Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
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**Archived:** June 2, 2025 12:35:10 PM
**From:** [redacted] Représentants [redacted]
**Sent:** Thu, 20 Mar 2025 14:32:11
**To:**
**Cc:** Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
**Subject:** FW: Open Work Permit of Spouse Accompanying Study Permit Holder - REP-2025-0140- Due 11-Feb-25
**Importance:** Normal
**Sensitivity:** None

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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.

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**QUESTION:**
I am requesting your assistance in interpreting the following remark/observation placed on an open work permit, issued to an accompanying spouse of a foreign student.

**Remarks/Observations:**
ACCOMPANYING STUDY PERMIT HOLDER SPOUSE [redacted]
**NOTE: OPEN WORK PERMIT ONLY VALID WHILE SPOUSE IS A FULL-TIME ENROLLED STUDENT AT A DESIGNATED LEARNING INSTITUTION**

My understanding is that the work permit is valid for the entire period of the spouse's study permit, even if the spouse completes their studies early, or they divorce/separate.
(https://ircc.canada.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=1522&top=17)

The remark, however, seems to be conflicting with that understanding, implying that if the spouse completes their studies early, then the work permit is no longer valid even though the work permit document has not expired.

**ANSWER:**

When the spouse applies for the work permit, one of the eligibility criteria is that the principal foreign national has to be studying full time or have proof of enrolment in full-time courses at a PGWP-eligible DLI. If the open work permit is issued to the spouse, it is valid until its expiry date even if the spouse with the study permit finishes the program or even if there is a change in their marital status.

However, if the spouse's open work permit expires and they would like to extend it, they will not be able to because the eligibility criteria relating to studying will no longer be met. They will need to apply for another type of work permit.

For more information, please see: Help your spouse or common-law partner work in Canada - Canada.ca

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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[redacted] de [redacted] sur l'[redacted] l'information

[redacted]

**The Immigration Representatives Mailbox**

**De :**
**Envoyé :** 14 janvier 2025 20:43
**À :** Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.[redacted]
**Objet :** Open Work Permit of Spouse Accompanying Study Permit Holder

[redacted]

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Kind regards,