



# SPOUSE OPEN WORK PERMIT 2026

If your spouse or common-law partner is studying in Canada in an eligible program, you may qualify for a Canadian Open Work Permit (OWP). This permit allows you to work full-time for ANY employer in Canada – no job offer required – giving your family dual

<b>Open – Any</b> <b>Employer</b> Work Permit Type	<b>CAD 255 Fee</b> Embassy Fee	<b>4–16 Weeks</b> Processing Time	<b>HIGH</b> Our Success Rate
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## WHO QUALIFIES (THE STUDENT – PRINCIPAL APPLICANT)

<b>Master's / PhD</b>	Enrolled full-time in a Master's degree or Doctoral program at a public DLI
<b>Professional Degree</b>	MBA, LLM, MEng, MD or equivalent professional degree program
<b>Bachelor's Program</b>	Full-time bachelor's at a public college or university (8+ months duration)
<b>Study Permit</b>	Must hold a valid Canadian Study Permit or be in process of obtaining one
<b>DLI Status</b>	Institution must be a Designated Learning Institution (DLI) in good standing
<b>Eligible Job + Work Permit</b>	Applicant having work permit with eligible job is also eligible for spouse visa.

## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED (SPOUSE APPLICANT)

<b>Marriage Certificate</b>	Apostilled or notarized copy with certified English translation
<b>Principal's Study Permit</b>	Copy of valid Canadian Study Permit or approval letter
<b>Enrollment Letter</b>	Current letter from DLI confirming full-time enrollment in eligible program
<b>Spouse's Passport</b>	Valid for duration of intended stay in Canada
<b>Relationship Proof</b>	Joint bank statements, wedding photos, communication records, affidavits
<b>Application Fee</b>	CAD 255 Open Work Permit fee + CAD 85 biometrics if new applicant

## APPLICATION OPTIONS

- › Option A (Recommended): Apply online simultaneously with study permit for fastest processing
- › Option B: Apply online after the principal applicant receives study permit approval
- › Option C: Apply at Port of Entry (border/airport) if all documents are complete
- › Option D: If spouse is already in Canada on Visitor Visa, apply online without leaving
- › Spouse with OWP can work for any employer – change jobs freely with no restrictions

*2026 UPDATE: IRCC extended OWP eligibility to include spouses of students in certain bachelor's programs at public colleges – this remains effective for 2026. Spouses with OWP also qualify for provincial health insurance after 3 months of residence in Canada.*

**WhatsApp** 917508361111 | **Email** info@rajveerchahal.com | **Website** www.rajveerchahal.com

**Facebook** irajveerchahal | **YouTube** @rajveerchahal | **Instagram** @irajveerchahal