

# Post-Graduate Work Permit (PGWP)

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# What is PGWP?

- A post-graduation work permit (**PGWP**) is a document that gives you permission to remain in Canada as a worker and work full time for a certain period of time after you graduate from a Canadian post-secondary institution.

# What kind of work?

- PGWP is an open work permit
- Valid for any employer, anywhere in Canada
  - full-time
  - part-time
  - self-employed\*

*\*hours accumulated under self-employment do not count towards work experience for some PR categories, including CEC*

# How long is it valid?

PGWP length is issued according to the length of the program, as determined by IRCC officers

8 months – less than 2 years

- PGWP may be issued for length of program

2 year program

- PGWP may be issued for 3 years

If you complete 2 1-year programs within 2 years of each other, ***the length of the work permit may combine the length of each program.*** If the combined length of the programs is 2 years or longer, the work permit may be valid for up to 3 years

All programs must meet the criteria for PGWP

# Eligibility criteria

- A PGWP is not automatic – applicants must meet all criteria
- This applies to the time of application and to the entire period of studies
- PGWP can only be issued once, and cannot be renewed

# Eligibility criteria

- **Currently hold valid temporary status** or have left Canada.
- Graduated from an eligible institution (DLI)
- Completed a program **in Canada** that is at least **8 months in duration** leading to a degree, diploma or certificate.
- Maintained **full-time student status in Canada** during each academic session
  - Exceptions can be made only for the following:
    - Authorized leave from studies
    - Last semester of studies
- Received a transcript and an official letter from the eligible DLI confirming that they have met the requirements to complete their program of study.
- **Maintained compliance with conditions of study permit**

# Supporting Documents for Application

## Required

- IMM 5710
  - Letter of Completion (from Student Services)
  - Transcript
  - Passport
  - Study permit
  - Digital photo
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- Fee payment of \$255

## May be required

- Letter of explanation
- Copy of Medical Exam Results

# When can I apply?

- You can apply as soon as you have written confirmation from your institution that you have completed all components of your program
- You must apply within 180 days of completing your program (based on the date of your letter of completion)



## How can I apply?

- Apply online (within Canada)
- Apply online (outside of Canada)
- Apply at a POE ("flag-poling")\*

\*Please note border officials are CBSA, not IRCC, and may not always be up-to-date with changes to regulations

\*It is recommended to check with NSCC services before flag-poling

## When can I start work?

- Graduates who apply for PGWP **before the expiry of their study permit** are eligible to work full time while waiting for a decision on their application *if all of the following apply*:
  - They are or were the holders of a valid study permit at the time of the post-graduation work permit application.
  - They have completed their program of study.
  - They met the requirements for working off campus without a work permit (conditions on study permit)
  - They did not exceed the allowable hours of work (20 hours per week while studying/40 hours per week on scheduled breaks)
- Applicants must stop working as soon as they are notified by IRCC that their application for a work permit is refused.

Other  
considerations

## Distance and online courses

- A program completed 100% online is not eligible for PGWP
- If **less than 50%** of the total courses are completed by distance learning, PGWP may be issued, and will be based on the length of the program
- Any courses completed outside of Canada will be excluded from the total length of the program

# Work permit for spouses and partners

- If you have a valid PGWP, your spouse or common-law partner may be eligible to apply for an open work permit
- Your work must be NOC 0, A or B
- You must provide
  - Proof of employment (letter from employer, job contract)
  - 3 pay stubs

# Travel and PGWP

- You may travel after applying for PGWP – however, to re-enter Canada you must:
  - have a valid eTA OR
  - have a valid TRV to enter Canada OR
  - be a Citizen of the United States
- Upon return, you may:
  - Be allowed to enter Canada as a temporary resident if IRCC has not made a decision on your application. You may need to show proof of financial support
  - Be allowed to enter Canada as a worker, if the officer at the port of entry finds out that IRCC has approved your work permit while you were away.
  - Be asked to apply for a new work permit at the port of entry, if eligible (US citizen/TRV-exempt)

\*\*It is possible you may be refused entry. The decision is made by border officials.

## PGWP and PR

- Skilled Canadian work experience in the national occupational code A, O or B that is gained through the PGWPP helps graduates qualify for permanent residence in Canada through the **Canadian Experience Class**, within Express Entry.

CEC requires 1 year of work experience:

- **One year** of full-time work
  - 30 hours/week for 12 months = 1 year full time (1,560 hours), **or**
- equal amount in part-time hours, such as:
  - 15 hours/week for 24 months = 1 year full time (1,560 hours)
  - 30 hours/week for 12 months at more than 1 job = 1 year full time (1,560 hours)
- IRCC does not count any hours you work above 30 hours/week.

# NOC Codes

The [National Occupation Classification \(NOC\)](#) is a list of all the occupations in the Canadian labor market. It describes each job according to skill type and skill level. For immigration purposes, these are the main job groups:

- **Skill Type 0 (zero):** management jobs
- **Skill Level A:** professional jobs that usually call for a degree from a university
- **Skill Level B:** technical jobs and skilled trades that usually call for a college diploma or training as an apprentice
- **Skill Level C:** intermediate jobs that usually call for high school and/or job-specific training
- **Skill Level D:** labour jobs that usually give on-the-job training



Questions?



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