Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP)

Post-graduation Employment for International Students in Canada

Presented by:
Heidi Liu, RCIC
International Student Advisor
September 30, 2020
IESC Services and Support

- International Student Advising (Immigration, Social, Cultural, Financial, and more)
- International Student Orientation & Welcome Centre
- English Conversation Program
- International Peer Guide Program
- Social events and Information Sessions
- Weekly Global Café
- Spousal Programming and more...
Peer Guide Program
Peer Guides are upper-year students who have already experienced the transition to University life. Peer Guides help you get settled and adjusted by:
- Acting as your guide and cultural interpreter
- Connecting you to Western and London online activities, services, and resources
- Emailing or texting you regularly until the end of the term

iesc.uwo.ca/peer

Global Café
Global Café is a weekly drop-in virtual gathering where you can connect with friends from around the world in a casual and relaxed setting. You can:
- Make friends
- Play games and activities
- Take a break from your studies
- Have fun!

Every Thursday, 3pm to 5pm
ZOOM: 844 143 301
iesc.uwo.ca/peer

English Conversation Program
The English Conversation Program provides you with the opportunity to:
- Improve speaking and listening skills
- Create friendships
- Learn about Canadian culture
- Meet new people
- Enhance conversation skills
- Meet once a week, 2 hours, 8 sessions

iesc.uwo.ca/ecp

Tea & Info for Spouses
Meet weekly with other partners of international students to:
- Learn about Canadian every day life
- Share about your own culture
- Practice English (if applicable)
- Discuss topics related to international families and living in Canada

Every Friday, 1:30pm to 2:30pm
iesc.uwo.ca/student_life/your_family/spouses_and_partners/services.html

All programs listed are FREE to join!
Post-graduation Work Permit - PGWP

“One time” gift for international students to gain Canadian work experience

An OPEN work permit

– Do you need a job offer to apply?
– Can you work for any employer?
– Can you work anywhere in Canada?
– Can you work at any jobs?
– Does the job need to be related to your degree?
You are eligible for a PGWP if you meet ALL of the following criteria...

If you are in Canada, a valid temporary status

- or leave Canada and apply for PGWP

  NOTE: Study permit expires as of expiry date or 90 days after you complete your studies

A valid study permit at some point during the 180 days

- You have 180 days to apply for PGWP after school issues your final marks

Completed a study program

- at an eligible DLI
- at least 8 months long
- leading to a degree, diploma or certificate

Maintained full-time student status

- except final session or leave of absence (case by case)

Received final transcripts AND a PGWP letter

- from Registrar’s Office
You are not eligible for a PGWP if you...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligibility Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Already received a PGWP</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Except you didn’t receive a full length of PGWP due to your passport expiry date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Studied English or French as a second language</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Or took general interest or self-improvement courses</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Participated in or are a recipient of the following awards/scholarships:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Global Affairs Canada (GAC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Government of Canada Awards Program funded by GAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Equal Opportunity Scholarship, Canada–Chile</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Canada–China Scholars’ Exchange Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Organization of American States Fellowships Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Completed the majority of a study program by distance learning</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Online courses, e-learning or correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Completed a study program at a non-Canadian institution located in Canada</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Regardless of the length of stay in Canada</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Programs with an overseas component?

- You are eligible for the PGWP. However, the length of the PGWP is based on the length of study time in Canada.

- **Covid-19:**
  
  *If you applied for your study permit before starting your program, time spent studying online from outside Canada since spring 2020 now counts toward the length of a PGWP (Certain conditions apply. See next page).*
Covid-19: Impact on PGWP if you are outside Canada

You’re still eligible for a PGWP if you can’t travel to Canada at this time and

• you have a study permit
• you’ve been approved for a study permit
• you applied for a study permit before starting your study program in the spring, summer or fall 2020 semester, or
• you will apply for a study permit before starting your study program in the January 2021 semester
# Covid-19: How long you can study from outside Canada

It depends on when you started studying and how long your study program is.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>You can study from outside Canada until April 30, 2021</strong></th>
<th><strong>You can complete the entire program from outside Canada</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• If 50% of your program is completed in Canada</td>
<td>• If your program is between 8 and 12 months in length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• with a start date from May to September 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If your program has a start-date from May to September 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• complete 2 PGWP-eligible programs within 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 50% of total studies are completed in Canada</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* You must eventually be approved for a study permit if you want to be eligible for these temporary measures for PGWP.
Covid-19: Impact on PGWP if you are inside Canada

If you’re eligible for the post-graduation work permit program, you’ll still be able to get a post-graduation work permit (PGWP) if

- your in-person classes in Canada have been moved to an online-only format and you had to begin or will continue your classes online because of COVID-19, or
- you had to put your studies on hold or study part-time during the winter, spring or summer 2020 semesters because of COVID-19

Please read more details on IRCC website for How your post-graduation work permit (PGWP) eligibility is affected.
**Length of the PGWP**

