



Citizenship and
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et
Immigration Canada



Foreign Students and Visitors in Canada

Citizenship and Immigration Canada
BUILDING A STRONGER CANADA



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Canada 

Outline

- **Background information about Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and Foreign Students and Visitors in Canada.**
- **Coming to Canada as a Foreign Student or Visitor: Before you Arrive**
 - General Information on Studying in Canada
 - Applying for a Study Permit: A Step by Step Process
 - Applying for Additional, Necessary Travel Documentation
 - Other immigration requirements (Medical Examination and Security Information, Minor Children)
- **Coming to Canada as a Foreign Student: Upon Arrival**
 - Required Documentation to Enter Canada
- **Coming to Canada as a Foreign Student: After Arriving**
 - Understanding the Terms and Conditions of a Study Permit
- **Contact Information**
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Background

- The *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA) regulates the entry of all international students and visitors into Canada.
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) is responsible, or partially responsible, for:
 - admitting immigrants, foreign students, visitors and temporary workers who help Canada's social and economic growth
 - resettling, protecting and providing a safe haven for refugees
 - helping newcomers adapt to Canadian society and become Canadian citizens
 - managing access to Canada to protect the security and health of Canadians and the integrity of Canadian laws and
 - helping Canadians and newcomers to participate fully in the economic, political, social and cultural life of the country.
- CIC works closely with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), the agency responsible for providing integrated border services to support the free flow of persons and goods across Canadian borders.



Foreign Students and Visitors in Canada

Foreign Students:

- Numbers are driven by demand by international students for education in Canada.
 - There are no numerical limits/quotas, but students must meet all regulatory and program requirements.
 - In 2008, close to 80,000 foreign students came to study in Canada. Of these, almost 20,000 were studying at the secondary level or less.

Foreign Visitors:

- Canada welcomes over 5 million visitors every year.





Coming to Canada as a Visitor: Before you Arrive

To visit Canada, you must:

- have a valid travel document, such as a passport
- be in good health
- satisfy an immigration officer that you have ties, such as a job, home and family, that will take you back to your country of origin and that you will leave Canada at the end of your visit, and
- have enough money for your stay. The amount of money you will need can vary with the circumstances of the visit, how long you will stay and whether you will stay in a hotel or with friends or relatives.

You may also need:

- a Temporary Resident Visa, depending on your citizenship (see “Additional Travel Documentation” slide) and;
- a security check and/or medical examination (see “Supplying additional information and documentation” slide)

NOTE:

- Processing timelines for temporary resident visas are available on CIC’s website.
- Visitors are encouraged to check with the Canadian visa office or Visa Application Centre (VAC) in your country or region for possible additional entry requirements.





Coming to Canada as a Foreign Student: Before you Arrive

In addition to criteria listed for visitors, to be eligible to study in Canada:

- You must have been accepted by a school, college or university in Canada.
- You must prove to Canadian immigration officers that you have enough money to pay for your:
 - tuition fees, if applicable
 - living expenses for yourself
 - return transportation for yourself
- If you are a minor child, you must meet conditions for entry to study in Canada for those under the age of majority (see “Minor Children” slide).

NOTE: Applicants are also encouraged to visit mission-specific websites to obtain more detailed information on Study Permit application requirements.



Coming to Canada as a Foreign Student: Before you Arrive

General Information on Applying for Study Permits:

- A study permit is required for all foreign students in Canadian programs or courses which are six months in length or more.
- Be sure to check the study permit application processing times to help determine how far in advance you should apply for your permit. Past application processing times for study permits can be seen on CIC's website: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/times/international/14-temp-students.asp>
- Remember to factor in time for a possible medical examination as well as security check.

Acceptance into a Canadian school:

- Before you can apply for a study permit, you must have been accepted at a recognized school, university or college in Canada.
- Provincial and territorial governments in Canada regulate primary and secondary schools. Find out more information about these schools from the Ministry of Education of the province or territory in which you would like to study.
- You need a letter of acceptance from the Canadian school of your choice in order to apply for a Study Permit. A standardized letter of acceptance to be filled out by educational institutions has been developed by CIC and can be accessed on its website.





