Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 2, 2025 2:46:00 PM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Wed, 26 Mar 2025 17:12:54
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: TR: Clarity around "Level of study" for PAL - REP-2025-0248 - Due 21-Feb-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'd like to seek clarification around the "level of study" which was included in the Canada Gazette issued on January 18, 2025. It states study permit applications that are "referred to in paragraphs 215(1)(a) and (b) of the Regulations and are presented by an applicant seeking to renew their study permit at the same designated learning institution and in the same level of study [redacted] the [redacted] study permit" are [redacted] from [redacted] the defi[redacted] f '[redacted] l [redacted] f study" is [redacted] below: **"level of study"**
is categorized as follows:

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

At Centennial College, we offer programs that will lead to degree, diploma, advance-diploma, graduate certificate, and certificate.
Can you please clarify if a PAL will be required when an **international student changes their program from one level to another within Centennial?** (e.g. a certificate to diplomat program) Or would this change PAL exempt since **this is a change within post-secondary education (bullet point "b" in above definition.)**

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

Students who remain within the same level of study while changing programs at the same institution do not require a new Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) when applying for a study permit extension. For example, if the student wishes to change from [redacted] program to [redacted] program [redacted] the [redacted] PAL [redacted] if

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the student moves to a different level of study (e.g., from post-secondary to graduate education).

When applying to extend their study permit, the applicant will need to provide proof that they meet one of the exceptions, if they don't provide a PAL with their application.

We hope this information is helpful.

[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

De :
Envoyé : 23 janvier 2025 23:31
À : Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.[redacted]
Objet : Clarity around "Level of study" for PAL

Good day,

I'd like to seek clarification around the "level of study" which was included in the Canada Gazette issued on January 18, 2025.

It states study permit applications that are "referred to in paragraphs 215(1)(a) and (b) of the Regulations and are presented by an applicant seeking to renew their study permit at the same designated learning institution and in the same level of study [redacted] the [redacted] study permit" are [redacted] from [redacted] [redacted] the [redacted] "[redacted] study" is [redacted] below:

"level of study"
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c. graduate education or above. (*niveau d'études*)

At Centennial College, we offer programs that will lead to degree, diploma, advance-diploma, graduate certificate, and certificate.

Can you please clarify if a PAL will be required when an **international student changes their program from one level to another within Centennial?** (e.g. a certificate to diplomat program) Or would this change PAL exempt since **this is a change within post-secondary education (bullet point "b" in above definition.)**

Many of us in the sector have varying interpretation of this exemption therefore I would greatly appreciate a clarification so we will not inadvertently advise students wrongly.

[redacted]

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