### STUDY PERMITS

## Everything you need to know

September 2020













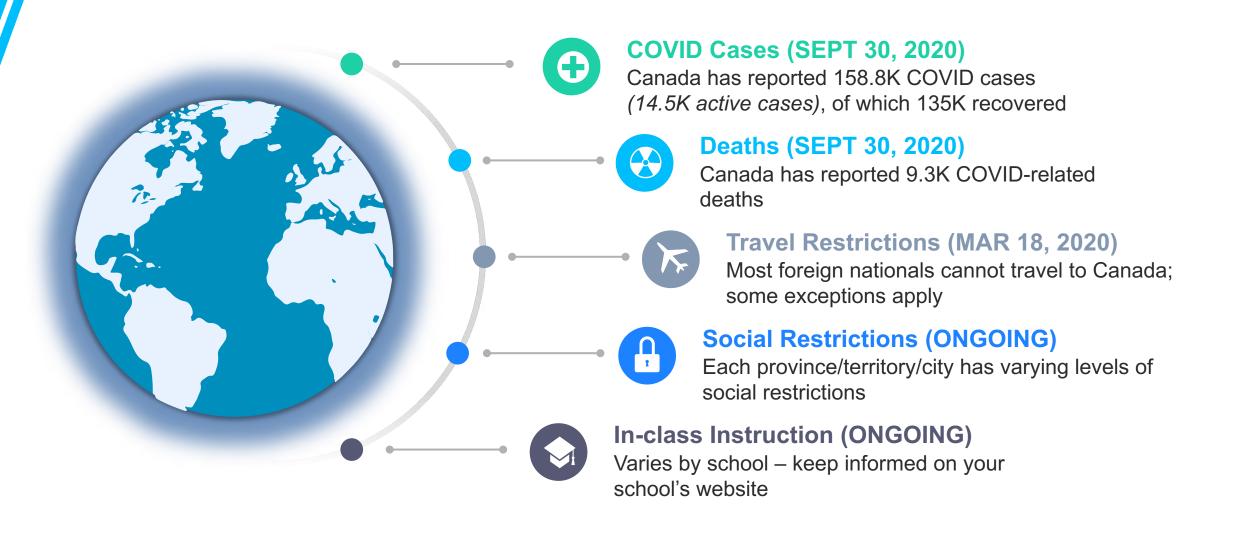








### **COVID** Situation in Canada





# Study Permit Basics

02



### What is a Study Permit?



#### Who?

Most foreign nationals require a study permit



#### Length

Generally required before travelling to Canada if you intend to study for more than six months



#### Institution

The educational institution must be a "Designated Learning Institution" (DLI)



#### **Program**

Some learning activities are exempt from requiring a study permit





# Activities not Requiring a Study Permit

01

Pre-school And Kindergarten 02

Selfimprovement Courses 03

General Interest Courses

04

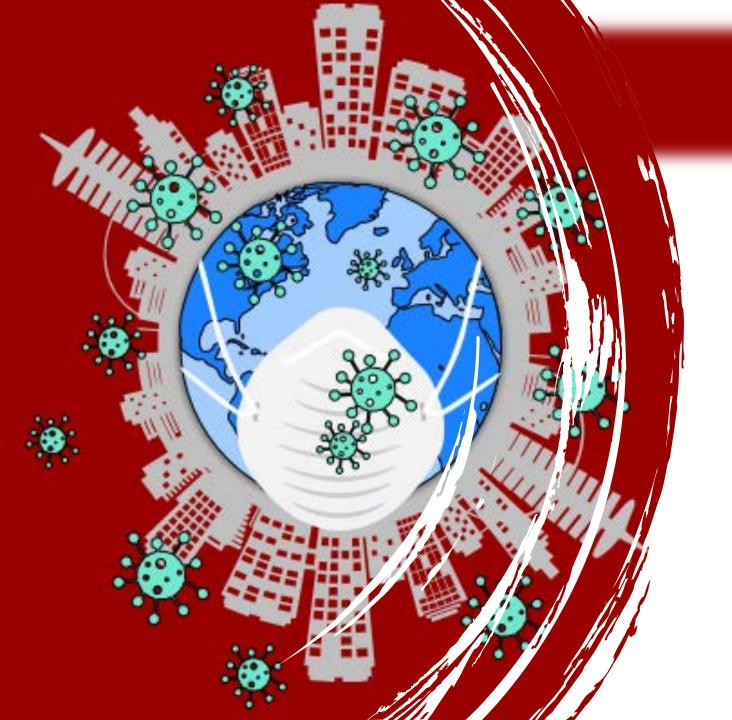
Audited Courses

05

**Employment Training** 

06

Studies < 6 months



#### **Virtual Studies (online)**

A study permit is required if:

- 1. You will partially complete your studies virtually as a result of COVID-related closures, and,
- 2. Your program is > 6 months in duration

You can begin virtual studies if you receive a "Stage 1 Eligibility Letter"

### Study Permit vs. Visa/eTA

Study Permit
Validity

Duration of Studies + 90 days

Biometric enrollment required

Long-term studies

Extensions possible

Co-op/internships

Some work privileges

Visa/eTA included

Processing time ≤ 60 days

\$150 + \$85

Visa

**Validity** 

**Varies** 

Biometric enrollment required

Short-term studies (< 6 months)

