



Canadian Bureau for
International Education
Bureau canadien de
l'éducation internationale

April 29, 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](#)

Update April 29, 2020 – IRCC responses to K-12 Sector Questions c/o CAPS-i

Q. Can you please comment on the potential travel exceptions for natural parent/ guardians of a minor in Canada with a valid study permit?

A. Foreign Nationals reuniting with an immediate family member who lives in Canada but is not a Canadian citizen or permanent resident are exempt from the travel restrictions. They do, however, need to obtain authorization from IRCC to serve as evidence that they meet this exemption to be able to board a flight. To do so, they need to submit a request to IRCC at: IRCC.COVID-TravelExemptions-Exemptionsdevoyage-COVID.IRCC@cic.gc.ca. In addition to this authorization, these foreign nationals need to hold either a valid temporary resident visa or electronic travel authorization (eTA).

If they do not already have a visa or an eTA, they will need to apply for one. More information can be found in the link below:

https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-covid19/travel-restrictions-exemptions.html#family_member

Q. Visa Extension for Accompanying Parent of Minor International Students

It is our understanding that students holding valid study permits issued prior to March 18th will be able to re-enter Canada after summer break in order to continue with their studies. However, many elementary-age international students are accompanied by/live with a natural parent (often) mom who typically has a visitor visa. If the parent leaves the country and there isn't a change to border closures, will they also be able to return if accompanying their child who is a minor with a Study Permit?

A. For foreign nationals travelling from any other country than the US to be eligible under the family reunification exemption:

- they must self-identify and obtain written authorization from IRCC at IRCC.COVID-TravelExemptions-Exemptionsdevoyage-COVID.IRCC@cic.gc.ca
- there must be two or more foreign nationals who are immediate family members of each other, and the officer authorizing one or more of them to travel to Canada to allow them to be reunited

As such, whether the minor child and parent are travelling together to Canada for non-discretionary purposes or whether the minor child is already in Canada and the parent is travelling to reunite with the minor child, both are covered under this exemption.

Foreign nationals travelling from the US do not require written authorization, but they must also demonstrate they are travelling for a non-discretionary purpose, which includes, among others: showing appropriate documentation to enter Canada to work, study or land as a permanent resident, and entering Canada for the purposes of taking up full-time residence in Canada (this applies to prospective permanent residents as well as temporary residents who are seeking entry to Canada to live with immediate family members).

More information can be found in the link below:

https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-covid19/travel-restrictions-exemptions.html#family_member

Q. Would IRCC accept of virtual notarization of custodianship documents that need to accompany new study permit applications overseas or renewals from within Canada?

A. At this time IRCC cannot accept virtual notarization of custodianship documents. Clients who cannot submit the required custodianship documents may upload a document when submitting a study permit application, and they can include a supporting letter explaining why they are unable to provide the required documents. During the covid pandemic, applications will not be refused for not having the custodianship documents. Once the client has the required documents, they can submit them, and the application can continue to be processed.

If a minor is in Canada and is applying for an extension, they will benefit from implied status and will continue to be eligible to attend school. Once the client has the required custodianship documents, they can submit them, and the application can continue to be processed.

Q. There is a requirement to provide proof of academic standing from institution to renew study permit. In the case of K-12 schools, sharing student transcripts by email is considered a breach of privacy. Would IRCC waive this requirement for k-12 applicants or accept a letter from the registrar?

A. If a student at the k-12 level would like to renew their study permit but they are unable to obtain transcripts, IRCC would require proof of the last grade they successfully completed in primary/secondary education and the year. This information could be submitted from the school registrar and would not require transcripts. If students are applying for post-secondary, IRCC would require confirmation that they graduated High School.

Q. Is it possible to allow for an extension to approved visas for short term groups who would like to postpone and travel to a later date? This would avoid the group having to re-apply again with all documentation and pay fees for a 2nd time.

A. At this time, these students will have to re-apply with all documentation and pay the associated fees. If there are any changes to this guidance, it will be posted on our external website.