

Post-Graduate Work Permit (PGWP)

March 3, 2020

Caroline Lodge, Inspired Immigration Consulting Ltd.

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 NSCC.

1 year program

- PGWP issued for length of program (=1 year)

2 year program

- PGWP should be issued for 3 years

If you complete 2 1-year programs within 2 years of each other, these may be combined for a PGWP of 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 **at the time of application**, they

- had a valid study permit,
- had completed your program of study,
- were eligible to work off-campus without a permit, **and**
- did not work off-campus more than 20 hours a week during academic sessions.

Applicants must stop working immediately if they are notified by IRCC that their PGWP is refused.

Other
considerations

Leave from studies/part-time status

- If you take a break from your studies, this may impact your eligibility for PGWP. Please consult with your ISA if you need to take time off, or switch to part-time study.

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?