No extensions possible

No work privileges

Processing time ≤ 14 days

\$100 + \$85

eTA

**Validity** 

**Varies** 

Biometric enrollment not required

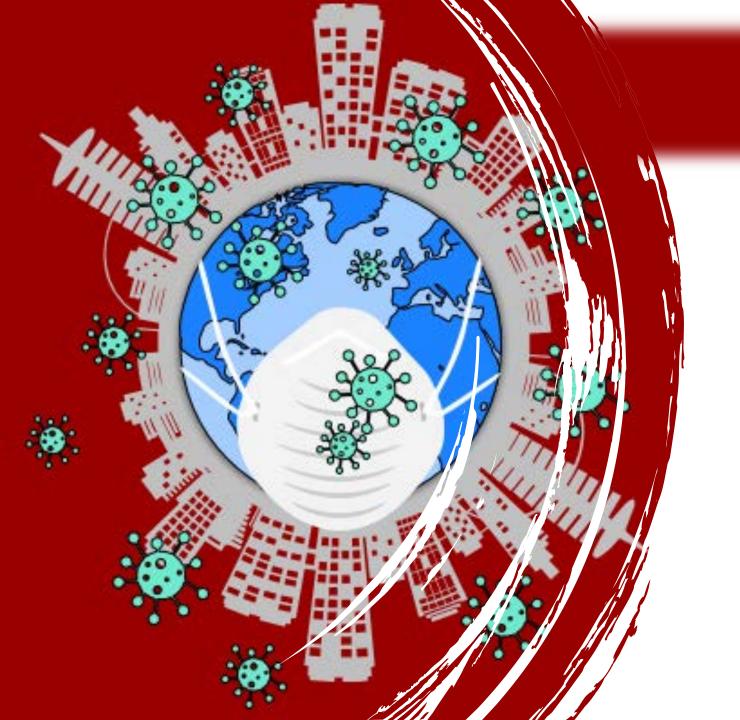
Short-term studies (< 6 months)

No extensions possible

No work privileges

Processing time
Minutes

\$7



#### **General Update**

- Most applications will be assessed by a virtual office
- 2. Virtually all applications must be submitted online
- 3. Sufficient time and extensions are granted to submit requested items
- 4. A shift to two-stage processing
- 5. End dates for the travel restrictions are unknown

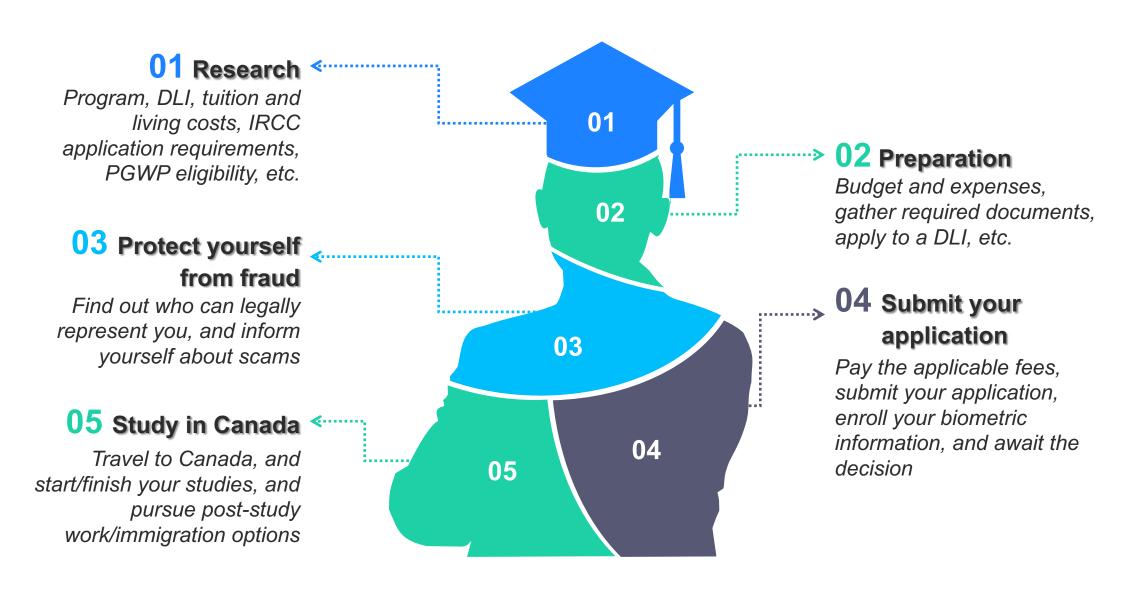


# Study Permit Process

03



### The Study Permit Process



### Global Study Permit Requirements



#### **Application Form**

Application for study permit made outside of Canada



#### **Other Application Forms**

As applicable: family information, declaration of common-law union, use of a representative, Authority to release personal information, and custodianship declaration



#### **Passport/Travel Document**

Photocopy your passport showing the passport number, issuance and expiry dates, photo, name, and place of birth, and, your passport(s) showing your previous 5 years of travel



#### **Photos**

Two photos meeting the visa application photograph specifications with you name and date of birth written on the back



#### Letter(s) of Acceptance

LOA on official letterhead, showing tuition fees, start, end, and registration dates



#### CAQ

Required if studying in Quebec



#### **Proof of Financial Support**

For the first year of studies, including, tuition, accommodation, living expenses, and transportation to/from Canada, and, proof of financial stability/income generation



