

# POST-GRADUATION WORK PERMIT

## (PGWP) — Canada 2026

The **Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP)** allows eligible graduates of Canadian Designated Learning Institutions (DLIs) to work in Canada for up to **3 years** after completing their studies. The PGWP is a critical stepping stone toward Canadian Permanent Residency through programs such as Express Entry and Provincial Nominee Programs (PNPs). You must apply within **180 days** of receiving your final marks or official notification of program completion.

<b>CAD 255</b>	<b>180 Days</b>	<b>Up to 3 Yrs</b>	<b>HIGH</b>
Application Fee	Apply After Completion	Max. PGWP Duration	Our Success Rate

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

<b>Who Can Apply</b>	Graduates of a full-time program (8+ months) at an eligible DLI in Canada — public or private with public funding
<b>Study Permit</b>	Must have held a valid study permit at some point during the program — permit need not be valid at time of PGWP application
<b>Program Length</b>	Programs of 8 months to under 2 years grant PGWP equal to program length; 2+ year programs grant full 3-year PGWP
<b>Full-Time Study</b>	Must have studied full-time for the entire program (part-time in final semester is acceptable due to fewer courses)
<b>DLI Eligibility</b>	Institution must be a PGWP-eligible DLI — language schools and many private colleges do NOT qualify
<b>Application Window</b>	Must apply within 180 days of receiving official final grades, transcripts, or program completion letter
<b>Inside Canada</b>	Must be physically present in Canada at the time of application to apply onshore
<b>No Prior PGWP</b>	PGWP is a once-in-a-lifetime permit — graduates who have previously held a PGWP are not eligible again

### APPLICATION DETAILS

<b>Application Portal</b>	IRCC Secure Account (online) — strongly recommended; paper applications are significantly slower
<b>Application Fee</b>	CAD 255 per PGWP application (non-refundable); open work permit holder fee may also apply
<b>Biometrics</b>	Required if not provided in the last 10 years — CAD 85 (individual) or CAD 170 (family group)
<b>Processing Time</b>	4–5 months on average; varies by IRCC workload and completeness of the application
<b>Maintained Status</b>	Apply before study permit expires or within 90-day grace period after program end to maintain status

<b>Bridging Work Permit</b>	If PGWP is pending and study permit expiring, a Bridging Open Work Permit (BOWP) may be available
<b>Work Authorization</b>	Full open work permit — work for any employer, in any location, in any occupation across Canada
<b>Decision Output</b>	Approval letter issued via IRCC Secure Account; work permit stamp obtained at Port of Entry or via flagpoling

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

<b>Passport</b>	Valid passport — must be valid for the full intended duration of the PGWP being requested
<b>Transcripts / Marks</b>	Official final transcripts or proof of final grades confirming all program requirements are met
<b>Completion Letter</b>	Official letter from your institution confirming program completion, graduation date, and credential awarded
<b>Study Permit Copy</b>	Copy of your most recent valid study permit or maintained status acknowledgement
<b>Proof of Full-Time</b>	Enrollment confirmation or transcript showing full-time study throughout the program
<b>Digital Photo</b>	Recent digital passport-style photograph meeting IRCC specifications
<b>Biometrics Receipt</b>	If biometrics already given, include the receipt — otherwise book biometrics appointment promptly
<b>IMM 5710 Form</b>	Completed Application to Change Conditions, Extend My Stay or Remain in Canada as a Worker form

## PGWP & PATHWAY TO PERMANENT RESIDENCY

<b>Express Entry</b>	PGWP work experience in NOC TEER 0, 1, 2, or 3 earns CRS points and qualifies for Canadian Experience Class (CEC)
<b>Provincial Nominee</b>	Many PNPs (Ontario, BC, Alberta, etc.) have streams specifically for international graduates with Canadian work experience
<b>Language Scores</b>	Strong CLB 7–9 scores in English or French significantly boost Express Entry CRS ranking — prepare early
<b>Work Experience</b>	Minimum 1 year of skilled work in Canada (NOC TEER 0–3) required for Canadian Experience Class PR
<b>Spouse OWP</b>	Spouse or common-law partner of a PGWP holder may be eligible for their own Open Work Permit
<b>PGWP Expiry Planning</b>	Begin PR application process well before PGWP expires — do not let status lapse while awaiting PR
<b>LMIA-Exempt</b>	PGWP holders are LMIA-exempt — no employer Labour Market Impact Assessment needed to hire you
<b>Francophone Bonus</b>	French-speaking graduates outside Quebec receive additional CRS points — consider French language testing

## PGWP APPLICATION CHECKLIST

› Note the date you received your final marks — the 180-day PGWP application clock starts immediately	
› Confirm your DLI and program are PGWP-eligible on the official IRCC website before applying	
› Request official final transcripts and a program completion letter from your institution promptly	
› Check that your passport is valid for the full PGWP duration you are requesting	
› Book biometrics appointment as soon as possible — appointment slots can be limited	
› Complete IMM 5710 form accurately and attach all supporting documents	
› Apply through your IRCC Secure Account — never use unofficial third-party portals	
› If study permit is expiring soon, apply for a Bridging Open Work Permit (BOWP) simultaneously	
› Notify any current or prospective employer that your PGWP application is in progress	
› Begin language testing (IELTS / CELPIP / TEF) early to prepare your Express Entry profile	
› Consult an RCIC to map out your PR pathway before your PGWP is approved	

**2026 TIP:** The PGWP is a **once-in-a-lifetime** permit — apply carefully and ensure all documents are complete before submitting. An incomplete or incorrect application can result in refusal with no refund of fees. If your DLI was recently added to or removed from the PGWP-eligible list, or if you studied at multiple institutions, consult a **Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC)** to confirm your eligibility before applying.

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