

Obtaining a Canadian Study Permit

Frequently Asked Questions

Should eligible students go for the SDS or non-SDS study permit?

- The SDS stream typically offers a faster processing time for eligible students. Please [visit this page for more information](#).

Do we need to have an unconditional offer letter to apply for the SDS Study Permit?

- We do not provide unconditional offer letters unless you have already met all the requirements for the program you have been admitted to. Your study permit summary (also referred to as Letter of Acceptance (LoA) by IRCC) is the document you will use to apply for your visa. If you are a 105 applicant, you can locate this on your [Application Portal](#).

If you are a 101 applicant, you can locate your study permit summary in your [MOSAIC student portal](#).

How long does it take for a study permit to be evaluated?

- Processing times may vary. Please visit the [IRCC Website](#) to see current study permit processing times. This processing time does not include: the time it takes to send an application between a Visa Application Centre (VAC) and the IRCC office and the time you need to provide your biometrics.

What are the document requirements for a study permit application?

- Study permit document requirements vary by country. Please visit the [IRCC's page](#) and select your country from the drop down menu to see your country's document checklist.

To apply for a work permit, am I required to have a letter from the university stating I will be doing co-op?

- Your offer letter and study permit letter should indicate that you are enrolled in a co-op program through the name of the program. Students can apply for both their study permit, as well as their co-op permit, by using this letter which indicates that co-op is a part of their program of study. If your program offers a co-op option at a later point (ex. Year III or Year IV), you will apply for the co-op permit closer to when you will begin your co-op.

Can I apply for a study permit before completing my studies/final exams?

- Yes! You can apply for a study permit as soon as you receive an offer.

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Frequently Asked Questions Continued

Do I need IELTS to obtain a study permit if I have received an offer letter with my Duolingo or TOEFL results?

- English Language proficiency results are not required for the regular study permit stream. If you are applying via the SDS stream, you are required to submit an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) academic or general training score of 6.0 or higher in each skill (reading, writing, speaking and listening). Other tests, such as Duolingo or TOEFL, are not accepted.

What is considered proof of enough money to support oneself?

- "Proof of financial support" requirements can be [found here](#).

Can I open a bank account in Canada before I have any status in Canada?

- Yes! International students can open a Canadian bank account before they arrive in Canada. SDS stream also has a GIC requirement, which must be purchased at financial institutions that meet certain criteria. These financial institutions can be [found here](#).

If I am a current high school student in Canada with a study permit, do I need to apply for an extension or a new study permit for post secondary education?

- If your study permit is still valid, then you do not need to apply for a new one. If your study permit will expire, you need to apply to [extend](#) it. If you're entering a post-secondary school and want to be able to work while you study, you [must apply to change the conditions of your study permit](#). There is a fee to make this change.

How do I update my study permit if I switch programs/universities?

- Steps for changing your post-secondary institution with IRCC can be found [here](#).

If I have not received McMaster's offer yet, can I use another Canadian university's offer to apply for my study permit?

- Yes, you can apply for your study permit with another offer, but please note that you must inform IRCC if you change schools and update your application accordingly. If you change schools after your permit has already been approved, you must submit a new study permit application with a new letter of acceptance.

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Frequently Asked Questions Continued

As I am a non-SDS applicant, I would like to pay my first term fees to make my case stronger, would I be able to do so?

- You can pay your tuition fees in advance. You will find specifics about McMaster Tuition Fees for your program using our [Cost Estimator Tool](#).

Your tuition fees (from enrollment) will not appear on Mosaic until August, which is why we recommend using the Cost Estimator.

You can find our payment options on our [website](#).

After your tuition fee payment has been submitted, you can access your proof of payment letter on [Mosaic](#) under 'Admissions' by clicking 'View Letters' once both your offer of admission and payment have been processed.

Where can I find the schedule of school fees for my visa application?

- Tuition for international students varies depending on which program you are in. Please use our [cost estimator](#) to get a general sense of how much it will cost to attend McMaster every year.

Please note that the fees shown are the unofficial fees for the 2022/2023 academic year. These amounts will be confirmed in the coming months and are subject to change.

The tuition fees do not include any ancillary fees. For more information on ancillary/supplementary fees, please visit [here](#). These fees are also subject to change.

International students are also required to have UHIP, a mandatory, comprehensive health insurance plan that provides health coverage for international and incoming exchange students. For more info on UHIP, please visit our [Student Success Centre's page](#).

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Frequently Asked Questions Continued

In the financial documents to be attached with the study permit application, can we attach a passbook page or is the bank letterhead required?

- It is best to have the bank's letterhead. More information on "Proof of financial support" requirements can be found [here](#).

Who needs to get a medical exam for their study permit applications?

- You need a medical exam if you want to come to Canada for more than 6 months and have lived or travelled for 6 months in certain countries or territories in the year before you come to Canada. More information can be found [here](#).

How early do I need to get my medical exam for my study permit?

- You can have your medical exam completed before or after you apply. You have the option of getting an exam before you apply, which is called an upfront medical exam. To get one, please [contact a panel physician directly](#).

What happens if my study permit comes in late or is not approved?

- Classes are expected to be in-person this coming Fall. If you do not think your study permit will be approved prior to the start of classes on September 6, 2022, [please contact us](#). It will be at the discretion of your Faculty if you can start classes late. If your study permit is approved too late or denied, you may be able to defer your admission to the following September.

What is considered fully vaccinated?

- Please view our [vaccine mandate](#).

If I have further questions about the study permit application who can I reach out to?

- Please email our Immigration Consultants at immigration@mcmaster.ca. Be sure to include your McMaster Student ID # (starting with 400).