Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 2, 2025 2:37:40 PM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Fri, 21 Mar 2025 18:46:53
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: TR: Inquiry Regarding Study Permit PAL Exemption - REP-2025-0617 - Due 20-03-2025
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:

QUESTION

Who doesn't need a PAL/TAL

You don't need a PAL/TAL when applying for a study permit if any of the following applies to you:

- You've entered Canada and one of the following situations applies to you:
  - You're applying for a study permit extension at the same DLI and level of study as your current study permit.
  - You're under a removal order but can't be removed from Canada at this time.
  - You have a temporary resident permit valid for at least 6 months.
  - You're a protected person.
  - You're eligible for permanent residence:
    - based on humanitarian and compassionate grounds, or
    - based on a current public policy, or
    - as a spouse or common-law partner (through the spouse or common-law partner in Canada class).

You need to provide proof that you meet one of the above exceptions if you don't provide a PAL/TAL with your study permit application.

My question is: If an applicant has entered Canada and completed an ESL program (English as a Second Language program without any credential) at a post-secondary DLI, and upon completion of the ESL program becomes eligible to continue with an academic program at the same DLI, would this situation qualify as "same level of study" for the purposes of the PAL exemption when applying for a study permit extension?

RESPONSE

English as a Second Language (ESL) and French as a Second Language (FSL) programs are generally classified as preparatory

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programs rather than a specific post-secondary level. Transitioning from an ESL/FSL preparatory program to a post-secondary diploma, degree, or certificate program at the same Designated Learning Institution (DLI) is considered a change in study levels, meaning a PAL/TAL would be required when applying for a study permit extension.

However, if the student is already enrolled in a post-secondary language-related program (e.g., a diploma in Translation Studies) and is switching to another post-secondary program within the same level at the same DLI, a PAL/TAL would not be required.

For more details, please refer to following IRCC websites:

Changing your school or program - Canada.ca

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

From:
Sent: [redacted] 20, 2025 5:32 PM
To: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.IRCC[redacted]
Subject: Inquiry Regarding Study Permit PAL Exemption

Dear Officer,

[redacted] is

I have a question regarding the PAL exemption for study permits.

According to the IRCC website:

Who doesn't need a PAL/TAL

You don't need a PAL/TAL when applying for a study permit if any of the following applies to you:

- You've entered Canada and one of the following situations applies to you:
    - You're applying for a study permit extension at the same DLI and level of study as your current study permit.
    - You're under a removal order but can't be removed from Canada at this time.
    - You have a temporary resident permit valid for at least 6 months.
    - You're a protected person.
    - You're eligible for permanent residence:
        - based on humanitarian and compassionate grounds, or
        - based on a current public policy, or
        - as a spouse or common-law partner (through the spouse or common-law partner in Canada class).

You need to provide proof that you meet one of the above exceptions if you don't provide a PAL/TAL with your study permit application.

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My question is: If an applicant has entered Canada and completed an ESL program (English as a Second Language program without any credential) at a post-secondary DLI, and upon completion of the ESL program becomes eligible to continue with an academic program at the same DLI, would this situation qualify as "same level of study" for the purposes of the PAL exemption when applying for a study permit extension?

I would greatly appreciate your guidance on this matter.

Thank you,