Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 2, 2025 11:46:41 AM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Tue, 11 Mar 2025 15:22:46
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: PAL Exemption Clarification - REP-2025-0233 - Due 20-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.

I have a follow-up question.

According to the response, one of the factors that IRCC would assess the PAL exemption is the study level indicated on the current study permit. I know that the IRCC has recently started including the level of study when issuing study permits, but most current students' study permits do not indicate the level of study.

In this case, if a student's study permit does not include the level of study and they need to apply for a study permit extension to complete their **current** program (at the same DLI and the same level of study), do they need to provide a PAL? Or can they be exempted from providing a PAL if they apply for a study permit extension for the same program as they applied for the current study permit, which does not include the level of study?

Response:

If a student's study permit does not specify the level of study, IRCC will assess the PAL exemption based on the student's current program and level of study. A student applying for a study permit extension for the same program at the same DLI, without changing their level of study, qualify for the PAL exemption. The absence of the study level on their permit does not automatically require them to submit a PAL.

To support their exemption eligibility, students must provide proof that they meet one of the exemption criteria, demonstrating that they are continuing in the same program and at the same level of study and at the same DLI.

However, if the student is transitioning to a different level of study (e.g., from an undergraduate to a graduate program), they will need to provide a new PAL, as this constitutes a change in level.

For more detailed information, you can refer to the Study permit: Get the right documents Provincial attestation letter or territorial attestation letter - Canada.ca

We trust that this information will assist you.

Sincerely,

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

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De :
Envoye : 5 février 2025 16:06
[redacted] Immigration Representatives [redacted] Représentants immigration (IRCC) [redacted]
Representantsimmigration.I[redacted]
Objet : Re: PAL Exemption Clarification - REP-2025-0233 - Due 20-Feb-25

Dear officer,

[redacted] This is really helpful!

I have a follow-up question.

According to the response, one of the factors that IRCC would assess the PAL exemption is the study level indicated on the current study permit. I know that the IRCC has recently started including the level of study when issuing study permits, but most current students' study permits do not indicate the level of study.

In this case, if a student's study permit does not include the level of study and they need to apply for a study permit extension to complete their **current** program (at the same DLI and the same level of study), do they need to provide a PAL? Or can they be exempted from providing a PAL if they apply for a study permit extension for the same program as they applied for the current study permit, which does not include the level of study?

I would appreciate clarification regarding this matter.

Thank you.

Best regards,

From: Immigration Representatives [redacted] Représentants immigration (IRCC) [redacted]
Representantsimmigration.IRCC[redacted]
Sent: [redacted] 5, 2025 3:02 PM

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L'information [redacted] de la [redacted] Information

To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-[redacted]
Subject: TR: PAL Exemption Clarification - REP-2025-0233 - Due 20-Feb-25

Good day,

[redacted] **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.

\sb280Please see our response to your question:

QUESTION

According to the IRCC website, a PAL will be exempted 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.*

Question 1.

If a student completes a first program and intends to begin a second program of the same level of study at the same DLI, will they be exempt from requiring a PAL?

For example, if a student completes a graduate certificate program and plans to pursue another graduate certificate program at the same DLI, would they be exempt from a PAL when applying for a study permit extension, as it is the same level of study at the same institution? Or is a PAL required for any new program, regardless of the level of study?

RESPONSE 1

A new Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) is required when a student completes one program and wishes to start another at the same Designated Learning Institution (DLI), even if it's at the same level of study. The exemption applies to study permit extensions within the **same program level without starting a new credential.**

Question 2.

I have noticed that study permits recently issued include the level of study. I assume that the level of study indicated in study permits relates to the level of study students select in the IMM 5709. Is this assumption correct?

RESPONSE 2

Yes, your assumption is correct.

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Question 3.

If question 2 is correct, the IMM 5709 does not distinguish between a college certificate and a graduate certificate. It only has an option for "College-Certificate" for different certificate levels offered by colleges.

If a student applies for a study permit for a college certificate program and their study permit indicates "College-Certificate" as the level of study. After completing the program, the student now wishes to pursue a second program but a graduate certificate program [redacted] the [redacted] the study permit with "[redacted]" [redacted] the [redacted] study, [redacted] from a PAL as the student will need to choose "College-Certificate" in the IMM 5709 as the level of study for the graduate certificate program?

Or is the PAL exemption assessed based on the program credential type stated in the Letter of Acceptance, or solely on the study level listed on the study permit?

RESPONSE 3

When a student moves from a college certificate to a graduate certificate program at the same DLI, it is considered a change in program and potentially a change in the level of study. This applies even if both programs fall under the "College-Certificate" option in the IMM 5709 form. IRCC would assess the PAL exemption based on multiple factors:

- The program credential specified in the Letter of Acceptance (LOA)
- The actual level and nature of the new program
- The study level indicated on the current study permit.

For more detailed guidance on how to complete IMM 5709 form, applicants should refer to the Guide 5552.

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.

Sincerely,

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

Envoyé : 22 janvier 2025 15:12
[redacted] Immigration Representatives [redacted] Représentants immigration (IRC[redacted]
Representantsimmigration.IRC[redacted]
Objet : PAL Exemption Clarification

Proofread.

Dear officer,

[redacted] Student Advisor & Immigration Specialist at [redacted] My

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RCIC license number is]

I am writing this email to get some clarification regarding the recent PAL updates from the IRCC.

According to the IRCC website, a PAL will be exempted 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.*

Regarding this, I have some questions.

Question 1.

If a student completes a first program and intends to begin a second program of the same level of study at the same DLI, will they be exempt from requiring a PAL?

For example, if a student completes a graduate certificate program and plans to pursue another graduate certificate program at the same DLI, would they be exempt from a PAL when applying for a study permit extension, as it is the same level of study at the same institution? Or is a PAL required for any new program, regardless of the level of study?

Question 2.

I have noticed that study permits recently issued include the level of study. I assume that the level of study indicated in study permits relates to the level of study students select in the IMM 5709. Is this assumption correct?

Question 3.

If question 2 is correct, the IMM 5709 does not distinguish between a college certificate and a graduate certificate. It only has an option for "College-Certificate" for different certificate levels offered by colleges.

If a student applies for a study permit for a college certificate program and their study permit indicates "College-Certificate" as the level of study. After completing the program, the student now wishes to pursue a second program but a graduate certificate program [redacted] the [redacted] the study permit with "[redacted]" [redacted] the [redacted] study, [redacted] from a PAL as the student will need to choose "College-Certificate" in the IMM 5709 as the level of study for the graduate certificate program?

Or is the PAL exemption assessed based on the program credential type stated in the Letter of Acceptance, or solely on the study level listed on the study permit?

I hope you can provide some clarification so that we can advise our students accordingly.

[redacted].

Best regards,

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of the Access to Information Act

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