

How to Apply to College as an International Applicant FAQ

How can I apply to college as an international student?

Please visit the following [website](https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en/apply/international-applicants) for more detailed information.
<https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en/apply/international-applicants>

Who is classified as an International Student?

The definition of an International Student for the Ontario Colleges is any student who is not a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident. Convention Refugee students must apply as International Students but will pay domestic fees.

Do I need a study permit?

International students require a study permit in Canada if their course is longer than six months. After you have accepted your offer and have paid your tuition fees, you must apply for a Canadian study permit. You can [apply for a study permit online](#) or on paper at your nearest [visa application centre \(VAC\)](#).

Please note that you will also need to provide [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada](#) (IRCC) with your [Provincial Attestation Letter \(PAL\)](#) - a document required by international students applying for a Canadian study permit to study in Ontario. It confirms that the province has allocated a study permit to you, demonstrating you have a place to study in Ontario. The PAL is submitted to [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada](#) along with the study permit application.

If you have a valid study permit, you can legally study at a post-secondary institution.

You may be eligible for certain scholarships and grants such as the [Ontario Student Assistance Program \(OSAP\)](#).

How do I send my Hodan Nalayah Secondary School transcript to the college?

For Hodan Nalayah Secondary School Graduates, to receive a copy of your transcript that you will send to the colleges, please email the Guidance Secretary (come to Guidance for email address) from your YRDSB GAPPS email account and include all information to be sent for verification purposes. For example, your OCAS Application Number, your OEN number, your Hodan Nalayah Secondary School student number, your individualized College Application ID Number (if the college has given you one upon receipt of your application), the recipient's email address, the recipient's mailing address, the name of the person who the transcript is being sent to?

Applying for OSAP

If you are a Convention Refugee, you may qualify for OSAP. There are certain documents which you must have before applying.

- Social Insurance Number (SIN): you must also apply for this on your own. Once you have applied, you will be given a temporary SIN which begins with a 9. Once you have become a permanent resident, you can apply for your permanent SIN. [Visit the Service Canada website.](#)

If you are a Refugee Claimant or an International Student studying on a Student Visa, you will not qualify for OSAP.

How and where do I register for an English Proficiency Test?

Proof of English Proficiency:

- [IELTS](#)
- [TOEFL](#)

What is the difference between a study permit and a visa?

A study permit allows you to study in Canada. A visa or an Electronic Travel Authorization allows you to enter Canada.

What should I do if my study permit was issued for another college or a university, but I would like to study at another college or university?

After you have received a school's offer of admission and paid your first semester fees, you must change the designated learning institution (DLI) number on the [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada](#) website. For example, Seneca's DLI number is O19395536013 (the number begins with the letter O).

When should you extend your Study Permit?

The best time to extend your Study Permit is two or three months prior to the expiry date of the current one.

How long does it take to renew a study permit?

Processing times are updated weekly on [the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada](#) website. For a complete list and more information on the required supporting documents, please visit the [IRCC website](#).

I applied to extend my study permit before it expired but I have not received the new one yet. What is my status?

You may stay in Canada and attend classes under what is called [implied status](#). Please visit the website for the full explanation of implied status.

My study permit has expired, but I forgot to apply for an extension. What must I do?

[Please visit the Government of Canada website for more information.](#) You may be required to drop your classes immediately. You may apply to restore your status as a student within 90 days of losing it. After you apply to restore your status, you may stay in Canada until a decision is made on your application but you are not allowed to study until your status is restored.

Why do you have to extend your Study Permit on time?

If you allow your Study Permit to expire, you are not allowed to study and you have to withdraw from your program. If you had submitted an extension application prior to the expiration date, you are allowed to study while waiting for a decision on that application.

Initial Application and Extending Study Permits

Step 1: Create an account or sign in on the [IRCC website](#)

Step 2: Answer the online questionnaire (be sure to select "Study Permit" or "Study Permit Extension" or the appropriate selection for your situation).

Step 3: Upload your supporting documents and a completed application form.

Step 4: Press “Submit” and pay the application fee.