapsed...

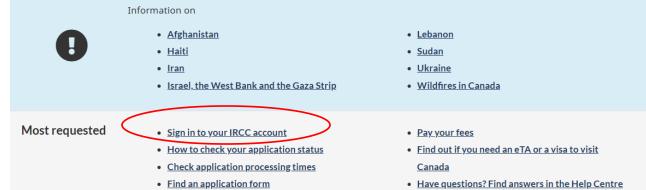
- Must leave Canada
- May try applying for a new study permit to return to Canada, but your overstay in Canada could make you ineligible





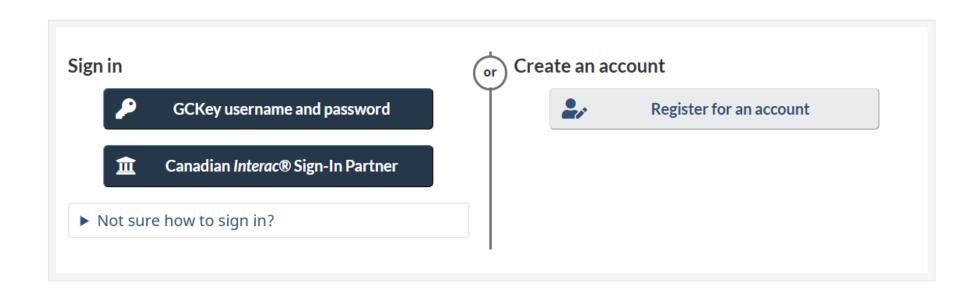
Step 1: Go to ircc.canada.ca





Step 2: Sign in to your existing account You don't have an account Select the right account -We have many accounts you could sign in to. **IRCC Secure Account** To get to the right account sign-in page, tell us what your application is for. (GC Key or Sign-In Partner) Visitor visa **Express Entry** Study permit Work permit (including post-graduation, IEC and extensions) Another application (study extension, immigration, citizenship and more) Study permit extension You used the IRCC secure account (GCKey or Sign-In Partner). IRCC secure account (GCKey or Sign-In Partner)

Step 3: Sign in or Create an account

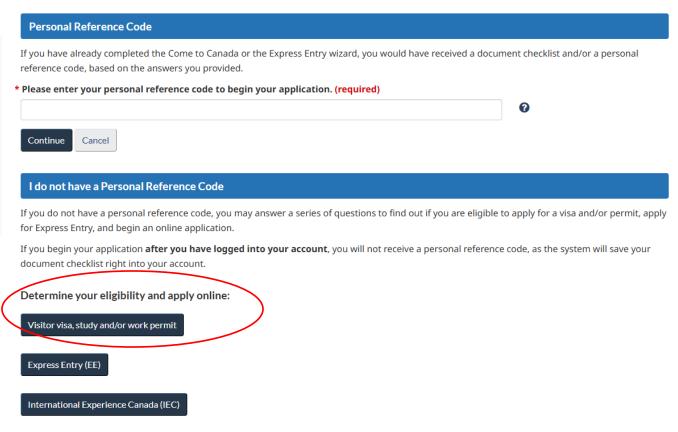


Step 4: Start an application

Start an application

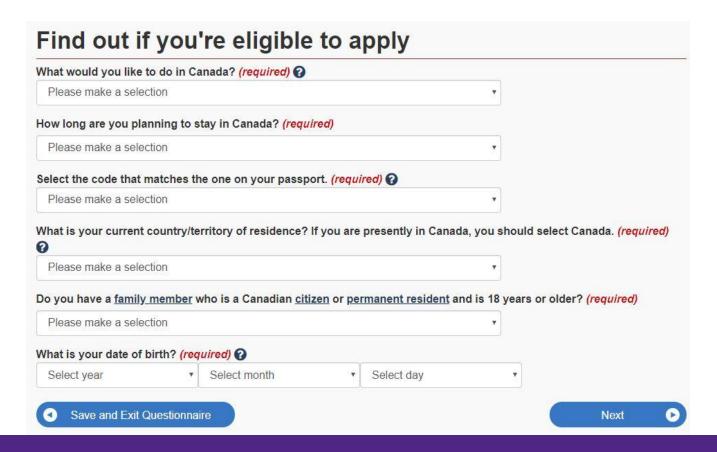
Apply to come to Canada

Includes applications for visitor visas, work and study permits, Express Entry and International Experience Canada. You will need your personal reference code if you have one.





