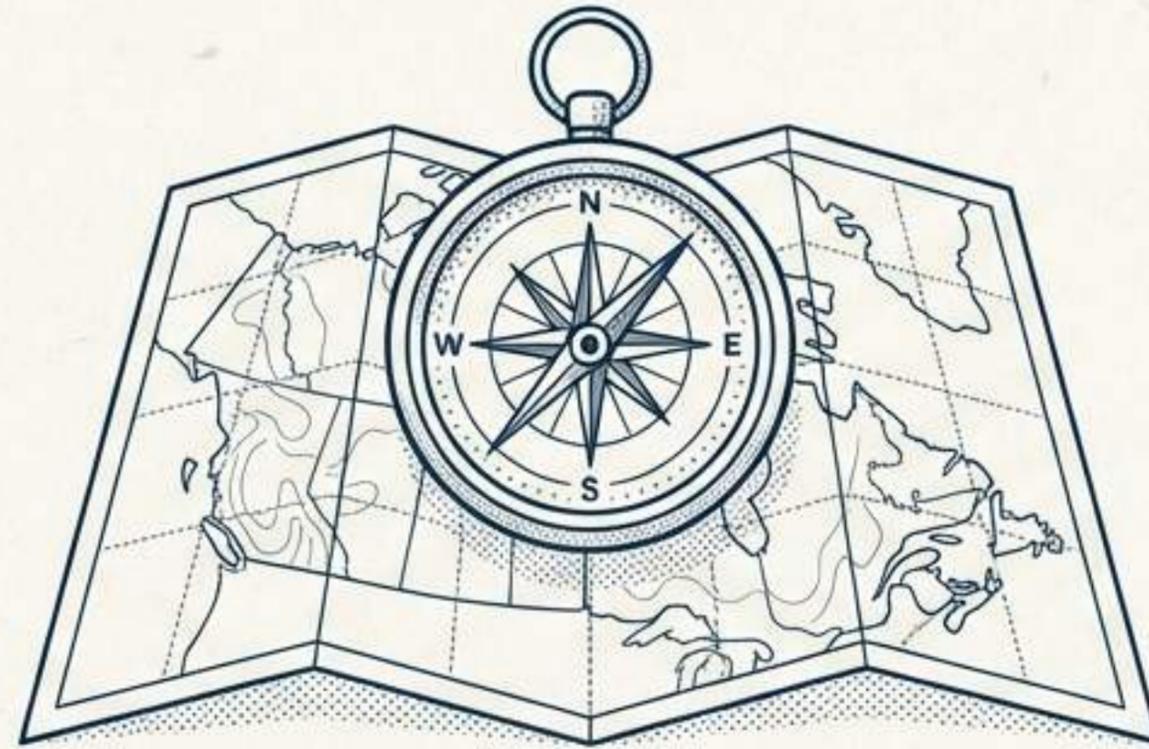


Navigating the Canadian Post Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) in 2025/2026



A comprehensive guide to the “New Reality” of eligibility matrices, language strictness, and compliance traps.



The Bridge from Diploma to Permanent Residence

www.Daraimmigration.Com



The Landscape Has Shifted: Key Takeaways



One-Time Opportunity

You can only receive a PGWP once in your lifetime. There are no second chances.



The Nov 1 Pivot

Strict new eligibility rules apply to study permit applications submitted on or after November 1, 2024.



The New Barriers

Language testing (CLB 7/CLB 5) is now mandatory. College graduates face new 'Field of Study' restrictions.



The Hard Deadline

You have strictly 180 days from receiving final grades to apply.

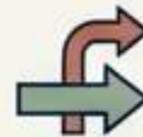
The Most Powerful Document for International Students

The PGWP is an open work permit that serves as the bridge between your diploma and the “Canadian Dream.”



Open Status

No job offer required. You can work for any employer, switch jobs, or work part-time.



The PR Pathway

It buys you the time to gain the 1 year of skilled work experience required for the Canadian Experience Class (CEC).



Validity

Up to 3 years, matching the length of your study program.

The End of the “Golden Era”

The bridge has become narrower. Eligibility is no longer guaranteed by graduation alone.

