Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 2, 2025 11:55:59 AM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Tue, 11 Mar 2025 19:50:00
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: Exchange/Visiting students - REP-2025-0345 - Due 3-Mar-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Good day,

[redacted] and apologies for the delays. Please see below the approved response.

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Question:

As we are looking into some Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) exemptions, we have found conflicting information from IRCC web pages. One source is the application instruction page that applicants refer to when submitting study permit application which states

> *You **don't** need a PAL/TAL when applying for a study permit if any of the following applies to you.*
>
> *You're an exchange student studying under an exchange arrangement between your home institution and a designated learning institution (DLI) in Canada, and you don't pay tuition fees to the DLI. "*

while the other is the operation guideline page used by IRCC officers to make decisions that says

The exceptions include

"*as per subsection R215(1), study permit applicants who, after entering Canada:*

> *are a temporary resident who*
>
> *is a visiting or exchange student and is studying at a designated learning institution"*

This has left us uncertain about whether our exchange/visiting students should apply for a study permit **outside Canada with or without a PAL**.

Could you clarify the exceptions for visiting and exchange students regarding the requirement for a PAL when applying for a study permit from outside Canada?

Response:

[redacted] to [redacted] and Citizenship Canada's Immigration Representatives

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Mailbox.

This information is being provided as general program guidance; we are unable to provide case-specific advice.

Exchange students coming to Canada for less than six months **do not require** a study permit, or a PAL/TAL.

A new cap exemption was introduced on January 22, 2025 for incoming exchange students who require a study permit (e.g., full-year exchange students). Going forward in 2025, these individuals will **not** be required to include a PAL/TAL in their study permit application (previously, exchange students studying in Canada for longer, such as full-year exchange students, required both a study permit and a PAL/TAL).

The most current information **for study permit applicants** appears on the IRCC website: Study permit: Get the right documents Provincial attestation letter or territorial attestation letter - Canada.ca

Please note that the second link indicated below was for an external courtesy posting of internal instructions from October 2024; updates to this external page are in progress.

We hope this information is helpful.

[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

De :
Envoyé : 31 janvier 2025 15:45
À : Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-[redacted]
Objet : Exchange/Visiting students

Hello!

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This has left us uncertain about whether our exchange/visiting students should apply for a study permit **outside Canada with or without a PAL**.

Could you clarify the exceptions for visiting and exchange students regarding the requirement for a PAL when applying for a study permit from outside Canada?

We truly appreciate your assistance with this matter.

Thanks,