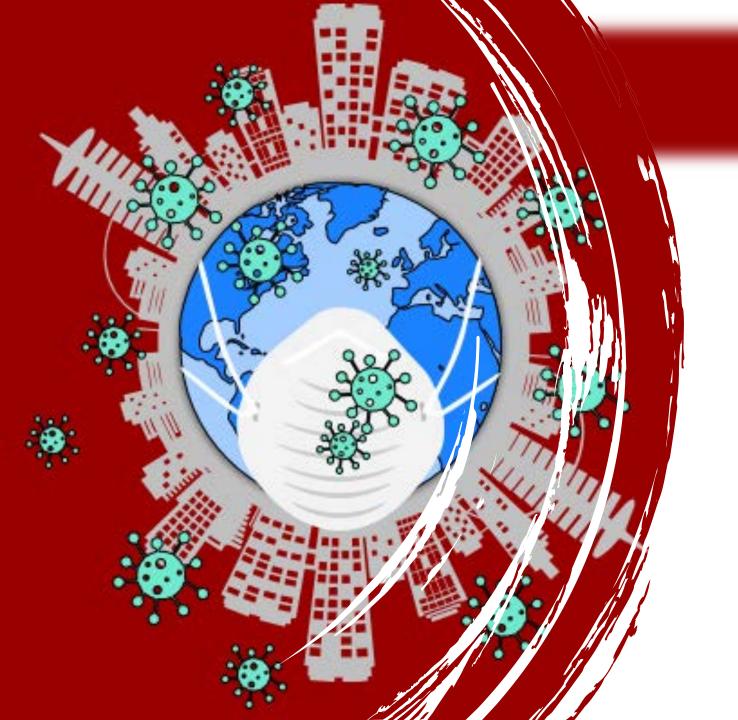
#### **Fee Payment**

For the study permit application, and biometrics fees (if applicable)



#### **Visa Office Requirements**

Depending on where you are applying, the IRCC office may have additional office-specific requirements



#### **Letter of Acceptance (LOA)**

Your LOA must state:

- That in-person presence is required to complete the program upon resumption of in-class instruction, and,
- 2. The target start date for in-class instruction

You must satisfy the officer that you intend to continue studies in Canada upon resumption of in-class instruction

### Detailed Information: Proof of Funds



#### How much?

#### **Financial Establishment**



#### **Must demonstrate**

Sufficient funds for your first year of studies, and accompanying dependents:

- 1. Tuition,
- 2. Return flights,
- 3. Accommodation,
- 4. Living expenses
  - \$10K for self
  - \$4K for first dependent
  - +\$3K each additional dependent

#### **Documents**

#### Required:

- 1. Bank statements (4-6 months),
- 2. Bank certification letter, and,
- 3. Letter of financial support

#### Other:

- · Canadian GIC,
- Student loan,
- Prepaid fees,
- · Scholarships, etc.

#### **Must demonstrate**

A consistent inflow of funds to support yourself (and dependents) over and above your first year of studies <u>without</u> <u>working in Canada</u>

#### **Documents**

#### Required:

- Letter of employment (name, position, salary, and tenure), and/or,
- 2. Business registration (date of registration, working capital/value of business), and,
- 3. Explanation of lump-sum deposits, as applicable

#### **Long-term Assets**

In general, less weight is places on long-term assets.

Documents can still be submitted in support of your application:

- 1. Land/property ownership
- 2. Mortgage
- 3. Vehicle registration

### Study Direct Stream (SDS)



#### **Country of Residence**

Must be a legal resident of China, India, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, or Vietnam



#### **Place of Residence**

Must be residing outside of Canada



#### **Recent Transcripts**

Your most recent secondary or postsecondary transcripts



#### **Upfront Medicals**

If required, submitted with your application.



#### **ESL/FSL Test**

A minimum score from IELTS or TEF in reading, writing, speaking, and listening



#### **Police Certificate**

If required, submitted with your application



#### **GIC**

From a designated bank in the amount of CAD\$10K



#### **Tuition Payment**

Proof of payment for your first year of studies



#### **Visa Office Requirements**

Required upon initial submission, otherwise, your application will not be processed under SDS, and/or faster.

## Office-specific Study Permit Requirements





#### **Motivation Letter / Study Plan**

Required for applicants pursuing post-secondary studies if you are not coming directly from high school



#### **Civil Documents**

A copy of your national ID, birth and marriage certificate, and household registration



#### **Previous Transcripts/Degrees**

For previous post-secondary studies, or studies abroad (at any level)



#### **Upfront Immigration Medical Exam (IME)**

Recommended, but not required



# Preventing

Are not required, do not benefit from expedited processing, and cannot guarantee approvals. Permits and visas are only issued by the

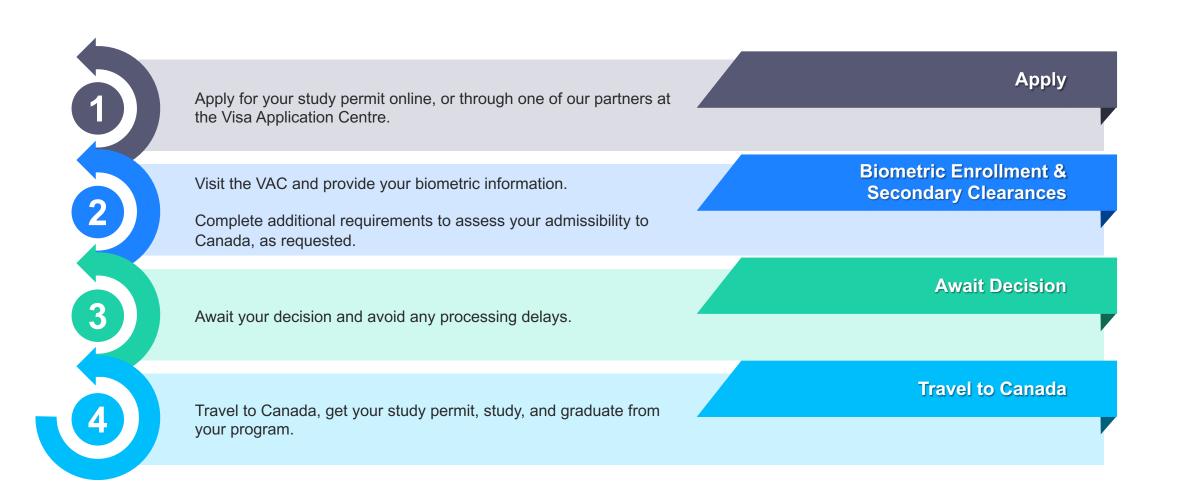
#### **Application Costs**

It only cost \$150 + \$85 to apply for a study permit (+ applicable VAC fees), payable to "Receiver General for Canada" across the globe. Be wary of representatives or individuals charging a fee for

