

CANADA ONSHORE STUDY VISA

(Study Permit from Within Canada) 2026

If you are already in Canada on a valid status (visitor, worker, or student), you may be eligible to apply for a Study Permit from **within Canada** — also known as an onshore application. Applying onshore is often faster than applying from outside Canada and does not require you to leave the country. Submit your application through your **IRCC Secure Account** before your current status expires to maintain lawful status throughout processing.

CAD 150	4–16 Weeks	No	HIGH
Study Permit Fee	Avg. Processing Time	Medical Exam (Usually)	Our Success Rate

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Who Can Apply	Individuals currently in Canada with valid status: visitor visa/eTA, work permit, or existing study permit
Valid Status	Your current immigration status must be valid at the time of application — expired status requires restoration first
Accepted Letter	Must hold a valid Letter of Acceptance (LOA) from a Designated Learning Institution (DLI)
DLI Standing	Your institution must be on the IRCC-approved DLI list and must not be suspended or revoked
Age Requirement	Applicants under 18 must meet additional minor study permit requirements
Language Proof	May be required: IELTS, TOEFL, or equivalent depending on institution and program

APPLICATION DETAILS

Application Portal	IRCC Secure Account (online) — paper applications are significantly slower and not recommended
Application Fee	CAD 150 per study permit application (non-refundable)
Biometrics	Required if not given in the last 10 years — CAD 85 (individual) or CAD 170 (family)
Processing Time	4–16 weeks on average; varies by season, visa office workload, and completeness of application
Medical Exam	Usually not required for short programs under 6 months; required if studying in certain fields (healthcare, education)
Maintained Status	Apply before current status expires to remain in Canada legally while awaiting a decision
Application Portal	Submit via your IRCC Secure Account — do NOT use third-party portals
Decision Notification	Approval sent to your IRCC account; a Port of Entry (POE) letter is issued for stamp upon next entry

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Passport	Valid passport — must be valid for the full duration of your study program plus at least 6 months
Letter of Acceptance	Official LOA from your DLI, stating program name, start/end date, and full-time status
Proof of Status	Copy of current valid visa, work permit, or study permit showing you are lawfully in Canada
Financial Proof	Bank statements showing sufficient funds: tuition + CAD 10,000/year living expenses + return travel
Ties to Home Country	Evidence you will leave Canada after studies (property, family, employment — if applicable)
Statement of Purpose	Written letter explaining your study plans, career goals, and reasons for choosing Canada
Travel History	If applicable: copies of prior visas or travel documents showing immigration compliance
Photos	2 recent passport-size photographs meeting IRCC specifications

SPECIAL CASES & TRANSITIONS

Visitor to Student	Visitors in Canada may apply onshore; however, a final decision may require leaving Canada to obtain the study permit stamp
Status Restoration	If status has already expired, apply for Restoration of Status (CAD 229) alongside the study permit application
Program Change	Changing DLI or program during studies requires notifying IRCC; a new study permit may be needed
Part-time to Full-time	Transitioning from part-time to full-time enrollment typically requires a new or amended permit
Post-Graduation	After completing studies, apply for a Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) within 180 days of receiving final marks
Minor Applicants	Minors must also provide a custodianship declaration if studying without both parents in Canada

ONSHORE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

› Set a calendar reminder at least 3 months before your current status expires	
› Confirm your DLI is active and in good standing on the official IRCC DLI list	
› Obtain a current, signed Letter of Acceptance from your institution	
› Gather proof of sufficient funds (bank statements from the last 3–6 months)	

› Ensure your passport is valid for the entire study period plus 6 months	
› Prepare a strong Statement of Purpose outlining your study and career goals	
› Collect biometrics if not done in the past 10 years (book early — wait times can be long)	
› Apply exclusively through your IRCC Secure Account — never use third-party websites	
› Save the 'maintained status' acknowledgement email immediately after submitting	
› Track your application status regularly via the IRCC Secure Account portal	

2026 TIP: Always verify your DLI's designation status on the IRCC website before applying — applying with a suspended or revoked DLI will result in automatic refusal and may impact all future immigration applications. If you are unsure about your current status or eligibility to apply onshore, consult a **Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC)** before submitting your application.

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