

# WORKING IN CANADA AFTER GRADUATION

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UNIVERSITY  
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# Land Acknowledgement

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

# Session overview

- Introduction and housekeeping items
- Review of Post Graduation Work Permit program
  - Eligibility requirements
  - When and how to apply
  - Work authorization (before and after you apply)
  - Frequently Asked Questions
- Job searching process (Wendy and Brendan)
- Q&A (30 minutes)

# Disclaimer

Information presented in this session is current as of Today – Thursday, July 14, 2022 and has been approved by RCIC and RISIAs.

Note: This information is subject to change, therefore, always refer to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) website for up-to-date information

# Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP)

- An **open work permit** that allows international students to gain Canadian work experience
- Only eligible to receive once in your lifetime\*
- Must meet eligibility requirements for the [PGWP program](#)
  - Key point: Continuous **full-time enrollment** in a [PGWP eligible program](#)\* (some exceptions apply)
- A job offer from a Canadian employer is not required

# How is PGWP length determined?

Length of the PGWP is determined based on the length of the study program.

- Programs less than 8 months in length not eligible for PGWP
- If program length is more than 8 months but less than 2 years, PGWP length will match the length of program \*
- If program length is greater than 2 years, PGWP length will be 3 years

If you complete more than 1 PGWP eligible program , you may be able to get a PGWP based on the combined length of two programs. Each of the programs must be:

- PGWP eligible and at least 8 months in length

**Note:** Second program must be completed within 2 years of first program completion date

# When and how to apply?

- You can apply for PGWP only after you complete your program of study
  - Program Completion Letter and Transcript with final term grades are required to be submitted with the PGWP application
- Online application. Detailed information about the application process can be found on our website [here](#).

**Don't let your status expire while you wait your final marks.**

# When and how to apply?

- You must submit your PGWP application within 180 days of your Program Completion letter becoming available **AND**
- Your Study Permit must have been valid within the 180 day period before you apply
  
- Study permits become automatically invalid in one of two ways, whichever comes first:
  - The expiry date on the study permit, OR
  - 90 days after written confirmation of program completion first becomes available.



# When and how to apply?

- If you don't apply for the PGWP before your Study Permit becomes invalid or expires (whichever comes first), you must:
  - **Change your status to a Visitor** and then apply for the PGWP from inside Canada, OR
  - **Leave Canada** and apply for PGWP from **outside Canada**
- **Restoration of status** may be an option in some cases

# Work authorization before PGWP application

If you are eligible to work (using your Study Permit work authorization) in your final semester, you may continue to work upto 20 hours per week off campus until you receive confirmation from the University that you have met the requirements to complete your program.

Once you receive your Program Completion Letter, you must stop working.

# Work authorization while waiting for IRCC to process your PGWP application

You can work full-time until IRCC makes a decision on your PGWP application if at the time you submitted your application, you:

- had a **valid study permit** and submitted your application within the first 90 days after which your Program Completion Letter becomes available
- completed your study program
- were eligible to work off campus without a work permit while studying and you didn't work more than 20 hours per week during regular academic sessions

If above conditions don't apply to you, you must wait until your work permit is approved to begin working.

If IRCC refuses your work permit, you must stop working the day you receive this notification.

# Frequently Asked Questions

- **After submitting my PGWP application I received a letter from IRCC confirming that I can work upto 120 days. What happens if I don't receive a decision on my application before the expiry date listed on this letter (PGWP application processing time is 159 days).** If you meet the requirements to work while your PGWP application is in process, you may continue to work until you receive a decision from IRCC. If your employer is requesting an updated letter, please contact IRCC via a webform to request an updated letter
- **Can I apply to extend my SIN after I submit my application?** You can apply to extend your SIN once you receive your PGWP. Until then, you may continue to use the expired SIN as long as you meet the requirements to engage in work.
- **Can I apply to extend my Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) after I submit my application?** Yes, you may apply for temporary extension if your coverage is going to expire. For more information, please visit [this webpage](#).