

## STUDY PERMIT/VISA INFORMATION FOR 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 Permit<sup>1</sup> 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)<sup>2</sup> 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>.

**Electronic Travel Authorization:** Beginning March 15, 2016 those individuals exempt from obtaining a TRV may be required to obtain an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) prior to coming to Canada. US Citizens are exempt from the ETA requirement. Once granted, the ETA is valid for five years or until the expiry of your passport, whichever comes first.<sup>3</sup> For more information, 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 '[Applying for a Study Permit & Temporary Resident Visa \(outside of Canada\)](#)' information sheet available on the ISS website.

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**Entering Canada:** For more information on coming into Canada and the documents that you need to bring with you, please see ISS's information sheet, 'Entering Canada' available on the ISS website.

**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.<sup>4</sup>

**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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> For more information on Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA), please see this webpage: [www.canada.ca/eta](http://www.canada.ca/eta)

<sup>4</sup> 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 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.

Permit.<sup>5</sup> 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. 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 may be eligible to work both on- and off-campus provided that you are registered full-time and have a valid Study Permit.

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](http://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

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<sup>5</sup> 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)).