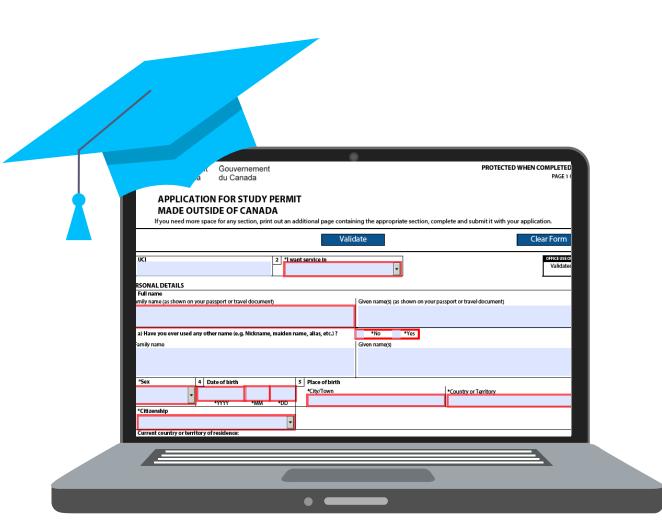
We will never ask you to provide fees to a personal bank account, private money transfer service, or offer discounts or deals for those seeking to

We will never contact you via social media (IG, FB, Twitter), or by private email services (e.g., Yahoo!,

### **Application Process**



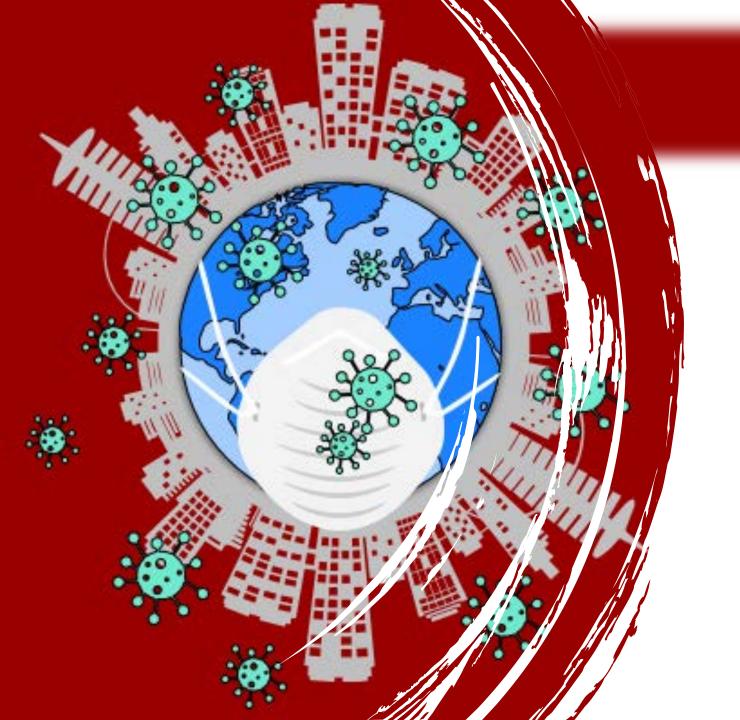
### Submitting your Application



You can submit your application online, or by visiting one of our Visa Application Centres (VACs)

#### **Benefits of Applying Online**

- √ Faster processing
- ✓ Submit your application/passport anywhere
  - √ Tailored checklist
  - ✓ Real-time application updates
- ✓ Retain your passport until requested
  - ✓ Easier communication with IRCC
- ✓ Links all subsequent IRCC applications



#### **Submitting your application**

VACs are currently only providing limited services.

Until further notice, online applications are the only acceptable form of submission.

Exceptions can be made in limited cases (e.g., disabilities).

### Biometric Enrollment



- Picture
- Fingerprints
- Passport information



#### Who?

- Clients aged 14 to 79
- All study/work permit applications



#### Where?

At over 150 VAC locations worldwide

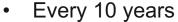


#### Why?

- Protection against identity theft
- Identity management







 Every permanent resident application



\$85

### Other Secondary Clearances



The following documents will be requested when/if required if they are not listed in the checklists:



#### **Police Certificate**

For all countries you have resided in for > 6 months since turning 18 years old



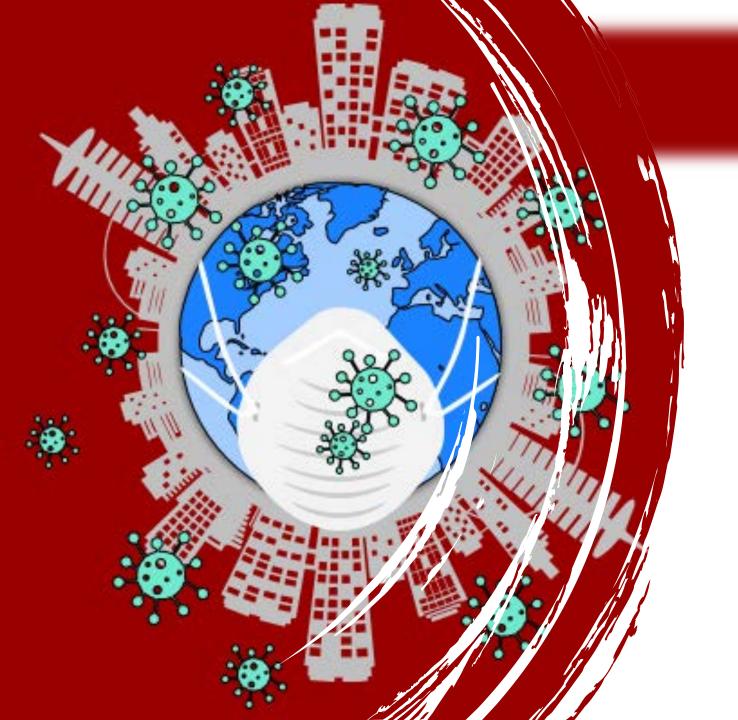
#### **Immigration Medical Exam (IME)**

From a Panel physician, if not provided up-front



#### **Other Documents**

Depending on your background/history



### Biometric enrollment & other secondary clearances

Until further notice, processing on your application will begin without biometric information on file.

