



Study Permit Refusals

What does an immigration officer look for in a study permit application?

In order to be eligible to study in Canada on a study permit, prospective international students must:

- have been accepted by a [designated learning institution](#) in Canada;
- prove that they have enough money to pay for:
 - tuition fees,
 - living expenses for themselves and any family members who come with them to Canada, and
 - return transportation for themselves and any family members who come with them to Canada;
- be a law-abiding citizen with no criminal record and not be a risk to the security of Canada. A police certificate (or certificates) may be required;
- be in good health and willing to complete a medical examination, if necessary; and
- satisfy an immigration officer that they will leave Canada at the end of the authorized stay.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) will cases provide a letter outlining the reasons for the refusal. Some common reasons why IRCC may refuse a study permit application include:

- not convincing the immigration officer that your main intent of coming to Canada is to study; and/or
- not convincing the immigration officer that you will leave Canada after you complete your program
- insufficient proof of financial support for yourself and any family members

If your study permit application is rejected, you can consider the reasons for the refusal and prepare a new application.

Always include a letter of explanation (“Additional Client Information”) to help the visa officer understand your application. Use this letter to express your intent to study, your means of financial support, and your plans for after you finish your program. Visa officers can only assess what is in front of them, and don’t often make assumptions. It’s up to you to provide them with all the right information.

Not satisfied that you will leave Canada at the end of your stay:

A study permit is a temporary visa, which means that it has a validity period and an expiration date. In your study permit application, you need to convince the visa officer that you will leave the country when your study permit expires.



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This *does not mean* that you cannot apply to extend your study permit, or stay permanently. It means that the visa officer must believe that you will not stay in the country illegally after your permit expires. Usually, this is a problem if you don't demonstrate that you have good reasons to want to return home.

How to address this problem

The best way to address this concern is in a letter of explanation. If the visa officer isn't convinced with the information you've provided, then use this letter to explain clearly what your plans are for returning home, including work/family obligations, and plans for how you will use your new skills and education in your professional life.

Demonstrating ties to home country

Consider all of your connections to your home country and the evidence that proves it.

The best connections to your home are things like property and employment. Your application should include copies of legal documents or lease agreements to property translated by a certified translator and detailed employment letters or contracts that identify you as a permanent employee of your employer, the length of your employment, your role at the company, and when you are expected to return to your employment.

There are other connections to your home country that are also proof you will return home. Are you an active member in a community organization? Do you care for aged family members? Show evidence of your responsibilities, role and duties.

Financial Support

When you submit a study permit application, you need to demonstrate that you have enough money to pay for the trip to Canada, pay your tuition fees, and support yourself and any accompanying family members while you're studying.

Usually IRCC asks for six months of bank statements that show that you have enough show money. If the visa officer doesn't believe that you have enough money to support yourself and your family in Canada, they could refuse your application.

How to address this problem:

Carefully review the financial documents you submitted with your application. Make sure that you address the concerns raised by the visa officer and submit additional documents to prove that you meet the requirement. Provide the conversion into CAD, if it's not clear in your bank statements.



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You can prove your funds in different ways, such as:

- proof of a Canadian bank account in your name, if you have transferred money to Canada
- proof of a student/education loan from a bank
- your bank statements for the past four months
- a bank draft that can be converted to Canadian dollars
- proof you paid tuition and housing fees
- a letter from the person or school giving you money or
- proof of funding paid from within Canada, if you have a scholarship or are in a Canadian-funded educational program

How your financial support is assessed

You are required to demonstrate financial sufficiency for **only the first year of studies**, regardless of the length of your program. However, it should be clear that the source of funds will still be available after one year.

Officers may exercise discretion in the documentation they request from applicants.

“Base” amounts required

Student	\$10,000 for twelve-month period, prorated at \$833 per month, <i>plus cost of tuition.</i>
Spouse/common-law partner/first family member	\$4,000 for twelve-month period prorated at \$333 per month.
Dependent child/subsequent family member	\$3,000 for twelve-month period per dependent child of any age, prorated at \$255 per month

Purpose of study

Sometimes officers will question why you chose your program of study, and whether your intent to attend this program is “bona fide”, or whether you are just trying different ways to come to Canada. This can happen if the program of study is in a different field from your background, or if it seems it won’t provide you with better credentials than you already have. Again, a letter of explanation can help – identify the exact aspects of the program that will be of benefit to you professionally, or explain how this program will further your career goals and improve your options for employment.



Positive and Negative Factors

Positive factors

These can be positive factors assessing an application:

- citizen in his/her country of usual residence;
- country of usual residence is politically stable;
- stable, well-paid employment (proof is required in the form of a letter from the employer stating salary, position, date when employment commenced and vacation granted);
- spouse and/or children not accompanying applicant;
- owner of a substantial business (registration of business and, if necessary, financial statements);
- good financial situation (as proved by bank statements);
- previous trips to Canada;
- property in country of usual residence;

Negative Factors

These can be negative aspects in assessing an application:

- unmarried (particularly if young and chances of successful establishment in country of usual residence are poor);
- poor financial situation;
- poorly paid employment, or unemployed;
- no previous travel abroad;
- has previously been denied a visitor visa (or student or employment authorization);
- has been denied a visa by another country;
- owns no property;

Remember, it is the job of an immigration officer to prevent people from entering and staying in Canada without following the regulations. If there is any indication that you may be using your study permit to come to Canada to stay permanently, it may be refused. Focus on the fact that this initial permit is only temporary. If you decide to stay longer in Canada once you are here, you can apply to extend your study permit, or apply for another status without having to leave the country. You can also apply for PR, if you meet the criteria. However, those plans should be separate from this application.

You can visit IRCC's Help Centre for more information on your application:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=023&top=4>



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