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Archived: June 2, 2025 12:33:51 PM
From: [redacted] Représentants [redacted]
Sent: Wed, 19 Mar 2025 13:27:31
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: Clarification regarding OWP extension for spouses of [redacted] - REP-2025-0438 - Due 07-02-2025
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.
You can find the answers to both of your questions on our website Spouses and common-law partners of study permit holders – [R205(c)(ii) – C42]– Canadian interest – International Mobility Program - Canada.ca

The spouse must be residing in Canada and be requesting an open work permit renewal for a duration that aligns with, and does not exceed, the principal foreign national's **existing** study authorization.

Example 1:

- [redacted] spouse was [redacted] work permit [redacted] originally [redacted] for, [redacted] to [redacted] may still benefit from a work permit renewal, as noted above.

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.

Note: If the principal foreign national applies for a study permit for a new level or program of study, the spouse of the principal foreign national, noted above, is not eligible to extend their work permit under administrative code C42.

Those who do not meet the new eligibility criteria or qualify for an extension can apply for a new work permit from within Canada under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program or another stream of the International Mobility Program, if eligible.

We hope this information is of assistance.

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Regards,

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

From:
Sent: [redacted] 7, 2025 4:08 PM
To: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.IRCC[redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Clarification regarding OWP extension for spouses of College-level students

Hello,

We hope this email finds you well.

On the IRCC Website, it is stated that:

"Effective January 21, 2025, OWPs will be limited to spouses of international students who are enrolled in:

- *master's programs that are 16 months or longer*
- *doctoral programs, or*
- *select professional and eligible programs"*

*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*

Furthermore, on another IRCC webpage, it reads:

\cbpat4"Your spouse or common-law partner may be eligible to extend their existing open work permit under this stream if you meet the following requirements:

- *You have a valid study permit.*
- *You're physically in Canada or will physically be in Canada while studying.*
- *You're a full-time student enrolled in a PGWP-eligible program at a designated learning institution (DLI).*
- *You're not in the last term of your study program."*

Question 1: Can a spouse of a college student extend their existing open work permit, under the same category, if a student needs more time to complete their program?

Question2: Can a spouse of a college student extend their existing open work permit, under the same category, if a student pursues a subsequent PGWP-eligible program at the same DLI?

Sample scenario: Upon completing 1-year PGWP-eligible certificate program at Norquest College, the student is admitted to another 1-year PGWP-eligible program starting right after. They need to apply to extend their study permit to study the second program and have a spouse with them who is on a spousal open work permit. In this case, would the spouse be eligible to extend

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their existing OWP for the duration of the student's second program?

Thank you,