Coming to Canada as a Foreign Student: Before you Arrive

Applying for a Study Permit: A Step by Step Process

1. Obtain the application package.

- The package includes the application guide and all the forms you need to fill out. The package is available online on CIC's website and at Canadian missions.
- Depending on your citizenship or where you live, you may need a temporary resident visa.

2. Determine where you will submit your application.

- You should submit your application to the visa office that is responsible for the country or region where you live.
- Alternatively, you may submit your application to a Visa Application Centre (VAC) if one is located near you.

3. Collect the documents you need to apply.

- These documents include: proof of acceptance to a Canadian school, proof of identification (valid passport and photos) and proof of financial support (minimum amounts needed can be found on the CIC website).
- You can find information on application fees and other local requirements on the website of the visa office serving your country or region.



www.cic.gc.ca



Coming to Canada as a Foreign Student: Before you Arrive

4. If studying in Quebec, check the provincial guidelines.

- If you apply to study in Quebec, you also need a certificate of acceptance or Certificat d'acceptation du Québec (CAQ) issued by the province. You can contact your school or the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles (MICC) about this requirement.
- You must have received the certificate of acceptance before you apply for a study permit.

5. Complete your application for a study permit.

- Answer all questions carefully, completely and truthfully. Use the document checklist that is included in the application kit and consult the website of your Canadian visa office to determine if you need to fill out any additional forms or provide any additional documents.
- Incomplete application packages will not be processed, but will be returned to you.

6. Pay the correct processing fee.

- There is a \$125 CDN fee to apply for a study permit.
- The processing fee will not be refunded, even if your application is not accepted.

7. Submit the application form.

- Sign and date the application form, and be sure you include the receipt for the processing fee.
- Submit the application form to the Canadian visa office that serves the country or region where you live. CIC's website offers a list of countries and corresponding visa offices to help you to determine where to submit your application.

Note: This information may also be found on CIC's website



Coming to Canada as a Foreign Student or Visitor: Before you Arrive

Additional Travel Documentation:

- You must have a valid passport with recent photos when you submit your application and upon entry into Canada.
- Depending on your citizenship or where you live, you may need apply for a temporary resident visa. Visit CIC's website for the list of countries/territories whose citizens require temporary resident visas to enter Canada.
- For students, if you are from one of the designated countries, a visa officer will process your application for a temporary resident visa (TRV) at the same time as your study permit application. You do not need a separate application.
- If you are approved for entry into Canada from a visa designated country, a temporary resident visa is placed in your passport. The expiry date on this visa indicates the date by which you must enter Canada. You must enter Canada before your visa expires. The visa will also indicate if you can enter Canada only once (a single-entry visa) or if you can enter Canada multiple times (a multiple-entry visa).





Coming to Canada as a Foreign Student or Visitor requiring a TRV: Before you Arrive

Supplying additional information and documentation:

- After the visa office receives your application, it might request more information or documents. These may include the following:

Medical information

- Depending on which country you are applying from or are citizen of, you may need a medical examination.
- See the Designated Country/Territory List on CIC's website to determine if a country/territory is designated.
- Your medical exam must be conducted by medical practitioner in your country, designated by CIC.
- The medical examination may add more than three months to the processing time of your application.

Security information

- If you want to study in Canada, you and any family members who come to Canada with you, and who are 18 years of age and over, may have to provide police certificates.
- The certificate must have been issued no more than three months before you submit your application.
- If the original certificate is neither in English nor in French, submit both the certificate and the original copy of a translation prepared by an accredited translator with your application.



Coming to Canada as a Foreign Student or Visitor requiring a TRV: Before you Arrive

Foreign nationals requiring TRVs- If your TRV application is approved, a Temporary Resident Visa will be placed inside your passport which will be returned to you along with all supporting documentation submitted to the mission or VAC.