#### **Extensions to due dates:**

- Biometric enrollment: automatic
- Other secondary clearances: with written explanation and evidence (as required)

### Await your Decision

#### **Processing**

Begins after you have submitted your application and enrolled biometric information



### **Processing Times**

60 days from your biometric enrollment

Check current times online, or on your MyCIC account

Avoid delays: submit all required documents



### Receive Documents

Passport request letter (online applications)

Visa or eTA

Letter of introduction



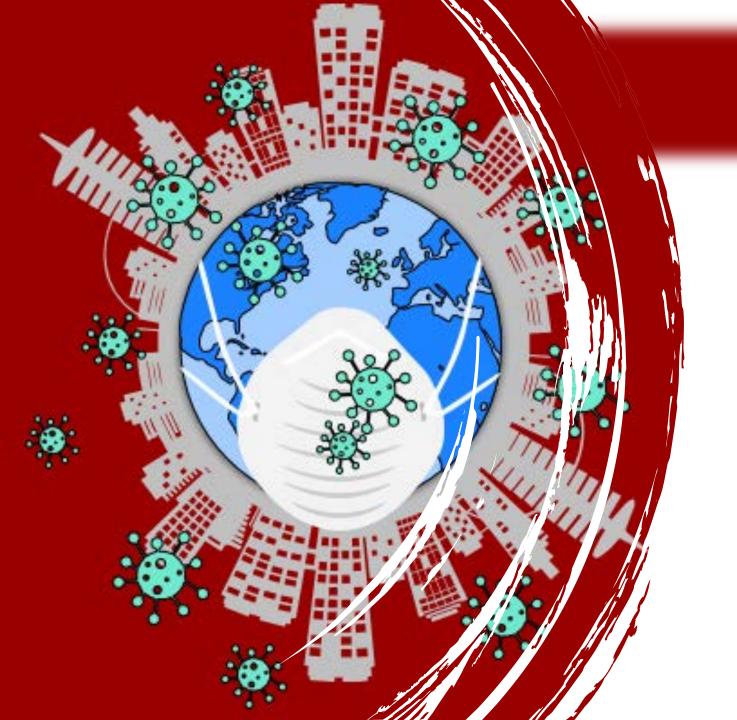
### Travel to Canada

Get your study permit at the port of entry, study, and graduate

Apply for a post-grad work permit

Apply for permanent residency





#### **Processing**

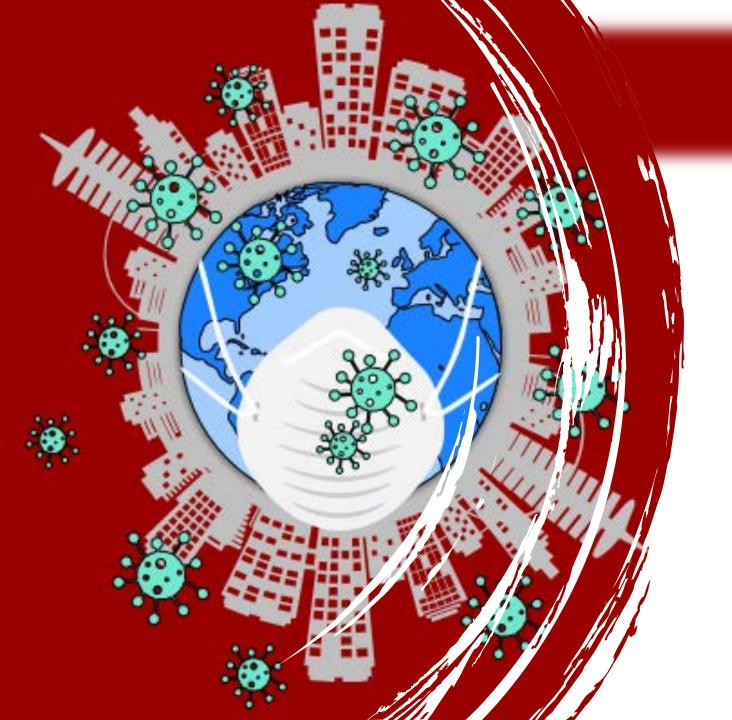
- As VACs are offering limited services, processing will start upon receipt of your application and fees
- Complete applications are prioritized
- If you cannot submit all documents upon your initial application (as a result of a COVID-related issue), an extension may be granted if you provide an explanation/evidence
- Processing times are not available, and are inaccurate on our website



### Processing: Requirements for two-stage processing

#### Applies if:

- You have submitted your application before September
   15, 2020, and,
- 2. Your program starts in/before Fall 2020



