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Archived: June 3, 2025 9:15:28 AM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Tue, 8 Apr 2025 14:10:34
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: Clarification Needed on Work Eligibility for Students Changing Programs Between Semesters - REP-A-2025-0792 -Due 16-Apr-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Good Day,

Response:

If a student **did not complete** their previous program, they can only start working once their new study program starts.

Students who have completed a program of study and will be starting a new program of study within 150 days of receiving a written confirmation of program completion from their current institution may work off campus on a full-time basis until the start of their new program if the following applies:

- they meet the eligibility criteria to work off campus [R186(v)]
- they have received written confirmation of program completion from their current institution (for instance, a transcript or an official letter)
- they have submitted an application to change conditions, extend their stay or remain in Canada as a student before their current study permit expired, or they still have a valid study permit
- they have been issued a letter of acceptance to a subsequent program of full-time study at a DLI and will be starting the new program within 150 calendar days of receiving a notification of program completion from their current institution

[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

From:
Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 8:11 PM
To: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.[redacted]
Subject: Clarification Needed on Work Eligibility for Students Changing Programs Between Semesters

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[redacted]

My name is

I am writing to confirm whether students are permitted to work based on their study permit during the summer [redacted] change programs [redacted] the [redacted] this [redacted] to [redacted] were [redacted]

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in a previous program, such as Associate of Science program and Post Graduate Business Program, from January to April and will be full-time students in a new program such as the Health Care Assistant diploma program starting from September 2. I hope you understand that my priority is to help prevent any situation that could negatively impact students' future immigration applications or compliance.

According to IRCC Operational Manual:

[redacted] **not** [redacted] **from** [redacted]

During any leave from studies, including school closures, study permit holders cannot work on campus or off campus, as they are not considered to be full-time students, are not on a regularly scheduled break and, therefore, do not meet the requirements of paragraph R186(f) or (v).

....

Examples of reasons for leave include but are not limited to the following:

- * medical illness or injury
- * pregnancy
- * family emergency
- * death or serious illness of a family member
- * change in program of study within the same institution, outside a regularly scheduled break
- * dismissals or suspensions (dependent on degree of severity)
- * postponed program start date (see Deferred enrolment for more information)"

From this, **it seems that a regularly scheduled break is not considered a leave if students change programs** around that time. It could suggest that students are allowed to work during a regularly scheduled break when changing programs.

However, the IRCC website also states that the scheduled break is related to the program a student is enrolled by saying "If your program doesn't have scheduled breaks, You can work up to 24 hours per week." This implies that the scheduled break is tied to the program in which the student is enrolled. Therefore, what would be the student's enrolment status be during the summer if they are changing programs? They have withdrawn from the previous program and have not yet started the new program, as they are between the two semesters. To be eligible to work, the student would need to be enrolled in a study program which is at least 6 months long and has already started.

Additionally, according to IRCC, students who **have completed** their previous program and will start a new program within 150 days would be eligible to work full-time during the gap, provided they meet certain conditions.

With all the above information, we feel somewhat confused about the work eligibility for students changing programs within our institution.

I truly appreciate your support in helping us gain clarity.

Thanks as always for your kind support!

Best regards,

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is withheld pursuant to section

est retenue en vertu de l'article

19(1)

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