Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 2, 2025 10:18:08 AM
From: [redacted] Représentants [redacted]
Sent: Thu, 6 Feb 2025 17:04:50
To: [redacted]
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: TR: level of study means? - REP-2025-0225 - Due 20-Feb-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Good day,

[redacted] **Immigration Representatives Mailbox**

Please note that this mailbox is intended for general guidance and does not provide responses to case-specific inquiries but have provided the following information as guidance.. If you have case specific questions about a file, you are encouraged to submit the IRCC Web form.

Please see our response to your question:

QUESTION

The new ministerial instructions say these applicants are exempt from needing a PAL

a. a. referred to in paragraphs 215(1)(a) and (b) of the Regulations and are presented by an applicant seeking to renew their study permit at the same designated learning institution and in the same level of study as the existing study permit;

We have students who completed 1 year Graduate certificates with us and now want to take a 1-year Certificate. We are wondering how IRCC defines level of study.

In IRCC does Level of study mean:

1. 1. [redacted] group [redacted] study [redacted] you [redacted] to [redacted] the first one to go onto the second one. All College and University programs would be considered post-secondary and would be the same level of study.
2. 2. [redacted] Advanced diploma, Graduate certificate, [redacted] PhD? - all different levels of study regardless of DLI
3. 3. College, University? – all College programs are the same level of study, and all University are the same level of study, but College and University are NOT the same level of study.

RESPONSE
The new ministerial instructions define "level of study" within three distinct categories:

- * Primary and secondary education
- * Post-secondary education, including vocational and technical training, and undergraduate programs.
- * Graduate education and above

In your scenario, a student who has completed a 1-year Graduate Certificate and now wishes to enroll in a 1-year Certificate program would be considered to be changing their level of study. As per MIs, the Graduate Certificate falls under "Graduate education and above," while the Certificate program is classified under "Post-secondary education."

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Sources:
Study permit: Get the right documents Provincial attestation letter or territorial attestation letter - Canada.ca
Changing your school or program - Canada.ca
Ministerial Instructions

We trust that this information will assist you.

[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

From:
Sent: [redacted] 22, 2025 9:53 AM
To: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.[redacted]
Subject: level of study means?

A question for you,

The new ministerial instructions say these applicants are exempt from needing a PAL

a. a. referred to in paragraphs 215(1)(a) and (b) of the Regulations and are presented by an applicant seeking to renew their study permit at the same designated learning institution and in the same level of study as the existing study permit;

We have students who completed 1 year Graduate certificates with us and now want to take a 1 year Certificate. We are wondering how IRCC defines level of study.

In IRCC does Level of study mean:

1. 1. [redacted] group [redacted] study [redacted] you [redacted] to complete the first one to go onto the second one. All College and University programs would be considered post secondary and would be the same level of study
2. 2. [redacted] Advanced diploma, Graduate certificate, [redacted] Phd? - all different levels of study regardless of DLI
3. 3. College, University? – all College programs are the same level of study and all University are the same level of study but College and University are NOT the same level of study.

Kind regards,

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is withheld pursuant to section

est retenue en vertu de l'article

19(1)

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