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Archived: June 2, 2025 12:33:44 PM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Wed, 19 Mar 2025 13:16:27
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: SOWP for Spouses of Study Permit Holders - REP-2025-0456 - Due 11-Mar-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Good day,

[redacted] **Immigration Representatives Mailbox**

Please note that this mailbox is intended for general guidance and does not provide responses to case-specific inquiries but have provided the following information as guidance. If you have case specific questions about a file, you are encouraged to submit the IRCC Web form.

Please see our response to your question.

Answer:
Please note that this service provides guidance and not case-specific advice.
Please refer to to the guidance listed in on our page which you have referenced above for answers to your questions with regards to C42 extensions. If they are applying for an extension on or after January 21, 2025, they must meet the conditions listed on the webpage.
Example 2:
If the principal foreign national needs more time (for example, for their thesis) and a study permit extension is needed to complete their **current** program, spouses may still benefit from a work permit renewal, as noted above. However, the spouse's application for their work permit extension can be assessed only once the principal foreign national receives the approval of their study permit extension.
Please review the extension content listed under Eligibility as well as Documentary evidence. Spouses and common-law partners of study permit holders – [R205(c)(ii) – C42]– Canadian interest – International Mobility Program - Canada.ca

We hope this information is of assistance.

Regards,

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

From:
Sent: [redacted] 10, 2025 11:07 AM
To: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) [redacted]
Representantsimmigration.IRCC[redacted]
Subject: SOWP for Spouses of Study Permit Holders

Hello,

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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I hope my message finds you well.

Could you please clarify the information about the new C42 eligibility requirements?

Background:

1. I the announcement about the upcoming changes to the SOWP eligibility for spouses of study permit holders the following was mentioned:

> In addition, the foreign worker must also have at least 16 months remaining on their work permit at the time when their spouse applies for the [redacted] children of foreign workers will no longer be eligible.
>
> OWPs that were approved under the previous measures and have not expired will remain valid. In situations where students may need more time to complete their program or where family members received a shorter work permit than the principal applicant, in-Canada family members (including spouses and dependent children) can apply to renew their work permit as long as
>
> - they are applying under the same criteria as the current work permit, and
> - the requested duration of the renewal matches that of the existing study or work permit of the principal applicant

2. The updated manual for C42 does not mention the possibility of extending the spousal OWP after January 21, 2025, if a student needs more time to finish their program:

> The applicant must be residing in Canada and requesting a renewal duration that is the same length as the principal foreign national's **existing** study authorization. They must provide proof of an updated passport or updated biometrics, whichever expiry resulted in shortened initial work permit validity.

Question: are the spouses of international students holding a SOWP eligible to extend their SOWP if the student (the principal applicant) needs to extend their study permit because they need more time to finish the program? This often happens if a student failed pre-requisite courses, took an authorized leave or reduced their course load per term to improve their GPA.

[redacted] to your reply.

Have a great day.

Best regards,

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