

Graduating International Students Information Sheet

2020 - 2021

Immigration Information

Post-Graduation Work Permit Immigration Sessions are held each semester and cover the application process in more detail. It is recommended that graduating international students plan to attend a session.

Transitioning to work after completing final semester

- Students may work off campus on a **part-time basis from the day the semester is finished until the day they receive their graduation letter**, if they meet eligibility criteria to work off campus per [R186\(v\)](#) (that is, they are or were a full-time student the semester immediately before their last semester)
- After receiving graduation letter **AND** applying for the post-graduation work permit students can transition to full-time work while the application is being processed
- If the post-graduation work permit is refused, students must stop working
- **Within 90 days of receiving graduation letter** students must do either of the following **if they remain in Canada**, otherwise the study permit is considered invalid
 - apply for work permit
 - be accepted to a new study program
 - change to visitor status

Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP)

The post-graduation work permit program was created by IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) in 2008 to help students who have graduated from an eligible Canadian post-secondary institution to gain valuable Canadian work experience.

Details

- The PGWP is an **open work permit**, with **no restrictions on the type of employment and no requirements for a job offer**
- Allowed to seek employment anywhere in Canada under this work permit
- Students can apply for this permit **once** (it is not renewable)
- Application is submitted online
- Validity of PGWP (please refer to table below)

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Duration of program of study	Validity of PGWP
At least 8 months but less than 2 years	Same as length of program
2 years or more	3 years

Eligibility

- Graduate from an eligible designated learning institution (DLI)
- Program is at least 8 months in duration leading to a degree, diploma or certificate
- Studied full-time
- Did not exceed allowable hours of off-campus work
- Provide supporting documents: **graduation letter** and **transcript**
- Apply within 180 days of receiving written confirmation (graduation letter) from the educational institution and must meet one of the following:

Applying from within Canada

- Study permit is valid OR
- If study permit expired, must have applied for visitor status before study permit expired

Applying from outside Canada

- Had a valid study permit that was valid within the 180 days of the date of submitting the application

Travel (after submitting PGWP application)

- Applicants can leave and seek re-entry to Canada before a decision is made on their application.
- Applicants must be in possession of either of the following before seeking re-entry
 - Study Permit + TRV (valid), if they are from a country whose nationals require a visa
 - Study Permit + eTA (valid), if they are from a country whose nationals are visa-exempt, and they are travelling to Canada by air
 - Please visit <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp> to find out if you need a TRV or eTA

Minor Children (in Canada)

- Include in the post-graduation work permit application

Spouses and common-law partners (in Canada)

- PGPW applicants must receive the PGWP and meet the following conditions before applying for their spouse and common-law partner

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- Employed in a skilled job within National Occupational Classification (NOC) levels of O, A or B (see NOC website)
- Provide the following documentation for spouse/common-law partner application for open work permit
 - Letter of employment, offer or contract of PGWP holder job that is in NOC skill level of O, A or B
 - Copy of last three pay slips

Temporary Resident Visas (TRVs) for PGPW applicants

- For post-graduation work permit applications submitted from within Canada – applicants must submit a separate application for a TRV **after they receive their post-graduation work permit.**
- For post-graduation work permit applications submitted outside Canada, a TRV is issued upon approval of post-graduation work permit

The TRV will be issued for the length of the work permit or travel document, whichever has the earlier expiry date.

Social Insurance Number

After receiving the post-graduation work permit visit a Service Canada office to update the expiry date of your Social Insurance Number. Provide the post-graduation work permit and passport to update the number.

Health Insurance

Extended Health Care Coverage

- It is recommended that students make arrangements for temporary health insurance for the time period after their Guard.Me health insurance expires and before they are eligible for a provincial health insurance plan.
- As a recent graduate, you are eligible to apply for coverage with Guard.Me. You must apply within 30 days of your guard.me policy expiry date. The minimum purchase of six (6) months is required, and the maximum you can purchase is one year.
- If you miss the deadline, you will not be eligible for the coverage. Before you apply, review the plan available to you, as it may not be the same plan that you have had through your school.
- Please visit <https://www.guard.me/sheridancollege> -> Apply for Insurance -> Extension

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Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) Coverage

- Post-Graduation Work Permit holders and their spouses/dependents may be eligible for Ontario health insurance coverage provided they are employed full-time by an employer in Ontario for a minimum of six months.
- Please visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/apply-ohip-and-get-health-card> if you have questions about your eligibility for OHIP coverage and for more details.

Convocation

Please visit <http://myotr.sheridancollege.ca/graduation.html> for information and updates on convocation ceremonies.

Inviting Family Members for Convocation

Friends or family applying to visit you in Canada might need to apply for a Temporary Resident Visa if they are from a country that requires a Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) to enter Canada. Please visit <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp> for list of countries that require a TRV to visit Canada.

Students may send the following documents to the friends and family members they wish to invite.

1. Letter of Invitation written by the student: The College does not provide Letters of Invitation.

- Please visit <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/letter.asp> for information on how to write the letter
- Students might need to get the letter notarized by a Notary Public (only if the visa office asks for a notarized letter)

2. Convocation Ceremonies letter:

- Graduation letters state the convocation dates. Students can provide their friends and family the graduation letters that they received as proof of convocation dates.
- If friends or family are applying for a visa before the student receives the graduation letter, please email Academic History academic-history@sheridancollege.ca to obtain a letter that states convocation dates.

3. Proof of status in Canada: students can provide one of the following documents as proof of status in Canada:

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- Study Permit and Enrollment Verification Letter (if student did not graduate yet). Please visit <https://central.sheridancollege.ca/co-op-work-permit-and-enrolment-verification-letters> for information on requesting a letter.
- Post-Graduation Work Permit (if received) and Graduation Letter

Alumni

Alumni are graduates from the college, and there are 190,000 of them around the world. Graduated international students will automatically become part of the Sheridan Alumni community. As an alumnus, you get exclusive discounts to local attractions and you can keep using on-campus services like the gym or career services.

The alumni office also offers discounts on frames for your degree or diploma.

Please visit <https://www.sheridancollege.ca/alumni.aspx> for more information.

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