Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada | Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 3, 2025 8:05:37 AM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Thu, 3 Apr 2025 14:09:46
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: question regarding activation of study or work permits taking into consideration flagpole changes - REP-2025-0045- Due 4-Feb-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.
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1. [redacted] visas for those [redacted] are [redacted] to [redacted] for [redacted] visa from [redacted] study permit and work permit holders. A visa does not grant status in Canada – it just allows the holder to travel. https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/apply-new-temporary-resident-visa-within-canada.html

2. 2. Applicants seeking study permits or work permits who have used the in-Canada application process will have their permit mailed to the address mailed to the address on file. Applicants who have followed the instructions to apply for a study permit or work permit from outside Canada will receive a port of entry letter of introduction if their application is approved. If they're in Canada when they receive their letter of introduction, they must leave the country to activate the study or work permit. They will not be able to activate the study or work permit if they choose to re-enter from the U.S. or Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon unless they are specifically exempt.
   - * Work permit: After you apply - Canada.ca
   - * Study permit: After you apply - Canada.ca

3. 3. The changes surrounding who can apply at a port of entry were put into place on December 23, 2024 and they apply to anyone visiting a port of entry after that date. For more information: Ending flagpoling for work and study permits at the border - Canada.ca.

4. 4. Applicants may submit their passport to any visa application centre. It is advisable for the applicant to be in the same country as the visa application centre.

5. 5. Applicants seeking a study permit or work permit using the outside of Canada process will receive a port of entry letter of introduction if their application is approved. The letter of introduction is to be presented upon entry to Canada (or re-entry if they were previously in Canada). Applicants are not required to return to their home country specifically, but they will not be able to activate the study or work permit if they choose to re-enter from the U.S. or Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon unless they are specifically exempt.

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[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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De :
Envoye : 7 janvier 2025 15:57
À : Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.IRCC[redacted]gc.ca>
Objet : question regarding activation of study or work permits taking into consideration flagpole changes

Dear Sir or Madam

Could you please help us to answer these questions regarding the activation of study or work permits.

For those applicants physically present in Canada, who submitted an online application for study permit to be processed outside of Canada, changing status from visitors to students after entering Canada with an eTA or a TRV

Taking into consideration the recent changes with flagpoling, is it possible to do the following? :
1)
For those applicants from visa required countries.
[redacted] for [redacted] the TRV [redacted] their [redacted] [redacted] their passport, [redacted] their passport to the TRV Visa Section
CPC-Ottawa (e-Application) in Ottawa?

2)
For both, those applicants from Visa required countries or those from visa exempt. Once they receive an electronic approval of the study permits in our portal, is it possible to request that the orginal study permit document to their home address inside Canada?

3) These would apply for applicants that submitted their application before or after the changes in flagpoling?

4) if the answer is no to questions # 1
would it be necessary that the applicants send their passport to their country of birth/origin for the stamping of their TRV counterfoil in their passport?

5) If the answer is no to question #2 do the applicants need to return to their home country and return to enter Canada through a POE Port of Entry in order to obtain their original study permit document and get it activated?

Thanks in advance for your consideration and your time in responding to our questions,

I am attaching the link to the changes published on the cic website as a reference

https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2024/12/ending-flagpoling-for-work-and-study-permits-at-the-border.html

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Ending flagpoling for work and study permits at the border

From: Canada [redacted] Services [redacted]

News release

December 23, 2024
[redacted]

As announced by the Government of Canada as part of Canada's Border Plan, work and study permits will no longer be provided to flagpolers at a port of entry, effective December 23 at 11:59 pm ET.

Flagpoling occurs when foreign nationals who hold temporary resident status in Canada, leave Canada and, after a visit to the United States or St. Pierre and Miquelon, re-enter to access immigration services at a port of entry.

This practice has taken up significant resources at the border, diverting Canadian and American officers away from important enforcement activities and has contributed to wait times for cross-border travellers.

Immigration services at the border are meant for individuals arriving in Canada, not for those [redacted] i[redacted] and [redacted] for work [redacted] study permits [redacted] to be submitted through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Those who attempt to flagpole for a work and study permit will be told to submit their application to IRCC unless they meet limited exemptions.

These changes benefit Canada and the U.S. by allowing both countries to effectively manage border operations and maintain the integrity of our shared border.

Sincerely,

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19(1)

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