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Archived: June 2, 2025 11:38:12 AM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Wed, 5 Mar 2025 20:49:23
To:
Cc: [redacted]mmigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: Work Authorizations between programs - REP-2025-0506 - Due 13-03-2025
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Hi

Please see our response to your questions.

QUESTION:
I am reaching out to you regarding Program stacking for study permits obtained on or after November 1, 2024.

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Program stacking for study permits obtained on or after November 1, 2024

Example 1: Completing 2 PGWP-eligible programs

On or after November 1, 2024, if a student completes 2 consecutive programs that are PGWP-eligible within 2 years of completion of the first program, then when they apply for a PGWP, the duration of the PGWP could be based on the duration of both programs.

Example 2: Completing a first program that is not PGWP-eligible and a second one that is PGWP-eligible

On or after November 1, 2024, if a student completes 2 consecutive programs where the first is not PGWP-eligible, they would not benefit from program stacking when the duration of the PGWP is determined. The duration of the PGWP would be based only on the duration of the PGWP-eligible program.

Example 3: Completing a first PGWP-eligible program and a second one that is not PGWP-eligible

On or after November 1, 2024, if a student completes 2 consecutive programs where the first is PGWP-eligible, and the second is not, they would not benefit from program stacking when the duration of the PGWP is determined. The duration of the PGWP would be based on the duration of the PGWP-eligible program, and the applicant would have to apply for a PGWP within 180 days of receiving confirmation that they have completed the PGWP-eligible program.

Transfers between educational institutions

In cases where a student has transferred between eligible Canadian DLIs, the combined length of study must be at least 8 months to qualify for a PGWP.

In cases where a student graduated from an eligible DLI after having transferred from an ineligible institution, only time [redacted] DLI counts to qualify for [redacted].

Note: As of November 8, 2024, section R217.1 requires that study permit holders in Canada whose permit names a DLI apply for a new study permit if they wish to change DLIs. If the officer determines that a PGWP applicant did not meet the conditions of their study permit, they may be prohibited from being issued a work permit for 6 months from the date they stopped their unauthorized study or work, as per subparagraph R200(3)(e)(i).

For further information please see Study permits: Designated learning institutions.

Could you please confirm if a student who completed a program (8 months at a DLI/PGWP-eligible at the time of studies but no longer meeting the field of study requirement) with a study permit submitted before November 1, 2024, and then completes another PGWP-eligible program with a new study permit issued on or after November 1, 2024, would be eligible for a 3-year PGWP if both programs are completed within 2 years?

RESPONSE:

On or after November 1, 2024, if a student completes two consecutive programs that are PGWP-eligible within two years of completion of the first program when applying for a PGWP, both programs could be considered for the purpose of determining the length of the PGWP.

To qualify for program stacking in relation to PGWP duration, both PGWP-eligible programs must be:

- * a minimum of 8 months in duration; and
- * completed at a PGWP-eligible DLI within 2 years of the completion of the first program.

In determining whether a program is PGWP-eligible:

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- * the **language requirement** is applicable to all PGWP applications (except those from flight school graduates) submitted **on or after** November 1, 2024, regardless of when the student applied for their study permit or when they started their program of study.
- * the **field of study requirement** is applicable depending on the level of study and when a student applies for their student permit.
  - * If the student applies for a study permit extension under the **same** program of study as the study permit they applied for **before** November 1, 2024, then they do not need to meet the field of study requirement.
  - * If the student applies for a study permit extension under a **different** program of study than the study permit they applied for **before** November 1, 2024, then their study permit extension application must meet the field of study requirements applicable to their study program to be eligible for a PGWP. If the second program does not meet the field of study requirements, then the duration of the PGWP would be based on the duration of the PGWP-eligible program (i.e. the first program), and the applicant would have to apply for a PGWP within 180 days of receiving confirmation that they have completed the first program.

For more information, please see the following on PGWP instructions for clients: Work or live in Canada after you graduate - Canada.ca

We hope this information is of assistance.

[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

From:
Sent: [redacted] 12, 2025 1:03 PM
To: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.[redacted]
Subject: Work Authorizations between programs

Good afternoon,

I have a question about work authorizations between two programs of study when the first program was not completed.

Scenario 1:
A student started a 2-year program in Fall 2024 and has been full time in all terms since (Fall & Winter). He has decided to change programs starting in Fall 2025 to a one-year program (where he will be a full-time student). He will not complete the first program. Is he able to work during the summer break between two different programs of study (the first of which he has not completed), as long as he has work authorization statements on his study permit? Do you have any links from the IRCC website that answer this question?

Scenario 2:
A student started a 1-year program in Winter 2025 and has been a full-time student in the Winter 2025 term. He has discovered that this program is not a good fit for him. He has been accepted to a new program at the same institution in Fall 2025. If he decides to withdraw from his program at this time (opting out of the scheduled Spring 2025 term), can he work during the summer break before beginning his new program of study, as long as he has work authorization statements on his study permit?

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