



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Immigration Information for Visiting & Exchange Students

Coming to study at The University of Winnipeg for 1 term (less than 6 months)

Study Permit: As a visiting/exchange student who is planning to study at The University of Winnipeg for 1 term (or less than 6 months), you are not required to hold a Study Permit¹ in order to study in Canada at The University of Winnipeg. However, you may wish to apply for a Study Permit for a number of reasons. Please see the information below for more details. If you decide to apply for a Study Permit from outside of Canada, you should include a letter that explains why you are applying for a Study Permit when you are not required to hold one.

Temporary Resident Visa: You may need a Temporary Resident Visa (TRV)² in order to enter Canada, depending on your country of citizenship. People from many (but not all) countries require a TRV before they will be allowed to enter Canada. To find out whether or not you need a TRV to enter Canada, visit CIC's website at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas-all.asp>.

For more information on how to apply for a Study Permit or Temporary Resident Visa, please view the 'Studying in Canada' information sheet.

Entering Canada: If you do not hold a Study Permit when you enter Canada, you may be issued a Visitor Record or receive an entry stamp in your passport. You should check your visitor record or stamp for how long you are authorized to remain in Canada. You must leave Canada by the date specified on the visitor record/stamp, or within six months of entry if no date is specified. When entering Canada, you should ensure that you bring the following documents with you:

- A valid passport or travel document (it is recommended that your passport or travel document be valid for at least six months following the date that you enter Canada);
- A valid Temporary Resident Visa (if required);
- A copy of the Letter of Acceptance from The University of Winnipeg;
- Proof that you have enough money to support yourself during your stay in Canada;
- Letter from home institution (optional); and
- Any other documents recommended by the visa office (if applicable).

Carry these items and all other valuable papers and cash with you at all times. You may not be allowed into Canada if any of your documents are missing or if any of the information on your application or supporting documents is incorrect. Possession of these documents does not guarantee entry. All persons must prove that they meet all the requirements of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and *Regulations* before being authorized to enter Canada.

Working in Canada: If you wish to work on campus while studying as a visiting/exchange student, you will need to apply for a Study Permit before coming to Canada. Once arriving in Canada, you will need to be enrolled as a full-time student and obtain a Social Insurance Number in order to be eligible to work on-campus. Regardless of whether or not you hold a Study Permit, as a visiting/exchange student, you are not eligible to work off-campus.³

¹ A Study Permit is the official, written authorization given by Citizenship and Immigration Canada to a foreign national that allows them to engage in academic, professional, vocational or other education/training in Canada.

² A Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) is the official document showing you meet the requirements to enter Canada. It is a separate document from a Study Permit. It is a sticker that is the approximate size of a passport page which has been pasted into your passport by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) authorities.

³ Regulations regarding student eligibility to work off-campus can be found in Section 186(v) of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations* (IRPR) or online: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/study-changes.asp>. The regulations state that in order to be eligible to work

Continuing Studies: If you wish to stay in Canada longer in order to continue studies, you would need to obtain a Study Permit. International students who wish to study in Canada in programs of six months or more must hold a Study Permit.⁴ If you think you may want to continue your studies in Canada beyond one term, you may wish to apply for a Study Permit prior to departing your home country.

You also have the option of applying for a Study Permit from within Canada. As of June 1, 2014, students who are visiting or exchange students at a Designated Learning Institution, such as The University of Winnipeg, who have entered Canada as visitors can apply from within Canada for a Study Permit. Please note that The University requires visiting/exchange students who wish to switch to a regular undergraduate degree program to re-apply to The University for admission in the regular admission category. Once you have switched to a regular undergraduate degree program you could be eligible to work both on- and off-campus.

DISCLAIMER: This document does not constitute legal advice, and should not be relied upon as a source of legal advice. It is a reference sheet designed to provide information on Citizenship and Immigration Canada's (CIC's) requirements for visiting and exchange students coming to study in Canada and describes existing requirements under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and the regulations made under that Act in general terms. CIC's regulations, policies and procedures are subject to change and may change without notice. For the most current information, please visit CIC's website (www.cic.gc.ca). This reference sheet was prepared by a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant in good standing with the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council and is accurate as of March 13, 2015.

off-campus, you must: hold a valid Study Permit; be a full-time student enrolled at a Designated Learning Institution (DLI) (The University of Winnipeg is a DLI) in a post-secondary program of at least six months or more in duration that leads to a degree, diploma, or certificate; and work no more than 20 hours per week during the regular academic session (eligible to work full-time during regularly scheduled breaks). As visiting/exchange students are not pursuing a degree, diploma, or certificate in Canada, they are not eligible to work off-campus.

