



Working While Studying in Canada

Balancing Income, Experience, and Compliance.

For international students, working is often a cornerstone of the Canadian Dream, providing essential financial support and strengthening future Permanent Residence applications. However, the rules are strict, and 2025/2026 regulatory updates have changed the landscape.

A comprehensive guide to rights, limits, and the new 24-hour rule.

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The Opportunity vs. The Risk

The Opportunity



- **Cost of Living:** Offset rising expenses in Canada.
- **Experience:** Gain Canadian work experience crucial for the PR (Permanent Residence) points system.
- **Integration:** Build a professional network before graduation.

The Risk



- **Strict Enforcement:** IRCC monitors payroll data.
- **The Consequence:** Violating work-hour limits is one of the fastest ways to lose student status.
- **The Penalty:** Potential exclusion orders (deportation) and refusals of future Post-Graduation Work Permits (PGWP).

The New Standard: The 24-Hour Rule

Updated for 2025/2026 Regulations

Core Regulation:

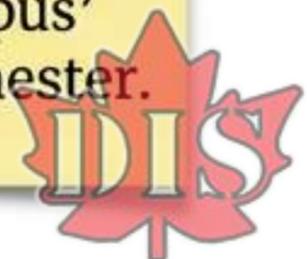
During regular academic sessions, eligible students may now work up to 24 hours per week off-campus.



Context of Change:

Updated from the previous 20-hour limit to help students manage cost of living while maintaining academic focus.

Note: This rule applies strictly to 'Off-Campus' work during the semester.



Eligibility Check

To work off-campus without a separate work permit, you must meet ALL of the following requirements:



RED FLAG EXCEPTION



Students in language programs (ESL/FSL) or general interest courses are **NOT** eligible to work.



Location Matters: On-Campus vs. Off-Campus

On-Campus



Definition: Working for the school, a faculty member, a student organization, or a private business physically located on campus.

Unlimited Hours

You can work as many hours as you wish here, in addition to your off-campus hours.

Off-Campus



Definition: Any employer outside the school boundaries.

Capped at 24 Hours

Requirement: Your permit must explicitly state: "May work 20 (now 24) hours per week off-campus."

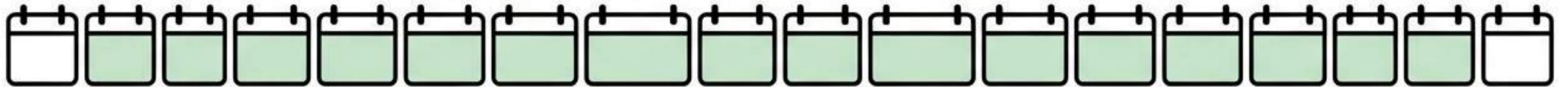
Timing Matters: Sessions vs. Scheduled Breaks

Scenario A: Academic Session



Strict 24-hour cap per week.

Scenario B: Scheduled Breaks



You may work Full-Time (40+ hours).

Definition: Winter/Summer holidays or Reading Weeks defined by your school's academic calendar.

