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Archived: June 2, 2025 11:46:45 AM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Tue, 11 Mar 2025 15:32:44
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: Leave of Absence process for international students - REP-2025-0361 - Due 4-Mar-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

We would like clarification on the operational instructions and guidelines for the Leave of Absence process for international students, in light of the recent changes to R222. Currently, international students are permitted to take a leave of absence for up to 150 days. If a student's leave exceeds 150 days, the operational instructions indicate that the student must either change their status (e.g., to visitor or worker status) or leave Canada.

The section on "Change of Status" states: "After changing their status to visitor or worker, students may resume their studies using their previous study permit, as long as the study permit remains valid."

https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/operational-bulletins-manuals/temporary-residents/study-permits/assessing-conditions.html#leave

However, with the addition of R222(1)(a.1), we are seeking clarification:

Can students still resume their studies if their study permit remains valid after taking a break longer than 150 days, as long as they change their status to visitor or worker?

"222 (1) A study permit becomes invalid upon the first to occur of the following days:

(a.1) the day on which the permit holder is no longer enrolled at the designated learning institution that is named in the permit, other than as a result of completing their studies;"

RESPONSE

Under the regulations R222(1)(a.1), a study permit becomes invalid once a student is no longer enrolled at the Designated Learning Institution (DLI) named on their permit, unless they have completed their program.

Students on leave for more than 150 days could change their status to visitor or worker and later resume studies with the same study permit, provided it remained valid.

IRCC guidelines confirm that students who take an authorized leave of up to 150 days can maintain their study permit status and remain in compliance with their permit conditions. However, those who exceed this timeframe must either leave Canada or change their status. While switching to visitor or worker status allows them to remain in the country legally, it does not preserve

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the validity of their study permit once they are no longer enrolled.

For more detailed information, please visit IRCC website:

Regulations Amending the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations (Designated Learning Institutions)

Study Permits: Assessing study permit conditions - Canada.ca

We trust that this information will assist you.

[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

De >
Envoyé : 3 février 2025 13:13
[redacted] Immigration Representatives | Représentants immigration [redacted]
Objet : Leave of Absence process for international students

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  -

My RCIC Member is:

[redacted]

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Please find the link to my licensee details.

[redacted]

[redacted] and clarification on this matter.

Warm Regards,