Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 2, 2025 2:45:19 PM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Tue, 25 Mar 2025 19:58:33
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: TR: Level of Study - REP-2025-0458 - 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:

Question

I am looking for clarification on the PAL exemption:

"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."

From the Canada [redacted] study [redacted]

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

My question is: If a student completes a Masters program and is accepted to a PhD program at the same DLI, do they require a PAL for their study permit extension? Under IRCC's definition, Masters and PhD programs are the same level of studies and therefore should fall under the exemption. Can you please clarify if a student in this situation would require a PAL or not.

Response

According to IRCC guidelines, the levels of study are classified into three main categories:

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

Since both Master's and PhD programs fall under the category of "graduate education or above," students who remain within the same level of study while changing programs at the same institution do not require a new provincial or territorial attestation letter (PAL/TAL) when applying for a study permit extension.

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[redacted] ill n[redacted] to [redacted] proof th[redacted] m[redacted]t [redacted] [redacted]the [redacted] i[redacted] not [redacted] [redacted] P[redacted]L/T[redacted]L with their application.

For more detailed information, please refer to the following IRCC webpages: Study permits: Provincial or territorial attestation letters - Canada.ca

We trust that this information will assist you.

Sincerely,

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

From:
Sent: [redacted] 10, 2025 12:51 PM
To: Immigration Representatives [redacted] Représentants immigration [redacted]
Subject: Level of Study

Hello,

I am looking for clarification on the PAL exemption:

"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."

From the Canada [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]study [redacted]

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My question is:

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Best,

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