⁴Some foreign nationals are exempt from the requirement to hold a Study Permit when attending a program that is longer than 6 months in duration. Those exempt from this requirement include foreign nationals who are family members of foreign representatives or staff members accredited by DFAIT, members of the armed forces of countries designated under the *Visiting Forces Act* or individuals who are Registered Indians in Canada (IRPR, s.188(1); IRPA, s.30(2)).



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Immigration Information for Visiting & Exchange Students

Coming to study at The University of Winnipeg for 2 terms (more than 6 months)

Study Permit: As a visiting/exchange student who is planning to study at The University of Winnipeg for 2 terms (or more than 6 months), you are required to hold a Study Permit¹ in order to study in Canada at The University of Winnipeg. You should apply for this Study Permit outside of Canada, in your country of nationality or residence.

Temporary Resident Visa: You may need a Temporary Resident Visa (TRV)² in order to enter Canada, depending on your country of citizenship. People from many (but not all) countries require a TRV before they will be allowed to enter Canada. To find out whether or not you need a TRV to enter Canada, visit CIC's website at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas-all.asp>.

For more information on how to apply for a Study Permit or Temporary Resident Visa, please view the 'Studying in Canada' information sheet included with your application package.

Entering Canada: For more information on what documents to bring with you when entering Canada, please view the 'Studying in Canada' information sheet.

Working in Canada: As a visiting/exchange student with a valid Study Permit, you will be able to work on-campus while studying in Canada. Once arriving in Canada, you would need to enroll in full-time studies and obtain a Social Insurance Number in order to be eligible to work. Please note that as a visiting/exchange student, you are not eligible to work off-campus.³

Continuing Studies: If you think you may wish to stay in Canada longer in order to continue studies at The University of Winnipeg, you will likely have to apply to renew your Study Permit from within Canada. Staff in International Student Services can assist you with the process of renewing your Study Permit from within Canada. Please note that The University requires visiting/exchange students who wish to switch to a regular undergraduate degree program to re-apply to The University for admission in the regular admission category. Once switching to a regular undergraduate degree program, you could be eligible to work both on- and off-campus.

DISCLAIMER: This document does not constitute legal advice, and should not be relied upon as a source of legal advice. It is a reference sheet designed to provide information on Citizenship and Immigration Canada's (CIC's) requirements for visiting and exchange students coming to study in Canada and describes existing requirements under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and the regulations made under that Act in general terms. CIC's regulations, policies and procedures are subject to change and may change without notice. For the most current information, please visit CIC's website (www.cic.gc.ca). This reference sheet was prepared by a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant in good standing with the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council and is accurate as of March 13, 2015.

¹ A Study Permit is the official, written authorization given by Citizenship and Immigration Canada to a foreign national which allows them to engage in academic, professional, vocational or other education/training in Canada. Some foreign nationals are exempt from the requirement to hold a Study Permit when attending a program that is longer than 6 months in duration. Those exempt from this requirement include foreign nationals who are family members of foreign representatives or staff members accredited by DFAIT, members of the armed forces of countries designated under the *Visiting Forces Act* or individuals who are Registered Indians in Canada (IRPR, s.188(1); IRPA, s.30(2)).

² A Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) is the official document showing you meet the requirements to enter Canada. It is a separate document from your Study Permit. It is a sticker that is the approximate size of a passport page which has been pasted into your passport by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) authorities.

³ Regulations regarding eligibility to work off-campus can be found in Section 186(v) of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* or online: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/study-who.asp>. The regulations state that in order to be eligible to work off-campus, you must: hold a valid Study Permit; be a full-time student enrolled at the Designated Learning Institution (DLI) (The University of Winnipeg is a DLI) in a post-secondary program of at least six months or more in duration that leads to a degree, diploma, or certificate; and work no more than 20 hours per week during the regular academic session (eligible to work full-time during regularly scheduled breaks). As visiting/exchange students are not pursuing a degree, diploma, or certificate in Canada, they are not eligible to work off-campus.