

# Immigration, Refugee, Citizenship (IRCC)

## General FAQ for Faculty and Staff

Langara Global

DLI O19319074622

### **Are students required to maintain full-time status? What happens if they are not full-time in an academic semester?**

The definition of full-time or part-time status varies depending on the educational institution. A study permit may be issued whether their studies are full-time or part-time, as long as they are enrolled at a Designated Learning Institution (DLI). The condition that study permit holders must “actively pursue studies” does not require students to be enrolled on a full-time basis. However, students must maintain full-time status during regular academic semesters, except during a scheduled break, if eligible, to work on and/or off campus and to qualify for a Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) after completing their program.

### **Why do students insist they need to get into a particular course to be full-time?**

Students seek full-time status because maintaining continuous full-time enrollment is required to be eligible for a PGWP. In addition, full-time status allows students to work on and/or off campus while pursuing their studies.

### **True or false: non-credit English courses don't count toward maintaining legal international student status.**

False. Although certain courses offered at Langara do not carry university-transferable credits, they may still carry Langara credits. A Regular Studies student registered in a non-UT 3 credit course (i.e. ENGL 1107) will be considered a full-time student if they are also registered in at least 6 additional credits, for a total of 9 credits. According to Langara's definition, Regular Studies students registered in at least 9 credits per semester are considered full-time. Maintaining legal international student status requires students to hold valid immigration documents, comply with conditions on immigration documents, be enrolled at a DLI and be actively enrolled, making progress towards program completion.

### **Can students change their program of study after they've begun their studies at Langara?**

It depends. This may be complex from an immigration perspective, depending on the student's situation. If a student asks about changing their program, refer them to Langara Global to speak with an International Student Coordinator (ISC) for guidance.

### **What should a student do if they wish to change their Designated Learning Institution (DLI)?**

Starting November 8, 2024, international students must be enrolled in the DLI listed on their study permit. Students can no longer change DLI's by simply notifying IRCC through their online account. [To change DLI's](#) they must apply for a new study permit, with the new Letter of Acceptance (LOA) by applying to extend their current one.

### **Is a student allowed to travel back to their home country during their program?**

Yes. According to Immigration Regulations, international students may return home or travel outside Canada during their studies. However, students must abide by Langara College policies and fulfill course requirements if they choose to travel while courses are in session. Students are encouraged to travel during intersession and/or scheduled breaks. Before traveling, students should ensure they have a valid travel document (TRV or eTA) and a valid study permit to re-enter Canada as a student. It is recommended that students obtain a confirmation of enrollment letter by emailing [records@langara.ca](mailto:records@langara.ca), to demonstrate they are actively pursuing studies.

### **What is a scheduled break?**

A scheduled break is defined differently for both Regular Studies students and Continuing Studies.

**Regular Studies:** Students may take 0-2 classes (less than 9 credits) or remain a full-time student (9 credits or more) during the scheduled break. Depending on the program, a scheduled break must be taken within a 12-month period, either in the Fall (September to December), Spring (January to April) or Summer (May to August) semester. Students must remain enrolled as a full-time student in the semester *preceding* and the semester *following* the scheduled break. Students on Academic Suspension are not eligible for a scheduled break. Each scheduled break must not exceed four consecutive months and students are not eligible to work full-time if the institution allows for back-to-back scheduled breaks. Taking into account reading breaks and the winter holiday, students may only work off campus on a full-time basis for no longer than five months during each calendar year.

**Continuing Studies:** This means a student can study part time, full time, or take the semester off if the program is eligible for a scheduled break. Students eligible for a scheduled break must remain enrolled as a

full-time student in the semester *preceding* the semester and *following* the break.

### **Does IRCC consider on-line courses as part of the full-time course load?**

Yes, as long as a student is registered for 9 or more credits (Regular Studies) in a semester, they are considered a full-time student at Langara during that semester, regardless of the method of course delivery. However, IRCC requires that students complete more than 50% of their program through in person instruction.

### **A student says he needs to pass a course because his study permit expires next semester, so he can't repeat the course. Is this true?**

False. International students can extend their study permit in order to continue their studies. Students can visit the Langara Global website to request a study permit extension letter. After receiving the letter, they can complete an online application and submit the required document to IRCC for review. However, submitting a complete study permit extension application to IRCC does not guarantee approval of the student's study permit extension application. The final decision rests with the Immigration Officer processing the application.

### **Will students get deported if they fail a course?**

No. While failing a course may put a student at risk of academic probation or suspension, it will not, by itself, result in the student being deported. However, poor academic standing may negatively affect an international student's immigration status. Students concerned about this impact can be referred to Langara Global to speak with an ISC. The ISC can provide information related to immigration regulations and discuss options with the student.



## What is a PGWP?

The Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) Program allows students who have graduated from a recognized Canadian post-secondary institution to gain valuable Canadian work experience. If approved, this work permit gives international students the opportunity to remain in Canada and work full-time for up to three years, depending on the length and type of program completed. Students who complete an approved 2-year program on a continuous full-time basis are typically eligible for up to 3-year PGWP. For many students, the PGWP may also serve as the next step in the process toward permanent residency.

## What are PGWP eligible programs?

On October 4, 2024, IRCC announced new policies regarding Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) eligibility international students. Students enrolled in programs that are not PGWP-eligible, will not qualify for a PGWP upon completing their studies. For a list of [PGWP-Eligible Programs at Langara College](#), please visit the Langara Global website. We encourage students to review the eligibility requirements and application process on the [IRCC website](#). For further advising, students should be referred to Langara Global.

## A student asked me to write a letter of invitation for their family member(s) to visit Canada. What is that and should I be writing one for the student?

A *letter of invitation* may be required by IRCC from an individual who is applying for a visitor visa to come to Canada. This letter must be written by the person in Canada whom the visitor plans to visit. Therefore, the only person who should be writing such a letter is the student the family member is coming to visit. Students can find detailed information on what to include in the Letter of Invitation on the [IRCC website](#). They may request a confirmation of enrollment letter from the registrar's office to prove they are a current Langara student.

## What is the process of study permit to permanent residency (PR)? How long does it take?

There are several permanent residency categories that international students may qualify for, including *Canadian Experience Class*, *Federal Skilled Worker Program*, and the *Provincial Nominee Program*. Some of these categories require or prioritize Canadian education and work experience. As a result, many individuals begin their journey toward PR by first studying in Canada. The higher the level of education completed and the higher the level of employment attained, the stronger a PR application may be. Therefore, it is critical for international students wishing to apply for PR to focus on academic success. Successful studies may lead to receiving a PGWP, which allows graduates to gain the Canadian work experience often required to qualify for PR. This process takes time. In some cases, it can take students 6 to 8 years from the start of their studies in Canada to obtaining permanent residency.

More information and details on the above and other immigration-related topics can be found on the [IRCC website](#) or on the [Langara Global Immigration Resource page](#).

Employees and students with any immigration-related questions are encouraged to contact a Regulated Immigration Consultant (RCIC) or Advisor (RISIA) in the Langara Global Office (Room A107) or email [international@langara.ca](mailto:international@langara.ca).