Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 2, 2025 10:25:25 AM
From: [redacted] Représentants [redacted]
Sent: Mon, 17 Feb 2025 16:30:23
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: PAL Requirement for Changing Programs - Post Graduate to Undergraduate Vocational - REP-2025-0276 - Due 25-Feb-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Good day,

[redacted] Please note that the information provided serves as general program guidance and should not be considered a directive for case-specific inquiries.

QUESTION
My name is / with

Can you please provide clarification as to whether a PAL is required. We have a student who is currently studying in a Business Administration Post Graduate Diploma Program; admission requires completion of an accredited Bachelor's degree with a minimum 3 academic years from a recognized institution. For September 2025, the student is changing to Health Care Certificate which is a undergraduate vocational program.

As per the IRCC website https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/get-documents/provincial-attestation-letter.html, a PAL is not required if:

- You've entered Canada **and** one of the following situations applies to you:
  - You're applying for a study permit extension at the same DLI **and** level of study as your current study permit.

My understanding is that IRCC recognizes the following levels of study – primary and secondary education , post-secondary education (including vocational, technical and undergraduate) and graduate education or above. Can you please confirm if IRCC considers Post Graduate Diplomas and Certificates as undergraduate or graduate? If undergraduate, then in this case the student moving from a post graduate diploma to a vocational certificate would NOT require a PAL.

RESPONSE
Yes, your understanding is correct. The new new ministerial instructions define "level of study" into three distinct categories:

- * Primary and secondary education
- * Post-secondary education, which includes vocational and technical training as well as undergraduate programs
- * Graduate education or above

IRCC does not differentiate between college and university programs within the same level. Post-Graduate Diplomas and Certificates are classified under "Graduate Education", not "Undergraduate." In this case, a student moving from a Post-Graduate Diploma to a vocational certificate (an accredited Bachelor's degree) would be moving from graduate education to post-secondary education. Since this is a change in the level of study, the student would require a PAL when applying for a study permit extension.

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For more details, please refer to the following IRCC resources:
Ministerial Instructions
Study permit: Get the right documents – Provincial attestation letter or territorial attestation letter

We trust that this information will assist you.

[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

De :
Envoyé : 27 janvier 2025 18:07
À : Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.IRCC[redacted]
Objet : PAL Requirement for Changing Programs - Post Graduate to Undergraduate Vocational

Good afternoon,

[redacted]

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I look forward to receiving confirmation.

Kind regards,

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