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From:
Sent: May 20, 2025 12:12:42 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Clarification on continuing education of short-term program and SP requirements
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

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Good afternoon,
I was hoping that you could clarify some information on study permit and PAL requirements in the following scenarios given the guidelines and regulation 188(1)(c) for short-term courses:

> **Short-term courses [R188(1)(c)]**
> Foreign nationals may enter Canada or remain in Canada without a study permit to attend a course or program of study of 6 months' duration or less [R188(1)(c)]. This exemption helps to facilitate access to short-term courses, regardless of their subject matter. The course or program of study may be part-time or full-time and should be completed within the period authorized upon entry (that is, up to 6 months).
>
> **Subsequent course or program of study**
> Generally, foreign nationals in Canada without a study permit wishing to enrol in a subsequent course or program of study must apply outside Canada and obtain a study permit in the normal manner (for example, at a Canadian visa office abroad).
> Foreign nationals without a study permit will not be granted an extension of their authorized stay as a visitor simply for the purpose of completing a short-term course or program of less than 6 months that would last beyond their original authorized period of stay. Paragraph R188(1)(c) is not intended to allow a foreign national to complete an entire program without a study permit by taking required program courses one at a time. 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.
> It is therefore recommended that foreign nationals be encouraged to apply for a study permit for a short-term course or program of study if they intend to apply for another program afterwards or work on the campus of the university or college at which they are a full-time student. Section R215 provides an exemption to allow certain foreign nationals to apply for a study permit after entry to Canada.

Here are the scenarios:

- * International Students that are in Canada on a valid study permit and are completing their 4-year undergraduate (bachelor's) degree in [redacted] have been accepted into Graduate Diploma that is 4 months long (i.e., less than 6-month program) starting in May of that same year. To be admitted into the program, they must have completed certain courses at the undergraduate level (at any institution). Their current study permit will expire before the end of the Graduate Diploma program.
  - * Scenario 1:
    - * Students will be studying at the same DLI as their undergraduate degree.
    - * Students will also apply for their PGWP sometime after the Graduate Diploma program has started.
    - * Questions:
      - * Is a study permit required, given that the Graduate Diploma program is less than 6 months?
      - * If a study permit is required, is a PAL required if they are going from an undergraduate program to a Graduate Diploma program (i.e., not a Masters or Phd)? Please confirm if Diplomas and Certificates are considered post-secondary level or graduate level for the

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purposes of PAL requirements.

- * Scenario 2:
  - * Student is completing their undergraduate degree at a different DLI.
  - * Student will also apply for their PGWP sometime after the Graduate Diploma program has started.
  - * Question:
    - * Is a study permit required, given that the Graduate Diploma program is less than 6 months, but is being complete right after they completed their undergrad degree?
    - * If a study permit is required, we understand a PAL would be needed since it is a change of DLI
- * Scenario 3:
  - * Student has a valid PGWP which would be valid for the full duration of the Graduate Diploma program.
  - * Student would begin the Graduate Diploma program 8-12 months after finishing their undergraduate degree.
    - * Is a study permit required, given that the Graduate Diploma program is less than 6 months?
    - * If a study permit is required, we understand a PAL would be needed since they are not applying for a Study Permit extension (as per the PAL guidelines)

Thank you in advance for your assistance.
All the best,