International Education Office

For any help related to immigration, please contact the International Education office, room E110, in the ‘Center for Learning (E)’ building, Kelowna campus of Okanagan College.

Okanagan College
E110 - 1000 KLO Road
Kelowna, BC Canada
V1Y 4X8
Email: inted@okanagan.bc.ca
Phone: 1 (250) 862-5443
The office hours are Monday to Friday, from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm.

Immigration-related queries may also be directly communicated to the below Advisor:

Antriksh Mistry (AR), M.Eng, RCIC
Immigration Advisor
International Education
E-mail: amistry@okanagan.bc.ca

Passport

Keep your passport safe, and be mindful of the expiration date of your passport. Be sure to renew your passport at least 6 months before its expiration date. You shall need to contact your own embassy or consulate for renewal.

Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) and Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA):

In order to enter Canada, almost all international students are required to obtain either a Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) OR an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA). Whether you need a TRV OR an eTA depends on your nationality/country of citizenship.

Temporary Resident Visa (TRV)

A temporary resident visa (TRV), also known as entry visa or visitor visa, is a visa sticker or counterfoil that is placed in your passport. A sample TRV is shown in the Figure 1 below.
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You need to be aware of the following information with regard to your TRV:

- **Expiry date**: Once you are inside Canada, though you are not required to always maintain a valid TRV, it is recommended to apply for and re-obtain a valid TRV.
- **No. of Entries**: Please ensure that “No. of Entries” is “MULTIPLE”. If it is not, it is recommended that you re-apply for and obtain your TRV before you leave or exit Canada.

**Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)**

Citizens of certain countries are exempt from requiring a TRV. Students from TRV-exempt countries may need to obtain an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) to enter Canada. An eTA is electronically linked to your passport and it can be valid for up to 5 years.

**Do you need to obtain a Study Permit?**

Generally, you must obtain a study permit if the following conditions apply to you:

- You study program in Canada is more than six (6) months, and
- You are not a Canadian citizen or permanent resident

If you have been issued a study permit, please be sure to carefully review its “Conditions” section as you are required to comply with those conditions.

Please note that a valid study permit does not authorize you re-entry to Canada. You will need to have a valid TRV or eTA to re-enter Canada.

If you change your post-secondary schools, also known as Designated Learning Institution (for example, Okanagan College is a post-secondary school), you do not need to re-apply for a study permit as long as you have a valid study permit. However, you do need to inform the immigration
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Who can work off-campus?

You would need to meet **ALL** of the following conditions to be able to work off-campus, up to 20 hours per week during regular academic session;

- Have a valid study permit
- Be enrolled as a full-time student (full-time is defined as being enrolled in at least 3 classes/subjects per semester)
- Have a valid Social Insurance Number (SIN)
- Be enrolled in an post-secondary academic, vocational or professional training program, and
- Your study program is at least 6-months long and leads to a degree, diploma or certificate.

Fall term (i.e., September to December) and winter term (i.e., January to April) are considered as regular academic semesters. As mentioned above, during regular academic semester, you may work off-campus, if meeting above conditions, up to a maximum of 20 hours per week.

**Working during Summer break**

Summer term, i.e., from May to August, is considered as an academic/scheduled break at Okanagan College. You may work full-time during the Summer term* if you meet **ALL** of the following conditions;

- Hold a valid study permit
- Was/will be enrolled full-time (i.e., at least 3 courses per semester) during the academic session before and after summer break
- The program in which you are enrolled is a post-secondary academic, vocational or professional training program, and
- Your study program is at least 6-months long and leads to a degree, diploma or certificate.

*Please note: Generally, students enrolled in Mechanical Engineering Technology Diploma, Water Engineering Technology Diploma, Network and Telecommunications Engineering Technology Diploma, and Electronic Engineering Technology Diploma have end-of-term courses and/or final exam period in May. Therefore, students enrolled in these programs may work full-
time, if meeting all of the above requirements, only after the last day of their end-of-term courses and/or final exam period.

Please be advised that if Summer is your first semester of study at Okanagan College, you cannot work full-time during this semester.

**Leaving/exiting Canada for any reason?**

If you plan/need to leave Canada for any purpose, it is strongly recommended that you have a valid study permit **and** a valid temporary resident visa (TRV) or Electronic Travel Authorization, prior to leaving Canada.

If you do not, please touch base with the International Education office as soon as possible, before planning to leave Canada.

**Taking Fall or Winter semesters off**

As mentioned above, Fall semester is from September to December and Winter semester is from January to April.

When a student takes break in their studies by taking Fall or Winter semester off, it may render the student not eligible to apply for post-graduate work permit (PGWP) in the future. Also, students should remain enrolled full-time (i.e. enrolled in at least three classes per semester) throughout their study program, except for their last semester prior to graduation, to not render them ineligible to apply for PGWP.

Should there be any exceptional circumstances to take Fall or Winter semester off, please get in touch with the International Education office (room E110) as soon as possible.

**Is your spouse, common-law partner, or child residing with you in Canada?**

While you may be legally in Canada as a student, you may have your spouse, common-law partner, or child with you in Canada on a different legal status such as a visitor, worker or student.

Please ensure that your family members’ legal status or their ‘period of authorized stay’ in Canada is not expired. The time period of authorized stay in Canada would depend on whether your family member is issued a work permit, study permit, visitor record, or if they are in Canada as a visitor. **BEFORE** the ‘period of authorized stay in Canada’ is about to end, a person must either leave
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Canada or extend their stay in Canada (for example, by submitting an immigration extension application). Various scenarios can be as follows;

- If your spouse or child has been issued a work permit or study permit, their period of authorized stay in Canada ends on the expiration date of work permit or study permit.
- If your spouse or child has been issued a visitor record, their period of authorized stay in Canada ends on the expiration date of visitor record.
- If there is an entry stamp made by a Canadian Border Services Officer in your spouse or child's passport, with a hand-written date (it's generally hand-written), as shown in the Figure 2 below, their period of authorized stay in Canada ends on the hand-written date.

![Figure 2: Entry stamp with hand-written date in passport](image1)

- If there is an entry stamp made by a Canadian Border Services Officer in your spouse or child's passport, with NO hand-written date, as depicted in the Figure 3 below, they may stay in Canada for 6 months only.

![Figure 3: Entry stamp without a hand-written date](image2)
International Orientation 2019 - Okanagan College

Immigration

- When your spouse or child entered Canada at the airport/port-of-entry, if there is NO entry stamp made by a Canadian Border Services Officer in their passport, they may stay in Canada for 6 months or until their passport expires, whichever is first.

**Be careful of scams**

While in Canada, you need to be careful of immigration scams typically seeking your sensitive details such as bank account, credit card, passport details, or any other type of personal details.

The Canadian immigration department (IRCC) would not contact you in-person, by telephone, or through free email services (such as Hotmail, Gmail, etc.) to obtain any payments or money. Also, the IRCC would not ask you to verify your personal information such as passport number, date of birth, etc., which you may have already provided on an immigration application form. Such attempts may be aimed at stealing your money or identity. If you receive a suspicious phone call from a person claiming to be IRCC employee, do not give out your personal details or transfer any money. You may hang up the phone right away and contact the local police to report it.

**Need immigration help?**

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You may also direct your immigration query to the below Advisor:

**Antriksh Mistry (AR), M.Eng, RCIC**

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**Bibliography:**