



Family Members

This guide provides information on the following aspects of bringing your family with you to Canada:

- General information
- Minor children studying in Canada
- Work permit for spouse (Study Permit)
- Work permit for spouse (PGWP)

General information:

It may be possible for your family members to live with you in Canada while you study. In most cases, "family" includes spouses, common-law/conjugal partners, and dependent children. If your family members enter Canada without you, they may be admitted on visitor status for up to six months. Family members most often apply to come initially as visitors. They may need to pass a medical examination in advance.

It is important to include these family members on your "Family Information Form (IMM5645)" when submitting your initial application for a study permit. If they are not included on this form, you will encounter difficulty in applying for them to come with you.

If you are accompanied by family members while attending NSCC you must ensure your dependents and/or spouse have all the required immigration documents. It is recommended that your dependents obtain a **Visitor Permit (Record)** upon entering Canada. This document will allow your dependents and/or spouse to renew their visitor status online.

To ensure that family members travelling without you are admitted to Canada as visitors for the same length as your study permit, send them copies of your study permit, TRV (if you have one) and passport. They can present these to the authorities at the Canadian port of entry (airport or border crossing).

Minor Children in Canada:

Children who will be attending pre-school or Grade Primary (under 6 years of age) do not need a study permit.

School-age children (19 years of age or younger) do not require study permits, but study permits, rather than visitor records, can make the immigration process run more smoothly, especially if your child enters Canada without a parent.

In addition, you can only apply for a TRV from within Canada if you have a study or work permit – so having a study permit for your child allows you to extend your child's TRV here instead of travelling back to your home country.

You should bring two years of official school records for your children, in English or with a certified English translation.



Work Permit for Spouse – Study Permit

If you hold a valid study permit, your spouse is eligible to apply for an open work permit. This permit will be valid for the same length of time as your study permit, and allows the holder to work in any job for any employer.

Your spouse or common-law partner may apply for an [open work permit](#) if you:

- are a full-time student at a:
 - public post-secondary school, such as a college or university, and
- have a valid study permit.

The application for this work permit can be made from outside Canada or from inside Canada. It is possible to submit this application together with your application for a study permit, or to apply after you have received your study permit. Alternatively, your spouse can travel to Canada as a visitor, and apply from within Canada to change status to “worker”.

You can access more information here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/work/help-your-spouse-common-law-partner-work-canada.html>

Work Permit for Spouse – PGWP

If you hold a Post-Graduate Work Permit, your spouse is **only eligible to apply for a work permit if you have a full-time job in an occupation in skill level 0, A or B.**

Your spouse will submit their own application for a work permit, along with proof of your employment, including the following:

- a copy of the principal applicant’s work permit
- a letter from their current employer confirming employment or a copy of their employment offer or contract
- a copy of 3 of pay stubs

If your spouse has an open work permit that is attached to your study permit, this is only valid until the expiry date of your study permit, or until you receive new status as a worker. If you don’t have immediate employment that meets the conditions above, your spouse will need to stop working and change to “visitor” status until you meet the criteria.

