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Archived: June 2, 2025 11:57:40 AM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Thu, 13 Mar 2025 15:44:23
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] Immigration Representatives [redacted] Représentants immigration [redacted]
Subject: FW: PAL exemption clarification and level of study - REP-2025-0299 - Due 27-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.

QUESTION:
I would like to clarify the definition of level of study given to IRCC in terms of the PAL exemption for study permit extension applications.

All the programs we offer at our institution are undergraduate degrees [redacted] Bachelor's degree, Post-Degree Diplomas or Post-Baccalaureate diplomas) so could you please confirm if that if a student has changed their programs, either because they completed the first one or not, that they are **not** required to submit a PAL for their study permit extension application?

Also, we offer an English as a second language (ESL) program which would be considered as post-secondary studies, as per the below print screen. So if a student completes the ESL program at our college and change their program at the same institution to an [redacted] program [redacted] to [redacted] PAL with their change [redacted] conditions/study permit extension application?

I'm referring to the definition of level of study provided by IRCC as shown below:

"level of study"
is categorized as follows:

a. primary and secondary education,

b. post-secondary education (including vocational and technical training, and undergraduate programs), and

c. graduate education or above. (*niveau d'études*)

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RESPONSE:

If a student is applying to extend their study permit to complete a program at the same Designated Learning Institution (DLI) and at the same level of study, they do not need a new Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL). However, if they are transitioning between post-secondary levels within the same DLI, they may continue studying under their current study permit as long as they continue to meet its conditions. If they need to extend their study permit, they must submit a new Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) or Territorial Attestation Letter (TAL).
English and French as Second Language (ESL/FSL) programs are generally considered preparatory programs and are not classified under specific levels of post-secondary or graduate education. However, when ESL/FSL programs are part of Language Professional Programs (e.g., a diploma in Translation Studies), they are considered post-secondary education and fall within the same level as other diploma or degree programs.

- * If a student transitions from an ESL/FSL preparatory program to a professional diploma or degree in languages within the same Designated Learning Institution (DLI), thereby moving to post-secondary education, a PAL would be required for the study permit extension.
- * If the student is already enrolled in a post-secondary language-related program (e.g., a diploma in Translation Studies)

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and switches to another post-secondary program at the same level, a PAL would not be required.

For additional details, please refer to the following IRCC resources:

- * Changing your school or program - Canada.ca
- * Ministerial Instructions
- * Study permit: Get the right documents – Provincial Attestation Letter or Territorial Attestation Letter - Canada.ca

We trust that this information will assist you.

[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

De :
Envoyé : 29 janvier 2025 13:19
À : Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.I[redacted]
Objet : PAL exemption clarification and level of study

[redacted]

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Thank you,

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19(1)

of the Access to Information Act

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