Foreign nationals requiring Study Permits - If your Study Permit application is approved you will receive the TRV, if required, as well as a letter of introduction confirming the approval. This letter is not your study permit. Bring the letter of introduction with you to show to immigration officials at the Point of Entry when you arrive in Canada.

If your Study Permit or TRV application is not approved the visa office will send you a letter explaining why your application has been refused. An application might be refused for several reasons:

- Your application is incomplete or has not been properly completed.
- You have not shown proof that you have enough money to support yourself while in Canada.
- You have not passed the medical examination or security check if one was required.
- You have not satisfied the visa officer that your primary intention in Canada is to study or travel as the case may be.
- If you have questions about your refusal, you may contact the visa office that issued the refusal letter – for contact information please visit CIC's website at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/offices/missions.asp>





Coming to Canada as a Foreign Student or Visitor: Before you Arrive

Minor Children:

- Each province and territory decides the age of majority. A person under the age of majority is considered to be a “minor child.”
- Minor children not accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, must be cared for by a custodian while in Canada.
- Legal arrangements must be made to give the custodian in Canada permission to act in place of a parent or guardian.
- Minor children who are traveling alone must:
 - bring contact information (name, address and phone number) with them about the custodian who will be responsible for them in Canada and where they will be going to school; and
 - have a letter of permission from their parent(s)/legal guardian and a letter from their custodian in Canada.

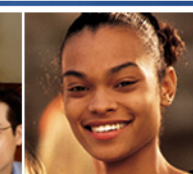


Coming to Canada as a Foreign Student or Visitor: Upon Arrival

The documents you need to enter Canada

- The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) officer will ask to see your travel documents when you arrive at the Port of Entry in Canada.
- Visitors and Students should be ready to show the following documents:
 - a valid passport or travel document
 - a valid temporary resident visa (if required)
 - proof that you have enough money to support yourself during your stay in Canada and
 - letters of reference , documents pertaining to the temporary migration of a minor children (if required), or any other documents recommended by the visa office where you applied.
- Students also require:
 - the letter of introduction from the visa office that you received when your study permit was approved (this letter contains your permit reference number and the CBSA officer needs this letter to issue your study permit)
 - a copy of the letter of acceptance from the school at which you are permitted to study

Note: Possession of these documents does not guarantee entry. All persons must establish that they meet all the requirements of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and Regulations before being authorized to enter or re-enter Canada.



Coming to Canada as a Foreign Student: Upon Arrival

Understanding the terms and conditions of your study permit

- The conditions listed on your study permit tell you:
 - if you are allowed to work in Canada
 - whether you need to report for a medical examination, observation or treatment
 - if your travel within Canada is restricted; and
 - when you must leave Canada.
- If you wish to change any of the terms and conditions of your stay in Canada, you must submit a completed Application to Change Conditions or Extend Your Stay in Canada. The application can be found on CIC's website.
- If you possess a valid study permit, you do not need to submit an application if you want to change your program of study or the institution where you are studying.
- It is an offence under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* if you do not comply with the conditions imposed on you when your entry into Canada was authorized, or when your study permit was issued.





CIC CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are in Canada

- Contact the Call Centre. Agents can help you with questions about CIC services and programs. They can also give you limited information about your immigration application.
- Our automated telephone service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at **1 888 242-2100** (in Canada only)
- The *Privacy Act* prevents us from providing detailed information about an individual's file.

If you are anywhere outside of Canada

- Please contact the Canadian visa office or VAC responsible for your region.

Living, working or studying in the province of Quebec

- In addition to contacting CIC you may also wish to contact le Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles (MICC).

Online services

As an alternative to the Call Centre, you are also encouraged to obtain information on CIC's programs and services on this website. For example, you can:

- order or download and print application kits
- Check application processing times
- Check the status of your application
- Pay your fees or print an official receipt
- Change or notify us of a change of address



www.cic.gc.ca





QUESTIONS





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