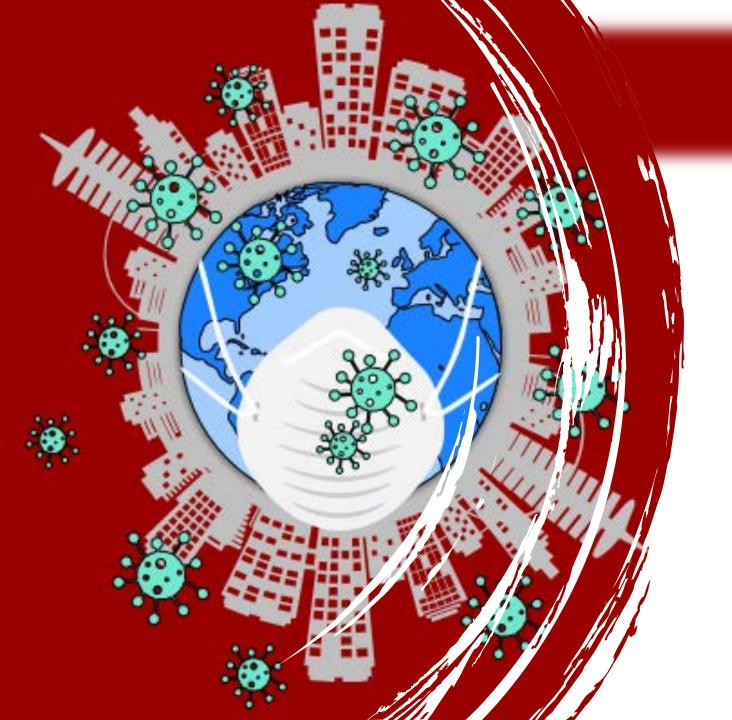
#### **Processing: Stage 1**

- Starts before biometric enrollment
- Eligibility review
- Requests for:
  - Medical exam
  - Additional documents
- Automatic extension granted for medical/biometric requirements
- Notification via MyCIC

#### **RESULT**

#### **STAGE 1 ELEIGIBILITY LETTER**

 Authorization to begin virtual studies



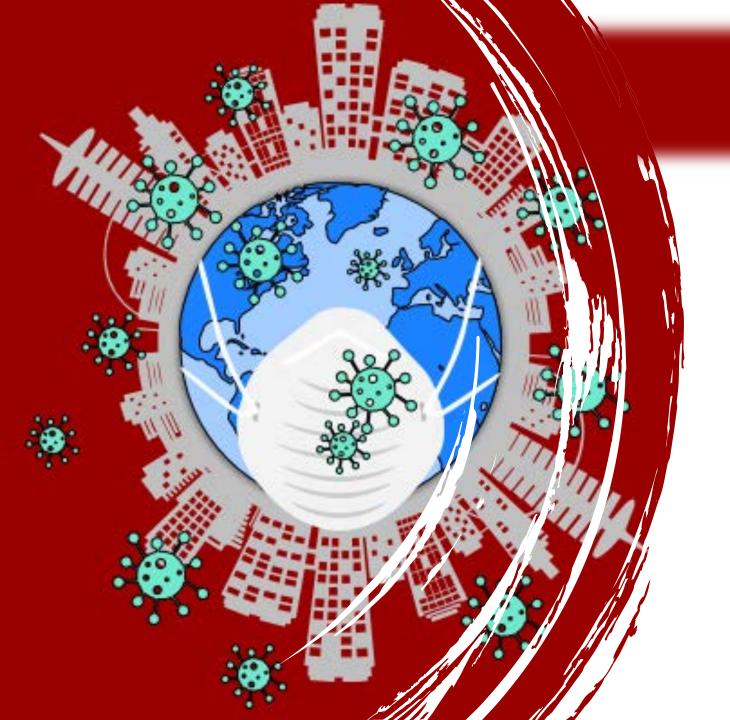
#### **Processing: Stage 2**

- Submission of requested documents
- Completion of medical exam
- Biometric enrollment
- Re-review of application for continued eligibility
- Final decision

#### **RESULT**

#### Visa/eTA

 To facilitate travel to Canada when the travel restrictions are lifted for continued studies in Canada



#### **Travelling to Canada**

In exceptional circumstances, you may be able to travel to Canada if:

- 1. Travel is essential, and,
- 2. Either:
  - A study permit approved on or before March 18, 2020, or,
  - You are travelling directly from the US

Entry to Canada is not guaranteed. You must satisfy the border officer that you:

- Meet the criteria
- Have an appropriate quarantine plan

### Study in Canada

Your obligations while pursuing studies in Canada:





Stop studying if you no longer meet the requirements

Remain in status and leave Canada when your permit expires/you complete your studies

Notify IRCC of significant changes to your school/program



## Notifying IRCC of Significant Changes



#### You can change program/school if you are:

- 1. Enrolled at a DLI, and,
- 2. Actively pursuing studies (i.e., enrolled and attending classes)

#### You must contact us if:

- 1. You change post-secondary schools
  - a) To continue or change programs
  - b) To change your co-op work permit to a new school
- 2. You require changes to your study permit conditions
- 3. We request verification of your enrollment

#### **Consequences for non-compliance:**

- 1. Your school will report you as not being registered
- 2. You will be in violation of your study permit conditions
- 3. Possible removal from, and inability to return to Canada



### Work while Studying

#### **On/off Campus**

Authorization to work is noted on your study permit. Not all DLIs/programs allow you to work

