Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 2, 2025 11:47:53 AM
From: [redacted]
Sent: Tue, 11 Mar 2025 19:29:04
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: Distance Learning for Open Work Permit Holder - REP-2025-0610 - Due 20-03-2025
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Good day,
Please see our response to your questions.

QUESTION:

Hope this email finds you well. I was wondering if you could assist with the following question:
If a person who is currently in Canada on an Open Work Permit as an accompanying spouse of an Intra-Company Transfer Work Permit holder, can they complete an online Master's degree program with a Canadian University that only offers online degree programs (and is therefore not a DLI) without obtaining a Study Permit? The program is more than 6 months in duration.

IRCC indicates that distance learning can be through e-learning, correspondence, or internet courses. Since by definition distance learning does not require one to be in Canada, a Study Permit ***cannot be issued*** *for this type of course. For example, a foreign national who is authorized to work in Canada is prohibited from engaging in studies as per a condition of their Work Permit, they are allowed to engage in distance learning courses.*

RESPONSE:

The following activities are not considered studies for the purposes of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and do not require a study permit:

- pre-school (pre-kindergarten)
- courses of general interest or self-improvement
- distance learning
- audited courses (typically by sitting in on an academic course, but without obtaining credit for it, or having the ability to obtain credit for it retroactively)
- settlement and integration courses offered by a provincial or territorial government through settlement and integration providers (including francization courses offered by the Government of Quebec, as they are considered settlement and integration courses and not language courses by IRCC)

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Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) recognizes that long-term visitors and foreign workers may engage in occasional studies or programs of study lasting 6 months or less at any time during their stay in Canada.
We hope this information is of assistance.

[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

From:
Sent: [redacted] 20, 2025 1:43 PM
To: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-

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Representantsimmigration,IRCC [redacted]
Subject: Distance Learning for Open Work Permit Holder

[redacted]

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Thank you.