Students may be eligible for a Work Permit that is valid for up to 3 years *(depending on the length of their program of study).*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official length of program</th>
<th>PGWP validity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 8 months</td>
<td>NOT ELIGIBLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 8 months &amp; &lt; 2 years</td>
<td>Up to the same length as your program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 years or more</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a 16-23 month, full-time graduate program</td>
<td>A PGWP may be issued for 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with no breaks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of Program</td>
<td>Length of studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year Bachelor degree</td>
<td>3 years (full-time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year Bachelor degree</td>
<td>4 years (full-time) + 0.5 years (part-time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-term Masters degree *</td>
<td>6 terms = 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-term Masters degree *</td>
<td>3 terms = 1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-term (16 months) Masters degree *</td>
<td>4 terms = 1 year, 4 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-term Masters degree *</td>
<td>3 terms = 1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year PhD *</td>
<td>4+ years (full-time)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Graduate studies - No breaks
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of Program</th>
<th>Work permit duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-year BA (2018) + 3-term MA (2019)</td>
<td>3-years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year BA (2016) + 3-term MA (2019) *</td>
<td>1-year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When combining two PGWP-eligible programs of at least 8 months long, the second program must be completed within two years of completing the first program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-year college graduate certificate (2018) + 3-term MA (2019)</td>
<td>3-years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year BSc + 6 month professional diploma</td>
<td>3-years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUST apply for PGWP within 180 days of completing BSc (The 6 month diploma program doesn’t qualify for PGWP)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-month program pre-requisite program at WELC (ESL) + 3-term MA</td>
<td>1-year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Documents needed for PGWP application from inside Canada

- PGWP letter and final transcripts from Registrar’s Office
- Application form IMM 5710
- Photocopy of passport (biographical page and any pages with stamps or visas)
- Digital Photograph
- Application fees: $255 + $85 (Biometrics fees, if applicable)
How to request a PGWP letter

1. Complete final exams or defend thesis
2. Apply for Graduation on Student Center
3. Your faculty/department assess your grades to confirm you meet requirements for graduation (adjudication)
4. *System will be updated at the end of adjudication, (when Office of the Registrar is able to produce your PGWP letter)
5. Request PGWP letter on Student Center (can be delivered by pick-up, mail, courier or fax)
How do you know a PGWP letter is available?
Work Authorization After Completion of Studies

- **Part-time work off campus**: Date you finish final exams or depend thesis
- **Can’t work**: Date school confirms completion
- **Full-time work**: Date PGWP application is submitted while SP is still valid

Stop working if Study Permit expires
Work full-time after you submit PGWP application

- Had a valid study permit when you submitted your PGWP application
- Completed your study program
- Were eligible to work off-campus without a work permit while studying
- Didn’t work more hours than you were allowed to

***You must stop working the day you are notified by IRCC that your application is refused.***
Covid-19: What if I can’t obtain documents from school for PGWP application

- PGWP application can be submitted without letter of completion or final transcript.
- An explanation letter should be included in the application.
- You should submit the documents via Web Form as soon as you can.
- The documents will be requested when IRCC processes the application.
- You may start working full time as soon as you submit your application without letter of completion or final transcript, as per the previous page.
- If you need to restore your status, you will also be eligible to apply without your letter of completion or final transcript. But you are not eligible to work while IRCC processes your application.
Social Insurance Number (SIN)

- 9-digit number that you need to work in Canada or to have access to government programs/benefits

- Your number! You are responsible for protecting your SIN.

- Your employer will require your SIN in order to verify that you may work in Canada and in order to deduct proper payroll tax deductions

- Everyone in Canada who earns income must file an Income Tax Return (due April 30th of each year) with Canada Revenue Agency

***You can continue using your SIN while waiting for PGWP application decision even if it expires when your study permit expires.***
Applying for a SIN

➢ You can apply online or by mail.

➢ If you are unable to apply online or by mail you have the option to apply in person.

➢ If you apply for a SIN online or by mail and your application meets the requirements, you will receive a letter with your SIN by mail within 20 business days from the date the application is received. If more than 25 business days have passed and you would like to find out the status of your application, contact the SIN program.

➢ There is no fee to apply for a Social Insurance Number (SIN).

International Student Advising
Fall 2020 (virtual)

- Book appointments with an International Student Advisor at: iesc.uwo.ca/remote/appointment.html
- Immigration Services iesc.uwo.ca/visas
- Presentations on Study Permits, Post Graduation Work Permit, and more can be found at iesc.uwo.ca/remote/resources.html
- Immigration workshops events.westernu.ca/
- Covid-19 FAQ iesc.uwo.ca/COVID-19-FAQs.html
- Financial Assistance iesc.uwo.ca/finaid
- Spouse and Family Support iesc.uwo.ca/student_life/your_family
- iWellness Website iwellness.uwo.ca
- Email us iesc@uwo.ca
Q & A