



April 23, 2020

COVID Update

CBIE is in close communication with senior IRCC officials, in coordination with other national associations, to highlight the various ways that the COVID-19 crisis is impacting the immigration status of and policies pertaining to international students and faculty. Working closely with our Immigration Advisory Committee, CBIE is also seeking clarification of rapidly evolving immigration policies within a very fluid and ever-changing environment.

As we receive clarifications, we will share these with our members. We encourage you to also monitor the Government of Canada publications regarding COVID-19. These are being reviewed and updated on a regular basis:

- [Special measures to help temporary and permanent residents and applicants affected by the novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Temporary Resident COVID-19 program delivery](#)
- [New Measures for COVID-19 Response](#)
- [IRCC Twitter](#)

COVID Update from IRCC – April 23, 2020

- Q1. Will there be extensions or implied status allowances for international students whose study or work permit will expire in the coming weeks but that are:**
- i. Unable to obtain a new passport from their embassy in Canada.**
 - ii. Unable to travel to their home country to get biometrics or apply for a new passport.**
 - iii. Unable to access documents needed to apply for a new permit from their educational institution.**
 - iv. Unable to access biometrics within the current 90 day period.**
- Q2. Will IRCC accept electronic, unofficial transcripts, as many CDN institutions are not able to issue official transcripts at this time?**
- Q5. To what extent can a study permit application be processed in the absence, or in anticipation, of a CAQ? In other words, if a student has submitted an otherwise complete applications, but has not yet received a decision regarding the CAQ, will their applications be processed before a decision has been rendered?**

IRCC is not currently in a position to waive any requirements or to accept alternative documents.

IRCC acknowledges the challenges that applicants are facing with regards to submitting complete

applications. International students in Canada are advised to apply online to extend their status before it expires, thus triggering implied status and allowing them to continue studying and/or working (subject to the same conditions listed on their expired work or study permit) while their extension is being processed. Applications should include an explanatory note detailing the circumstances that are beyond their control and DLIs should be prepared to provide letters of support and/or accompanying documentation.

No application will be refused if incomplete, however, required documents must be submitted within the 90 days. Applications should include an explanatory note detailing the circumstances that are beyond their control and DLIs should be prepared to provide letters of support and/or accompanying documentation.

Q8. Could you please clarify that the requirement to be approved for a study permit before starting online classes overseas is required only in relation to the length of study contributing to PGWP Programme eligibility?

Q9. Additionally, could you clarify that students who are overseas are not prohibited from starting their studies and studying abroad (online) without being in possession of a valid study permit/approval?

Students who are overseas are not prohibited from starting their studies and studying online (from abroad) with being in possession of a valid study permit approval. A study permit, or a study permit approval, is required, however, in relation to their studies contributing to PGWP programme eligibility.

Q14. Students whose SP was expired as of March 18th but had an active extension application (held an implied status). Once their extension is approved (i.e. after March 18) will they be allowed into Canada?

No, they will not be allowed into Canada as they fall outside the exemptions in relation to the Quarantine Act.

Q18. Can you confirm that international students that are now part-time or not registered for the winter semester (due to COVID 19) keep their right to work on or off-campus and for the entire summer break? (subject to authorized number of hours should they have been full-time students)

Q19. If a student has to withdraw from coursework completely due to covid-19, and remains in Canada, will the 150 day maximum gap in studies still apply? For example, if a student withdraws now, and cannot return to classes until September 2020, this will exceed 150 days. Will s/he have to change her/his status to a visitor if leaving Canada is not an option?

Q20. Will there be exemptions for students who are unable to complete required components of their studies and have to extend their study permits (because of COVID-19) but

who may not meet the other criteria of their study permit (i.e. financial, 150 days)? For example, if a student is unable to complete the practical components of their education, can they extend their study permits until they are able to physically return to class to meet specific practical program requirements?

International students now part-time or not registered for subsequent semesters due to reasons related to COVID-19 that are beyond their control can continue to work on or off-campus subject to the same number of authorized hours (Please note the exemptions to limits on number of hours for essential services.) If the summer period was to be a regularly scheduled break, students can work full-time, if it was to be an academic session, they can continue to work off campus up to 20 hours a week.

International students in Canada are advised to apply online to extend their status before it expires, thus triggering implied status and allowing them to continue studying and/or working (subject to the same conditions listed on their expired work or study permit) while their extension is being processed. Applications should include an explanatory note detailing the circumstances that are beyond their control and DLIs should be prepared to provide letters of support and/or accompanying documentation.

Q28. Will international students and temporary foreign workers who access the social assistance (i.e. Canada Emergency Response Benefit) still be eligible to apply for PGWP or PR status in the future?

Accessing CERB would not act as a barrier to a student qualifying for PR in the future.