✓ 20 hours / week (full-time during holidays) offcampus

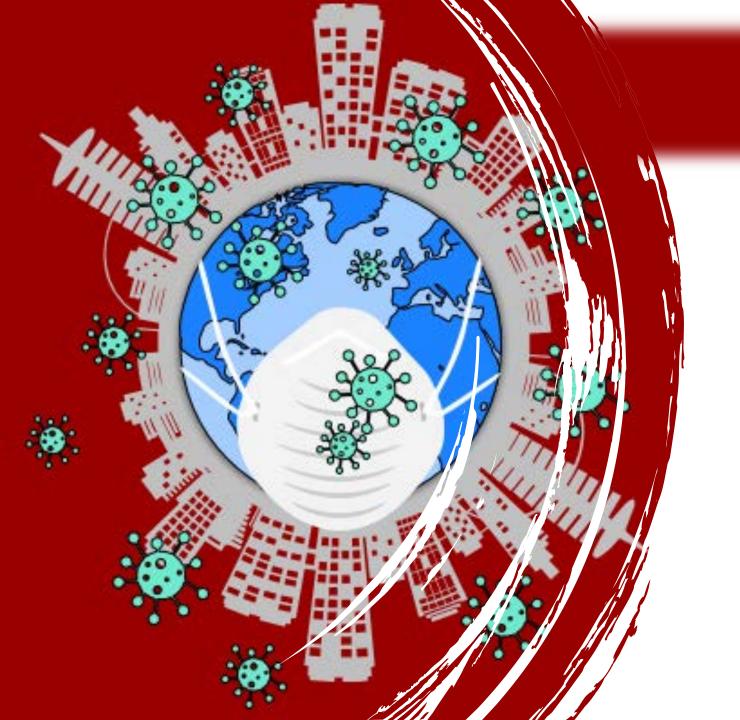
- ✓ Unlimited work on-campus
- ✓ Spouse or common-law eligible for an open work or study permit
  - ✓ Children eligible for open study permits



#### **Co-op Placement**

Issued with your study permit, unless you are required to complete a pre-requisite (e.g., ESL/FSL)

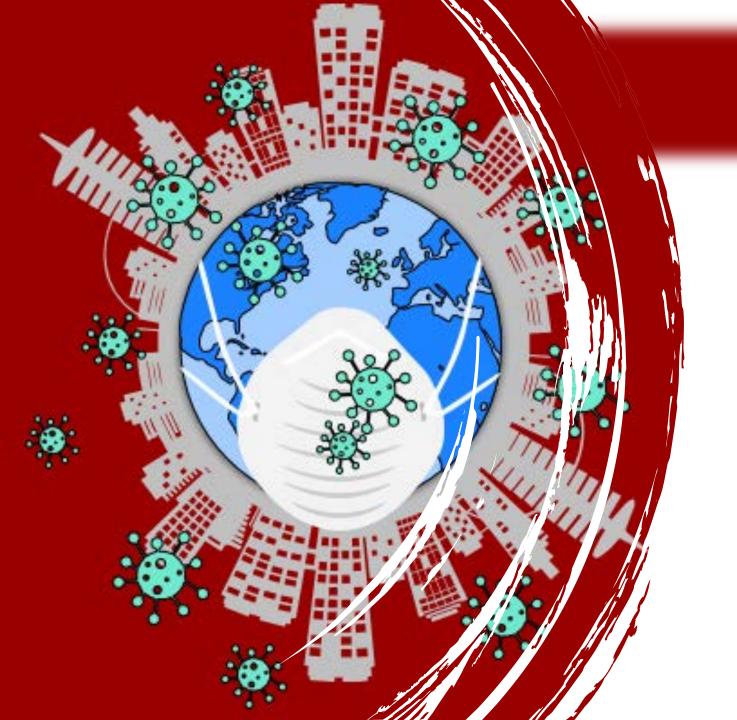
- ✓ Work placement must be an integral part of your program
- ✓ < 50% of your program



#### **Work while Studying**

If COVID-19 has forced you to become a part-time student or take a break in studies, you can continue to work if you:

- 1. Were previously a full-time student,
- 2. Were authorized to work during your studies, and,
- 3. Adhere to the conditions on your study permit



#### **Essential Services/functions**

As of August 31, 2020, you can temporarily work up to a full-time basis if you are employed in an essential service if you meet the following criteria:

- 1. You are a study permit holder in an academic session,
- 2. You are eligible to work off campus, and,
- 3. You are providing an essential service/function.

# Post-study Options

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### Post-graduate Work Permit

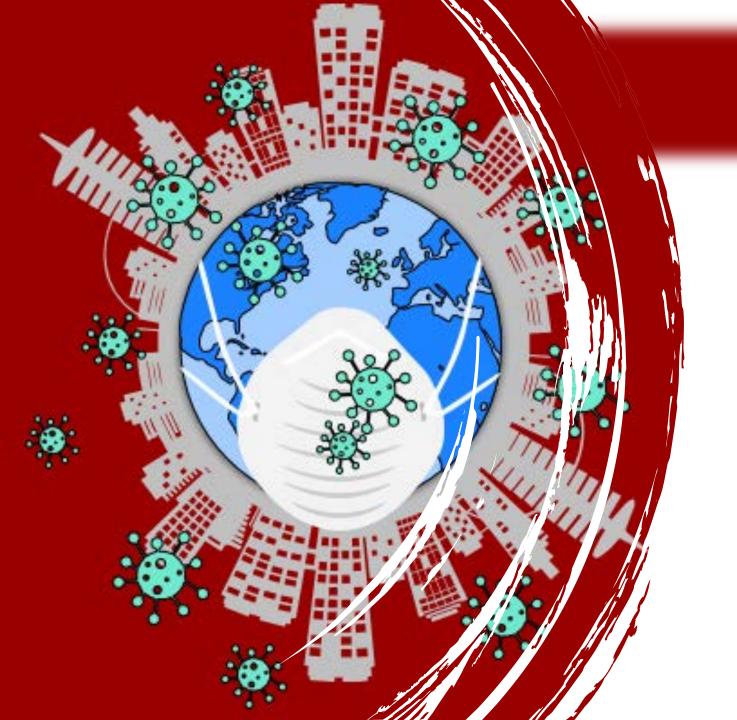
#### **REQUIREMENTS**

- 1. Program length > 8 months
- 2. Maintained full-time status throughout your program
- 3. > 50% of studies completed in Canada
- 4. Studied at an eligible DLI
- 5. Completion of studies
- 6. Apply within 180 days
- 7. Complied with the conditions of study permit