Step 5: Determine your eligibility



PAL REQUIREMENT

Step 5: Determine your eligibility

Do you have a provincial or territorial attestation letter or meet an exception from submitting a provincial or territorial attestation letter?

(required) Please make a selection

Yes, I have a provincial or territorial attestation letter

Yes, I meet an exception from submitting a provincial or territorial attestation letter

PROVINCIAL ATTESTATION LETTER (PAL)

The Canadian government now requires most new international undergraduate and graduate students to submit a **provincial attestation letter (PAL)** as part of the study permit process.

- Unless you meet one of the exceptions, you must submit a PAL with your application.
- Your PAL must be valid when you apply. You can't use a PAL that was issued during a previous study permit cap year.
- If your application was refused, you must get a new PAL before you reapply.

https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/get-documents/provincial-attestation-letter.html



WHO NEEDS A PAL AND WHO DOESN'T?

Who needs a PAL?

- Undergraduate students
- Graduate students
- Graduate diploma and certificate students
- Visiting students studying at Western for six months or longer

Who is exempt from needing a PAL?

- Exchange students studying under an exchange arrangement between their home institution and Western
- Student permit extensions at the same Designated Learning Institution (DLI) and level of study as their current study permit in Canada

Note: If you are transferring from a different DLI (high school or another post-secondary institution) or changing to a different level of study you may require a PAL and new Study Permit application.

https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/get-documents/provincial-attestation-letter.html



HOW TO GET A PAL

Future Undergraduate Students

Accept your offer of admission to an undergraduate program at Western.
 Pay your tuition deposit.
 Complete the PAL request form available in the <u>Choose Western offer portal</u>.

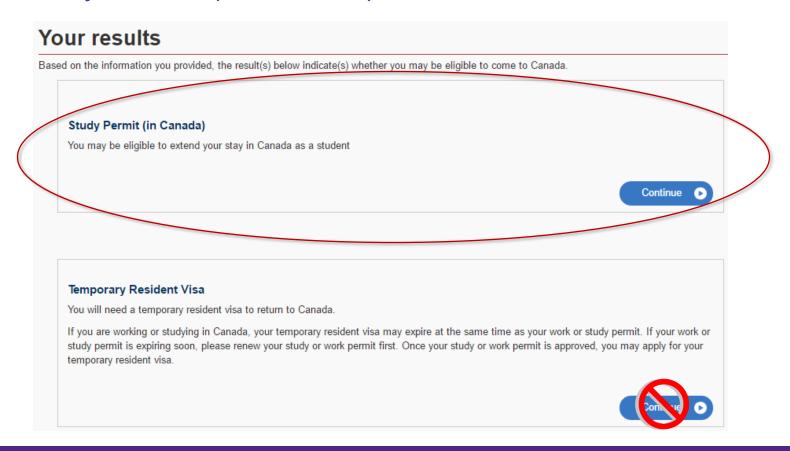
Once we receive confirmation that you have completed these steps, we will begin the process of issuing you a PAL.

Future Graduate Students

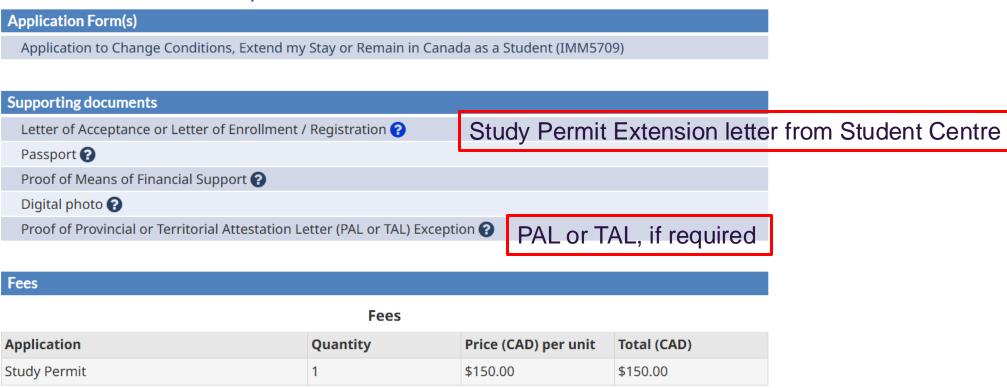
Accept your offer of admission.
 Pay your \$2,000 tuition deposit (Master's programs only).
 Complete the PAL request form via the <u>Graduate Student Web Services Portal</u>.

