



## Canada

### Visa Arrangements

*Please be aware that Study Abroad Office staff are not qualified to offer consultations or in-depth advice regarding visa applications. Immigration laws are complex and subject to frequent changes. Therefore if you do have any further questions about the process of applying for your visa you will need to contact the appropriate Embassy directly. The information below is intended as guidance only and unless otherwise stated applies only to UK citizens without exceptional circumstances.*

All students spending more than 6 months in Canada need a Study Permit and must apply for an Electronic Travel Authorization. See more information on how to apply for an eTA at the following link:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta-start.asp>

**Students attending a university based in Québec (e.g. McGill, University of Montreal, etc) also require a Certificat d'acceptation du Québec (CAQ) from Québec Immigration prior to applying for the Study Permit. You can find more information about the CAQ on the final page of this document.**

### How to Apply for your Visa

A comprehensive Study Permit Application Kit, including an Instruction Guide for completing the required forms, can be found on the following section of the Government of Canada website:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/study.asp>

1. Students should complete the Application for Study Permit Checklist and attach this to the front of their application with the following:
  - Application form (IMM 1294)\* which can be found at:  
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/student.asp>  
(If applying by paper and not online)
  - Letter of acceptance from your educational institution in Canada
  - Proof of financial support for the duration of your studies in Canada
  - Processing fee
  - Photocopy of passport ID page
  - 2 passport photographs (write your name and date of birth on the back)

If applicable, please also submit: -

- Certificat d'Acceptation du Québec (CAQ) if you will be studying in Quebec
- Schedule 1 (IMM 5257) for citizens of certain countries\*
- Family Information Form IMM 5645\*

\*forms downloadable from website

2. Pay the processing fee (\$150 CAD or £72 GBP).
3. Submit your application and supporting documents.

Once your application is approved, you will receive a letter of introduction confirming the approval. This letter is not your Study Permit. When you arrive in Canada you must show this letter to a Canadian immigration officer at the airport. You will be issued a Study Permit at this time.

Processing times vary and are subject to frequent change, though 8 to 10 weeks is fairly standard. For the latest guidelines see:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/times/temp/students.asp>

### **Work Permissions**

Foreign students in Canada can work on campus if they meet certain eligibility requirements and if you are eligible your Study Permit will be annotated to reflect this on entry into Canada.

Visiting and exchange students are not permitted to work off campus.

Further information can be found here: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/work.asp>

No student should rely on obtaining a job in Canada in order to support themselves financially whilst abroad, and you are likely to be refused a Study Permit if the authorities think this is what you plan to do.

### **Certificat d'acceptation du Québec (CAQ)**

Students who will be studying in Québec must apply for a Certificat d'acceptation du Québec before applying for a Study Permit.

Please refer to the following website for up-to-date information on applying for a CAQ:

<http://www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/electronic-services/caq-electronic/index.html>

It takes around 4 weeks (20 business days, not including postal delivery time) to obtain your CAQ, so you need to submit your application *as soon as you've received your acceptance letter!* Applications are processed in order of date received and there is no option of priority processing. How you apply is determined by your country of residence, rather than your country of citizenship.

### **Application for the CAQ**

The CAQ application form and other information regarding studying in Québec can be found here:

<http://www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/immigrate-settle/students/index.html>

You can complete the form online. You will then need to print it out and send it with the relevant supporting documents and processing fees (\$110 CAD) to the Service aux étudiants étrangers (Foreign Students' Service). Your application will not be considered until all documents have been received by post.

Immigration Quebec will then release the CAQ to the Canadian High Commission in London and you will be able to apply for your Study Permit as described above.

### **Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)**

For work permit or study permit renewal applications, the eTA will not be automatically renewed. If you wish to exit and re-enter Canada by air, you will need to ensure that your eTA is still valid by consulting the Check Status Tool. If your eTA has expired, you will need to apply for a new one as soon as you can.