

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.

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, to demonstrate they are actively pursuing studies.

What if a student gets on probation or suspension? How does it affect their immigration status? A student's immigration status is typically not affected if they are placed on academic probation. Students on probation can continue to study as usual. However, if a student is suspended from the College, it may affect their ability to remain in Canada, depending on what they choose to do while they are suspended from Langara. Students in this situation still have options to remain in Canada and should be referred to Langara Global to speak with an ISC to discuss these options further.

An international student may request and be granted an Authorized Leave for up to 150 days under extenuating or unforeseen circumstances, such as medical reasons or family emergencies etc. The student must first discuss their request with an ISC at Langara Global. Upon review of the request, the student will receive a letter to support their Authorized Leave for immigration purposes. Obtaining this letter does not exempt students from their responsibility to comply with IRCC's rules and regulations. Students should be directed to Langara Global for further guidance. For more information regarding Authorized Leave, please visit the [IRCC website](#).

No. Students who qualify to work off-campus while they are studying should have the appropriate remarks on their Study Permits to authorize them to work without a Work Permit. Therefore, students should not be requiring any official letter from Langara to apply for a Work Permit to work off-campus while they are studying.

No. According to IRCC as of April 2026 students are not required to apply for a separate work permit if a co-op, work experience, internship, or practicum is an integral part of their studies. To qualify to students must have the “on campus” work authorization to work as a condition on their study permit. Please refer to the [Immigration Resource](#) page for more information.

According to IRCC regulations, international students in Canada with a valid study permit, who meet the eligibility criteria may work off-campus for up to **24 hours per week** during regular academic semesters. They may work **full-time** during scheduled breaks, such as winter or summer holidays and spring break, provided they meet the eligibility requirements for [Off-Campus Work](#).

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 Immigration Resources 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.