#### **BENEFITS**

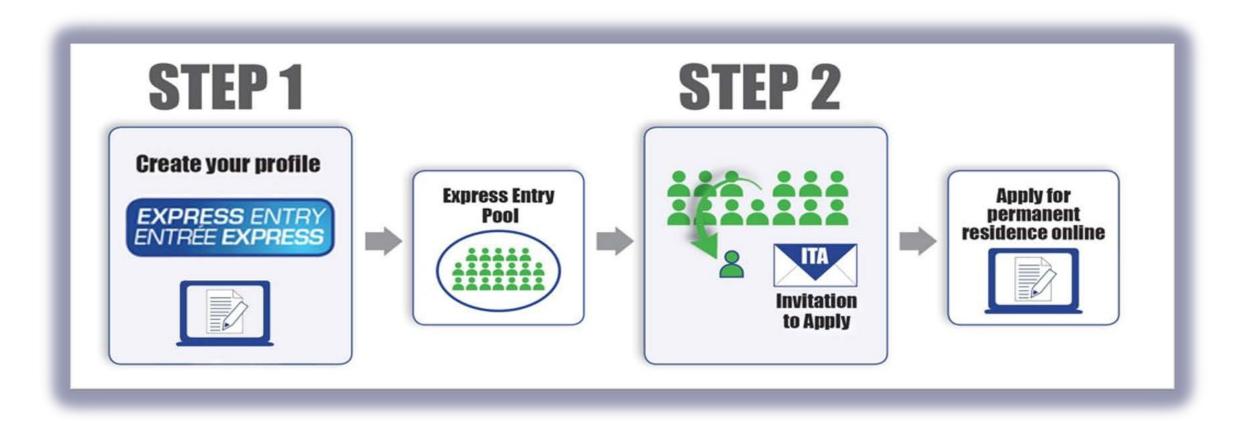
- 1. Open work permit
- 2. Any skill level job
- 3. Up to 3 years of work
- 4. Ability to work full-time while awaiting decision if you are in status
- 5. If employed in a skilled job:
  - a) Possibility for spousal employment
  - b) Immigrate to Canada permanently



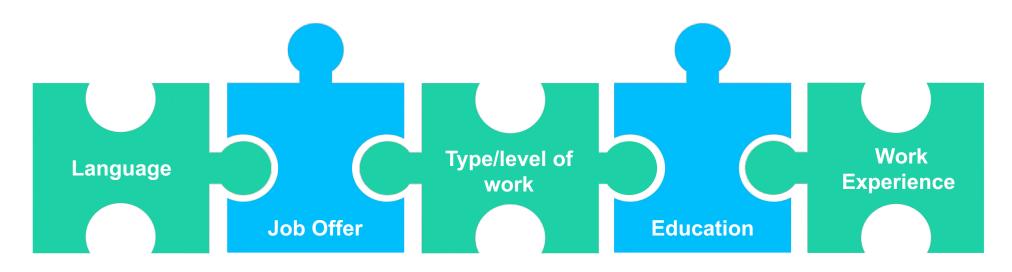
#### Eligible time spent studying

- 1. Online studies will count toward PGWP eligibility if your application was submitted before SEPT 15, 2020 for courses starting between MAY SEPT 2020.
  - a) In effect until APR 30, 2021
  - b) 8 12 month programs can be fully completed online
- 2. You are not penalized if:
  - a) You are required to cease studies/pursue part-time studies (winter, spring, and, summer 2020).
  - b) You need to delay studies for more than 150 days.

### Immigrate to Canada: Express Entry



### Am I Eligible for Express Entry?





#### Language

IELTS CELPIP TEF CLB



#### Provincial Nomination

If you have one



#### Job Offer

Required for some programs



#### Professional Experience

Generally 1 year (minimum) of skilled work experience



#### Education Credential Recognition

Foreign diplomas only

Seven providers

### Helpful Tips



#### **Translation**

Certified translation required.

Untranslated documents may not be reviewed

English or French





#### **Documents**

Provide all required documents in the check lists **before** submission.

**Document Checklists** 





#### **Truthfulness**

Being untruthful can have a significant impact on your immigration history

Truth and Omission





#### **Timeliness**

It is recommended that you submit your application 4 to 6 months before you plan to depart to Canada

**Avoid Delays** 





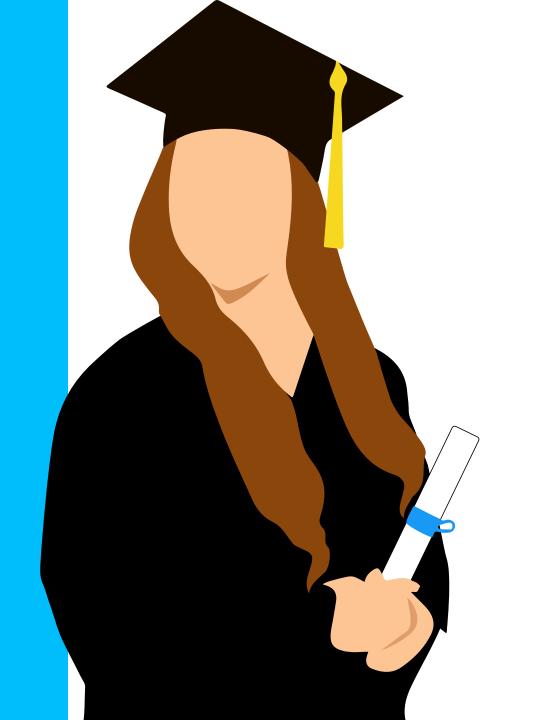
Failure to comply or submitting an incomplete application may result in the refusal of your application, the return of your (unprocessed) application, or processing delays.

### Need Help?

# Our Help Centre is your best source for information







### QUESTIONS?







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