Sandwich



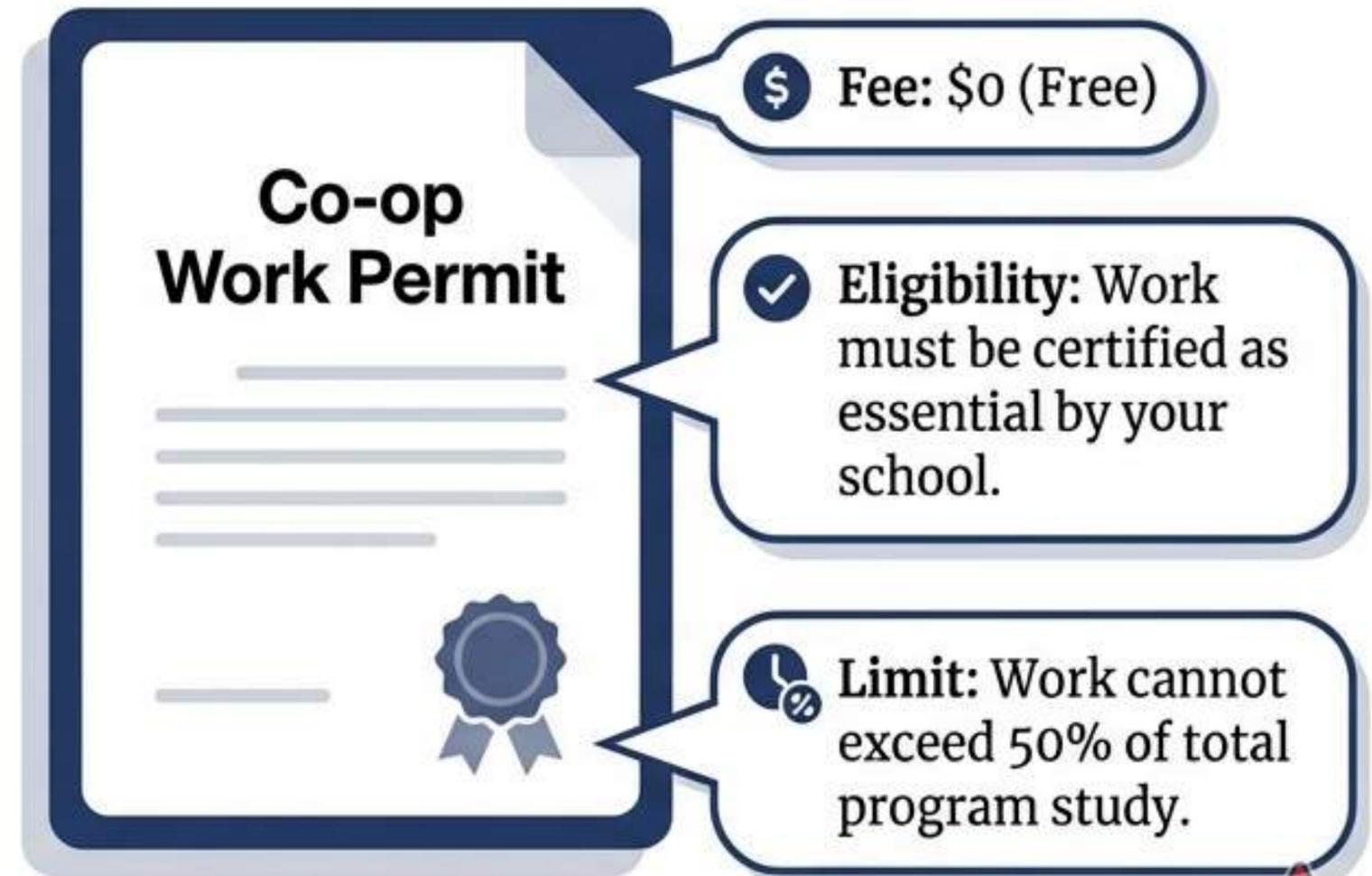
To be eligible, you must be enrolled in the semester before AND after the break.



The Co-op Exception (Mandatory Internships)



- **The Context:** Some programs require work experience (internships/placements) to graduate.
- **The Requirement:** Even if your study permit allows work, you must apply for a separate Co-op Work Permit if the employment is part of your curriculum.



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Financial Realities & Working Conditions



Minimum Wage

\$15.00 – \$19.75 CAD/hr

Varies by province (e.g., BC vs. Ontario).



Social Insurance Number (SIN)

Cost: \$0

Apply at Service Canada. Never pay for this.



Taxes

15% – 20% Deduction

Expect automatic deductions. File annual return for potential refunds.



Off-Campus Limit

24 Hours / Week

Strictly enforced.



Getting Started: A 4-Step Guide



Crucial Responsibility: Ensure your employer understands the limit. It is YOUR responsibility to track your hours, not theirs.

Common Scenarios & FAQs

What if I have two jobs?



The 24-hour limit applies to the **TOTAL** combined hours across all employers. You cannot work 15 hours at Job A and 15 at Job B.

What if I work On-Campus and Off-Campus?



Separate buckets. You legally work unlimited hours On-Campus and 24 hours Off-Campus in the same week.

What if I take a gap semester?



Generally, No Work Allowed. If you take an unauthorized break, you are not a full-time student.

Critical Compliance Risks

Avoid these common triggers for non-compliance and deportation risk.



Working Before Start Date

You cannot work before your program officially starts, even if you arrive early. You must wait for the first day of classes.



The 'Part-Time' Trap

If you drop courses and become part-time (unless it's your final semester), you strictly lose authorization to work immediately.



The 'Averaging' Myth

IRCC does not average hours over a month. Working 25 hours in a single week is a violation, even if you work 0 hours the next week.

Protect Your Canadian Dream

Balancing work and study builds your life in Canada, but the regulations are unforgiving. A simple error—like working while part-time—can jeopardize your entire immigration journey.



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Contact DIS Today

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For eligibility reviews or Co-op permit assistance.

Disclaimer: This presentation provides general information and does not constitute legal advice. Policies change frequently.

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