Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 3, 2025 10:29:06 AM
From: [redacted] Représentants [redacted]
Sent: Thu, 24 Apr 2025 14:02:52
To: [redacted]
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: Flagpoling - REP-A-2025-0709 - Due 15-Apr-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.
***
A foreign national may submit an outside Canada application however, they will have to leave Canada to obtain their permit.

Please note that "flagpoling" is no longer allowed for most foreign nationals. Flagpoling occurs when foreign nationals who hold temporary resident status in Canada, leave Canada and, after a visit to the United States or St. Pierre and Miquelon, re-enter to access immigration services at a port of entry.

A foreign national who submits the outside Canada application will have to leave Canada and return from a country other than the United States or St. Pierre and Miquelon in order to be examined at a port of entry ahead of being issued a study permit.

We hope you find this information helpful.

***

[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

From: [redacted]
Sent: [redacted] 4, 2025 4:46 PM
To: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-[redacted]
Subject: Flagpoling

> **CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the Government of Canada. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.
> **ATTENTION:** Ce courriel provient de l'extérieur du gouvernement du Canada. Ne cliquez pas sur les liens et n'ouvrez pas les pièces jointes sauf si vous reconnaissez l'expéditeur et sachez que le contenu est sûr.

Hello,

I was hoping you could clarify the definition of flagpoling.

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Definitions:

According to this IRCC announcement,

> Immigration services at the border are meant for individuals arriving in Canada, not for those already in Canada. Applications and renewals for work or study permits need to be submitted through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Those who attempt to flagpole for a work and study permit will be told to submit their application to IRCC unless they meet limited exemptions.

It looks like this defines flagpoling as submitting an application at the border after visiting the US for an officer to review it and make a decision.

This definition is mentioned on the CBSA website:

Access immigration services online

This page has been archived

Immigration services are available online through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Find an IRCC application or form now.

Work and study permits are no longer provided to flagpolers at ports of entry.

Flagpoling is when foreign nationals who hold temporary resident status in Canada, leave Canada and, after a visit to the United States or St. Pierre and Miquelon, re-enter to access immigration services.

It looks like this defines flagpoling as accessing any immigration services at the border after visiting the US.

Scenario:
We have students applying for a PGWP using the overseas process. In this case, they will not receive a PGWP by mail. They have to exit Canada and re-enter to have their PGWP printed at the border.

Question:
Will this be considered flagpoling if the applicant travels to the US and comes back to have their PGWP printed at a POE?

[redacted] to your reply.
Have a great day.

Best regards,