

## **Applying for Your Canadian Study Permit: April 2, 2024**

### **Webinar Q&A**

**\*\*\* Please note: the information shared in this webinar was valid as of April 2, 2024. We encourage you to visit the IRCC website for the most up to date information. \*\*\***

#### **How long are study permit application decisions expected to take?**

Regular stream = 11 weeks (approximately)

Student Direct Stream (SDS) = 20 days (approximately)

#### **Can I apply for a co-op work permit at the same time as I apply for my study permit?**

If co-op is indicated on your Letter of Acceptance, you can apply for it at the same time as your study permit. If co-op is not indicated on your letter, or you already submitted your study permit application on its own, you can just wait for the study permit to be approved and then apply for the co-op work permit online once you are in Canada. You will not be able to apply for the co-op work permit separately until you are in Canada.

#### **Do I need a custodian if I'm 17 years old?**

Declaration of a custodian is optional if you are age 17 and older. It's mandatory if you are age 16 and younger.

#### **Is a medical examination required for my study permit application?**

It is required for some countries. When you start your study permit application, you will be asked to declare your nationality and will be able to see if you need to present one.

#### **I already have a visitor visa. Can I enter Canada using this and then apply for the study permit from within Canada?**

This is not recommended. The process can be quite complicated if you are already in Canada as a visitor, as you may end up needing to send your study permit documents to be processed outside of Canada and then need to leave Canada so that you can re-enter and receive your study permit. Also, the study permit refusal rate is often higher for those who apply for it this way.

#### **What kind of visa is needed for parents who want to come to Canada to help their child get settled in?**

Parents coming with their children will need to apply for a travel visa. This is called a Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) for those coming from visa-required countries or Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) for those from visa-exempt countries.

#### **What is GIC?**

A GIC is a Guaranteed Investment Certificate. It is used to prove you have enough funds to support yourself in Canada. The amount that is currently required is \$20,635 CAD. The GIC is a requirement for the Student Direct Stream (SDS).

**Does an international student living with a relative still need to prove they have these funds?**

Yes, the IRCC still requires you to prove the same amount of \$20,635 CAD.

**If an international student qualifies for domestic tuition, do they only need to prove the domestic tuition amount?**

Since McMaster's International Fee Exemption (IFE) application becomes available in June, eligibility cannot be confirmed until after that time. Therefore, these students must still prove to IRCC that they have sufficient funds as an international student.

**Does the Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) show the program you are in or just the school?**

The PAL is institution-specific, not program-specific. If you have been accepted to more than one program at McMaster and you decide to change the one you accept, you can simply make this change in OUAC and the PAL will be updated.

**What kind of study permit application support can I get from McMaster?**

While we do not offer one-on-one appointments, we do hold workshops and study permit webinars, and post the recordings on our website. Immigration Consultants are also available to answer study permit inquiries by email at [immigration@mcmaster.ca](mailto:immigration@mcmaster.ca). Please note: as consultants, not lawyers, we are not qualified to assist with individual applications. However, general immigration-related questions are welcome.

**Links Shared**

**Apply for your Study Permit online:**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/get-documents.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/apply.html>

**Find a VAC (Visa Application Centre):**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/contact-ircc/offices/find-visa-application-centre.html>

**A detailed step-by-step guide on how to apply for Immigration applications can be found on the IESE Immigration Advising Webpage:**

<https://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/international-students/immigration-advising/>

**Check the visa office instructions for your country or region for local requirements:**

<https://ircc.canada.ca/english/information/applications/student.asp#wb-auto-1>

**OUAC:** <https://www.ouac.on.ca/>

**McMaster PAL Tools:**<https://future.mcmaster.ca/who-needs-a-provincial-attestation-letter/>

**Student Direct Stream (SDS):**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/operational-bulletins-manuals/temporary-residents/study-permits/direct-stream.html>

**Co-op/Internship Work Permit:**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/work/intern.html>

**Make a chart to summarize your expenses vs. funds resources:**

<https://future.mcmaster.ca/cost-estimator/>

<https://registrar.mcmaster.ca/fee-estimator/>

<https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Hamilton>

**Organize Your Documents:**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/get-documents.html#doc3>

**How can I get my immigration application processed faster?**

<https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=021&top=4>

**How can I get help with my immigration or citizenship application?**

<https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=854&top=4>

**How can I update or ask about an IRCC application in progress?**

<https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=052&top=3>

**Study Permit: Prepare for Arrival**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/prepare-arrival.html>