Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
Information disclosed under the Access to Information Act
L'information divulguée en vertu de la loi sur l'accès à l'information

Archived: June 2, 2025 10:16:04 AM
From: [redacted] Representatives / Représentants [redacted] (I [redacted]
Sent: Wed, 5 Feb 2025 14:14:09
To:
Cc: [redacted] Representat[redacted]s [redacted]
Subject: TR: Definition of "same level" for new PAL requirement - REP-2025-0277 - Due 25-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
Further to the recent announcement that a new PAL is required for those who are studying at the same institution but will register in a different education level, could you clarify if those who are studying at a college for programs that issue certificates, diplomas, and advanced diplomas would all be considered studying at the same level (ie undergraduate category) and would therefore be exempt from applying for another PAL if they were to change their programs in between these categories at the same institution?

RESPONSE:
Based on the recent 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

Since certificates, diplomas, and advanced diplomas all fall under post-secondary education, students who remain within this level while changing programs at the same institution would not require a new Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) when applying for a study permit extension. However, a PAL would be required if the student moves to a different level of study (e.g., from post-secondary to graduate education).
For more information, please visit our website:
Study permit: Get the right documents Provincial attestation letter or territorial attestation letter - Canada.ca
Ministerial Instructions

We trust that this information will assist you.

[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

De :

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
Information disclosed under the Access to Information Act
L'information divulguée en vertu de la loi sur l'accès à l'information

Envoyé : 27 janvier 2025 18:14
À : Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.[redacted].gc.ca>
Objet : Definition of "same level" for new PAL requirement

Dear Officer,

Further to the recent announcement that a new PAL is required for those who are studying at the same institution but will register in a different education level, could you clarify if those who are studying at a college for programs that issue certificates, diplomas, and advanced diplomas would all be considered studying at the same level (ie undergraduate category) and would therefore be exempt from applying for another PAL if they were to change their programs in between these categories at the same institution?

[redacted] and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,