

# FAQs – Completing studies and Immigration

## 1) Can I apply for a Post-Graduation Work Permit (“PGWP”) before I get my diploma/degree/certificate credential?

You do NOT have to wait until you physically receive your diploma/degree/certificate credential to apply for a PGWP. Also, you do NOT have to wait until you attend your graduation ceremony to apply for a PGWP.

To apply for PGWP, you need both:

- Official Program Completion Letter (this confirms you’ve completed program requirements for your study program), **and**
- Official transcript (which can be ordered via the MyOkanagan account)

## 2) When should I order my official transcript through the MyOkanagan account?

Your official transcript that you submit for PGWP application should show your grades for ALL courses, including that of final semester; as long as this applies, you may order your official transcript at any time.

Please note that receiving your transcript has an impact on your ability to work off-campus, as discussed here.

## 3) Can I use my diploma/degree/certificate credential instead of Program Completion Letter to apply for PGWP?

It is recommended that you use Program Completion Letter to apply for PGWP. If you wish to discuss this further, reach out to an Advisor at [intedimmigration@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:intedimmigration@okanagan.bc.ca)

## 4) When should I submit my PGWP application?

Your study permit will expire on whichever date comes first:

- the date marked on the permit, OR
- 90 days after the day you complete your studies



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The 90 days begin on whichever date comes first:

- on the date you get the first notification from your school (such as Program Completion Letter, transcript, or an email) that you completed your program, OR
- when you get your degree, diploma or certificate.

**Before** your study permit expires, please ensure you do either one of the following:

- Submit application for PGWP (normally via online), or
- Apply to extend your immigration status (e.g., to a visitor) (before you decide to do this, it's strongly recommended to discuss with an Advisor), or
- Leave Canada and still apply for PGWP as long as you meet the eligibility criteria

## **5) I completed final exams of my last semester. Until when can I continue working 20 hours per week off-campus?**

You may work off-campus up to 20 hours per week if you meet ALL of below-stated eligibility requirements;

- You meet the off-campus work eligibility criteria;
- You have NOT yet received written confirmation of program completion (for instance, Program Completion Letter, transcript, an email, or diploma/degree/certificate credential); and
- You have NOT applied for a work permit or a study permit extension or enrolled in a subsequent program of study

Once you receive written confirmation of program completion – i.e., Program Completion Letter OR transcript OR email OR diploma/degree/certificate credential - whichever comes first - you should cease working.

## **6) Can I work while I am waiting to receive my post-graduation work permit? If so, how many hours can I work?**

You can work full-time while waiting for a decision on your post-graduation work permit application if, at the time you submitted your application, you:

- had a valid study permit,



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- had completed your program of study,
- were eligible to [work off-campus](#) without a permit, **and**
- did not work off-campus more than 20 hours a week during academic sessions.

As long as you meet all of above-stated eligibility requirements, you can work full-time; this means you're free to work overtime or work more than 40 hours per week.

### **7) I've submitted my Application for Graduation. Do I have to separately apply for a Program Completion Letter as well?**

No; you do not have to apply separately for a Program Completion Letter.

Letter of Program Completion will be emailed to all International students who:

- a) Have submitted their Application to Graduate by the specified deadline
- b) Meet their program graduation requirements
- c) Every effort possible will be made to accommodate students who have missed the deadline to apply to graduate, however, there may be delays receiving Letters of Completion following late applications to graduate
- d) Letters will be automatically emailed out to students in the weeks following submission of final grades via the students' preferred email addresses specified in their MyOkanagan account

### **Queries:**

For further queries, please reach out to an Advisor at [intedimmigration@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:intedimmigration@okanagan.bc.ca)