Learn More about PALs for future graduate students.

Step 6: Select Study Permit (in Canada) to continue



Step 7: Upload required documents and submit application (document checklist is personalized based on answers)



HOW TO ORDER A STUDY PERMIT EXTENSION LETTER – UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS



- * If you need an additional semester/year to complete your program
- 1. Talk to your Academic Counsellor to confirm the extra time you will need
- 2. Order a Study Permit Extension Letter from Student Centre

HOW TO ORDER A STUDY PERMIT EXTENSION LETTER – GRADUATE STUDENTS

Student Centre >
Official Western
Letters



Graduate Studies



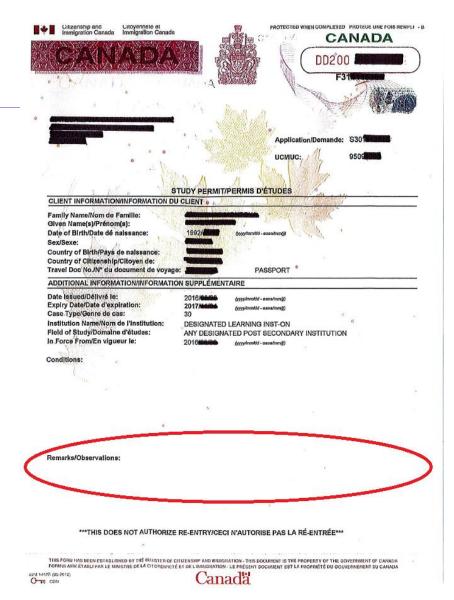
Letter for Study Permit Extension – Current Term

- * If you need additional terms to complete your program
- 1. Talk to your supervisor and Program Coordinator to confirm your expected completion date and ask your Program Coordinator for a confirmation email
- 2. Order a Study Permit Extension Letter from Student Centre
- 3. Forward the email from your Program Coordinator to <u>sletters@uwo.ca</u> and provide your student number.

CHECK YOUR STUDY PERMIT...

One of the common conditions/remarks you may want to have on your study permit is:

- may work 20 hours per week off campus or full-time during regular breaks if meeting criteria outlined in paragraph 186(v) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations.
- may accept employment on or off campus if meeting eligibility criteria, per paragraph R186(f), (v) or (w) and must cease working if no longer meeting these criteria.



APPLY FOR AN AMENDMENT OR TO CHANGE CONDITIONS ON STUDY PERMIT?

Change of Conditions

- If your situation has changed since the permit was issued
- \$150 Application fees
- Same procedure as study permit extension
- Include a letter explaining why you need to add/remove the conditions

Amendment

- Only if it's a mistake made by IRCC
- No application fee
- Original SP needs to be mailed to IRCC

https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugeescitizenship/services/application/application-formsguides/request-amend-record-landing-confirmationpermanent-residence-valid-temporary-residentdocuments.html

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

Drop-In Support

- In person Monday to Friday
 1- 4 pm, IGAB 2nd floor
- Ask an Advisor VirtualEvery Friday 9:30-10:30 am on Zoom

Office Hours & Reception

Monday to Friday8:30 am - 4:30 pm

■ **Phone**: 519-661-2111 ext. 89309

■ Email: iss@uwo.ca

Advising Appointments



Workshops & Information Sessions



As of March 17, the International & Exchange Student Centre (IESC) will be renamed Western International Student Services! You can find us at iss@uwo.ca (now) and our updated website will be international.uwo.ca/studentservices (March 17!)

Q & A

