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Archived: June 2, 2025 11:47:38 AM
From: [redacted] Représentants [redacted]
Sent: Tue, 11 Mar 2025 19:03:44
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW Change of study level/program impact to the study permit - REP-2025-0320 - Due 28-Feb-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Good day,

[redacted] regarding the recent changes in Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) requirements and the classification of study levels at colleges. Please note that the information provided serves as general program guidance and should not be considered a directive for case-specific advice.

QUESTION

Our colleagues within the college community have been experiencing an increased amount of program change requests, especially for those who have already received the study permit extension approval. With the recent changes in the PAL requirements, we are hoping to receive some clarification on the definition of the level of studies at a college.

Please clarify whether a college graduate certificate program would be considered the same level of study as a college certificate program.

***The Graduate Certificate program requires completion of a two or three-year college diploma or a degree to be eligible for admission; the College Certificate program requires completion of Grade 12 (high school).

Further to the above, please consider the following example:

- * A study permit holder completed a one-year graduate certificate and applied for a study permit extension based on another one-year graduate certificate program (for example, Supply Chain Management – SCM program);
- * After the study permit extension and coop work permit were approved for the SCM program, the permit holder decided to change to a college certificate program (Personal Support Worker – PSW program) for the same intake/term

Please clarify whether a new study permit and coop work permit should be applied. Or can the student proceed to the PSW program with the approved study permit and coop work permit for the SCM program?

RESPONSE

IRCC categorizes levels of study into three primary groups:

1. 1. Primary and Secondary Education: Includes education from grades 1 through 12.
2. 2. Post-Secondary Education: Covers vocational and technical training, college diplomas, and undergraduate programs.
3. 3. Graduate Education and Above: Covers master's and doctoral programs.

As a result, a college graduate certificate program and a college certificate program are therefore considered different levels of study.

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Scenario 1: Study Permit Extension for a Graduate Certificate Program

- * A new PAL is required when a student completes one program and intends to start a new credential at the same DLI, even if both programs are at the same level of study.
- * The PAL exemption applies only if the student is extending their study permit to continue within the same credential (e.g., extending studies within an ongoing program rather than starting a new one).

Scenario 2: Transitioning from a Post-Graduate Diploma to a College Certificate

A transition from a post-graduate diploma to a vocational certificate (such as the PSW program) is considered a shift from graduate education to post-secondary education. As this constitutes a change in the level of study, a new PAL is required when applying for a study permit extension, along with a co-op work permit specific to the PSW program.

For more information, please refer to the official IRCC resources:

- * Provincial Attestation Letter or Territorial Attestation Letter
- * Guide 5552 - Applying to Change Conditions or Extend Your Stay in Canada as a Student
- * Changing your school or program - Canada.ca
- * Ministerial Instructions
- * Work as a co-op student or intern - Canada.ca

We trust that this information will assist you.

[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

De :
Envoyé : 30 janvier 2025 14:44
À : Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-[redacted]
Objet : - Change of study level/program impact to the study permit

Greetings!

I hope this email finds you well. I appreciate your clarifications on the following questions.

Our colleagues within the college community have been experiencing an increased amount of program change requests, especially for those who have already received the study permit extension approval. With the recent changes in the PAL requirements, we are hoping to receive some clarification on the definition of the **level of studies at a college**.

Please clarify whether a **college graduate certificate program** would be considered **the same level of study** as a **college certificate program**.

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- * After the study permit extension and coop work permit were approved for the SCM program, the permit holder decided to change to a **college certificate program** (Personal Support Worker – PSW program) for the same intake/term

Please clarify whether a new study permit and coop work permit should be applied. Or can the student proceed to the PSW program with the approved study permit and coop work permit for the SCM program?

Regards,