Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 3, 2025 7:58:01 AM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Wed, 2 Apr 2025 19:38:55
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: Request for clarification on Eligibility for a 6-Month Course under IRPR Section 188(1)(c) without a study permit - REP-A-2025-0797 -Due 17-Apr-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Good day,
[redacted] **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.
***
According to IRCC guidelines, work permit holders can study without a study permit for programs that are six months or less. The phrase "within the period for their stay authorized upon entry into Canada" refers to the validity period of their current status, which in this case is the duration of the PGWP.

Since your client is now a work permit holder with a valid PGWP, they are eligible to enroll in a study program that lasts six months or less without needing a study permit, as long as the course is completed within the validity period of their PGWP.

For more detailed information, please refer to the following IRCC webpages:

- * Immigration and Refugee Protection [redacted] 188
- * Temporary public policy to allow foreign nationals with valid work permits to study without a study permit

We trust that this information will assist you.

***

[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

From:
Sent: [redacted] 6, 2025 1:48 PM
To: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.[redacted]
Subject: Request for clarification on Eligibility for a 6-Month Course under IRPR Section 188(1)(c) without a study permit.
Importance: High

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Hello,

Good afternoon,

I kindly seek your guidance on the interpretation and real-life application of IRPR section 188(1)(c), particularly as it applies to foreign nationals in Canada who have transitioned from one status to another.

188 (1) A foreign national may study in Canada without a study permit:

1. 1. if they are a family member or a member of the private staff of a foreign representative who is properly accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and who is in Canada to carry out official duties as a diplomatic agent, consular officer, representative or official of a country other than Canada, of the United Nations or any of its agencies or of any international organization of which Canada is a member;
2. 2. as a member of the armed forces of a country that is a designated state for the purposes of the Visiting Forces Act, including a person who has been designated as a civilian component of those armed forces.
3. 3. if the duration of their course or program of studies is six months or less and will be completed within the period for their stay authorized upon entry into Canada; or
4. 4. if they are an Indian.

IRCC website further indicates that:

IRCC recognizes that long-term visitors and foreign workers may engage in occasional studies or programs of study lasting 6 months or less at any time during their stay in Canada.- Source

My client has recently received a 3 Post Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) after successfully completing his studies in Canada. He is planning to pursue a 5-month course in coming months.

Under section 188(1)(c), it appears he is allowed to enroll in a program of study that lasts 6 months or less; however, the phrase "within the period for their stay authorized upon entry into Canada" raises some questions in his case.

Specifically, since my client initially entered Canada as a student and has now extended his status as a worker through the PGWP, we seek confirmation on whether he remains eligible to study a 6-month course under this provision of R 188(1)(c).

Could you please provide precise guidance on whether the exemption under section 188(1)(c) applies to his situation?

We appreciate your time and assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,

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is withheld pursuant to section

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19(1)

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