Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 2, 2025 2:40:15 PM
From: [redacted] Représentants [redacted]
Sent: Tue, 25 Mar 2025 16:31:24
To
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: Level of study for PAL exemption - REP-2025-0268 -- REP-B-2025-0034 - Due 16-Apr-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.
***
Under current ministerial instructions regarding provincial or territorial attestation letters (PAL/TAL), "level of study" is categorized as follows:

a. a. primary and secondary education,
b. b. post-secondary education (including vocational and technical training, and undergraduate programs), and
c. c. graduate education or above. (*niveau d'études*)

"post-secondary education" refers to programs at the post-secondary level, regardless of whether they confer a degree, certificate or diploma.

We hope this information is helpful.

***

[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

De :
Envoyé : 11 mars 2025 18:36
À : Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.IRCC[redacted]
Objet : RE: Level of study for PAL exemption - REP-2025-0268 - Due 25-Feb-25

> **CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the Government of Canada. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.
> **ATTENTION:** Ce courriel provient de l'extérieur du gouvernement du Canada. Ne cliquez pas sur les liens et n'ouvrez pas les pièces jointes sauf si vous reconnaissez l'expéditeur et sachez que le contenu est sûr.

Thanks so much for your response! I appreciate your help!

Can you please confirm that non-certificate, non-diploma, and non-degree programs that are designated for international students to attend at the **post-secondary level** (for example, English as a Second Language (ESL), Academic [redacted] Studies) still fit within that secondary category of 'level of study':

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2. 2. Post-secondary education (including vocational and technical training, certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas, and undergraduate programs)

Thanks so much!

From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.[redacted].gc.ca>
Sent: March 11, 2025 1:38 PM
To:
Cc:[redacted] Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.I[redacted]
Representantsimmigration.[redacted]
Subject: FW: Level of study for PAL exemption - REP-2025-0268 - Due 25-Feb-25

Good day,

Please find the response to your inquiry:

Question:
This form suggests that if a student changes from a certificate to a diploma at the same DLI, they are changing their 'level of study' and must include a PAL.
However, the definition of 'level of study' in the Canada Gazette is below:

This definition suggests that a student can change from a certificate to a diploma to a degree and remain PAL exempt as long as they are not changing their DLI.

Can you please confirm which of these understandings is correct?

Response:
[redacted] to [redacted] and Citizenship Canada's Immigration Representatives Mailbox.

This information is being provided as general program guidance; we are unable to provide case-specific advice.
Under current ministerial instructions, IRCC categorizes levels of study into three distinct groups:

1. 1. Primary and secondary education
2. 2. Post-secondary education (including vocational and technical training, certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas, and undergraduate programs)
3. 3. Graduate education or above

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Since certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas, and undergraduate programs (e.g., bachelor degrees) all fall under post-secondary education, students who remain within this level while changing programs at the same institution would not require a new Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) when applying for a study permit extension. However, a PAL would be required if the student moves to a different level of study (e.g., from post-secondary to graduate education). For more information, please visit our website:
Study permit: Get the right documents Provincial attestation letter or territorial attestation letter - Canada.ca
Ministerial Instructions

We hope this information is helpful.

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[redacted]

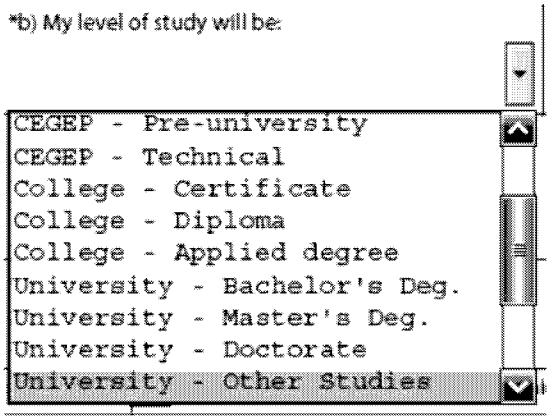
The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

De :
Envoyé : 27 janvier 2025 13:17
À : Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.[redacted].gc.ca>
Objet : Level of study for PAL exemption

Hi There,

We can see on IRCC's website that students who have entered Canada and are applying for a study permit extension at the same DLI and **level of study** as their current study permit are exempt from including a PAL in their study permit extension application. **Can you please clarify what constitutes a change in 'level of study'?**

Based on the IMM5709 form, 'level of study' is broken up as the following:



This form suggests that if a student changes from a certificate to a diploma at the same DLI, they are changing their 'level of study' and must include a PAL.

However, the definition of 'level of study' in the Canada Gazette is below:

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"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*)

This definition suggests that a student can change from a certificate to a diploma to a degree and remain PAL exempt as long as they are not changing their DLI.

Can you please confirm which of these understandings is correct?

Thank you!