



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

COVID Update from IRCC – January 19, 2021

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](#)

Students – Work: COVID-19 program delivery

Ottawa, January 19, 2021—

This section contains policy, procedures and guidance used by IRCC staff. It is posted on the department's website as a courtesy to stakeholders.

Students were allowed to work in the spring and summer semesters 2020, even if COVID-19 had forced them to become a part-time student or to take a break in their studies.

As of September 1, 2020, students must be a full-time, enrolled at a DLI and meet all [on-campus](#) and [off-campus](#) work eligibility requirements in order to work in Canada.

Co-op work permit

Outside Canada

Students who are outside of Canada can work while their study permit and co-op work permit are being processed. If their school and employer agree, they can either

- accept a Canadian work placement and begin working remotely from their home country
- work for a company in their home country

Inside Canada

Students who are already in Canada, and have applied for a co-op work permit, may begin their co-op placement using their [on-campus](#) and [off-campus](#) work authorization, provided they meet all the eligibility requirements.

Students may work full-time on the campus of the university or college at which they are a full-time student per [\[R186\(f\)\]](#). For off-campus work authorization per [\[R186\(v\)\]](#), students can work a total of 20 hours per week during an academic term/semester, including both the hours for co-op and the hours for their regular paid job (if they have one). They can work full-time during scheduled breaks in the school year.

However, if the co-op application is refused, they must stop working immediately.