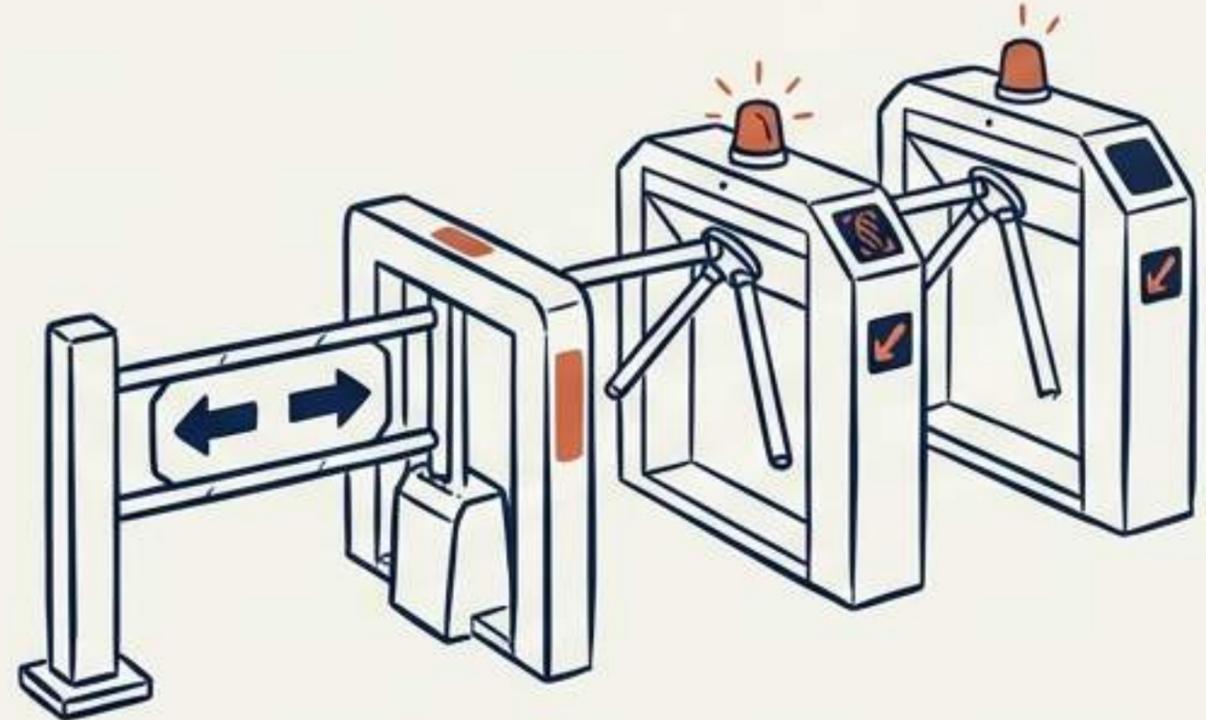
Pre-2024



Automatic Approvals

Graduating from a DLI was the only major requirement. Language tests were not required upfront.

The New Reality



Restricted Access

Effective November 1, 2024. New filters include mandatory language testing and specific CIP codes for college students.

The Great Divide: Which Rules Apply to You?



Group 1: The “Grandfathered” Cohort

For Study Permit applications submitted **BEFORE** November 1, 2024.



Exemption 1: Field of Study

You are EXEMPT. You can graduate from any eligible program (Arts, Business, General Studies) and still qualify.

Exemption 2: Language

You generally do **not** need to provide language test results unless applying under specific temporary policies.



Caveat: You are still subject to general requirements (full-time status, transcripts) detailed later.



Group 2: The “New Rules” Cohort

For Study Permit applications submitted **ON** or **AFTER** November 1, 2024.

	University Graduates (Bachelor’s, Master’s, PhD)	College Graduates (Diploma/Certificate)
Field of Study	Exempt You can study any major.	Restricted Your program’s CIP Code must be on the ‘Labour Shortage’ list (Agriculture, Healthcare, STEM, Trades, Transport).
Language	CLB 7 Must prove CLB 7 (English) or NCLC 7 (French) in all 4 abilities.	CLB 5 Must prove CLB 5 (English) or NCLC 5 (French) in all 4 abilities.



Understanding the New Barriers

The Language Barrier

University Requirement

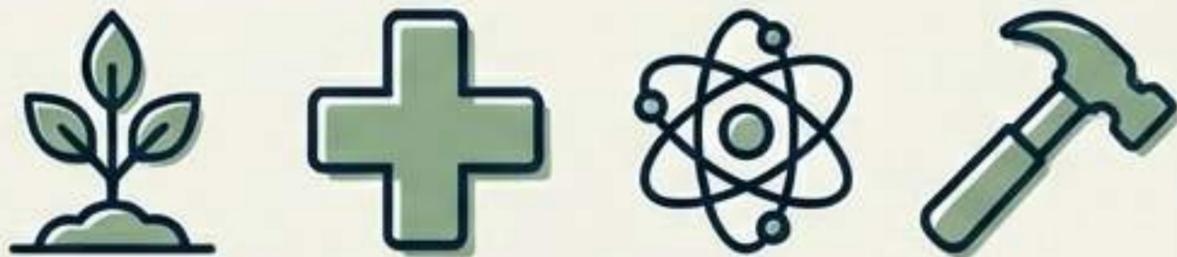
CLB 7 (High Proficiency)

Rule: You must take a 'General' test (CELPIP-General or IELTS-General), not 'Academic'.

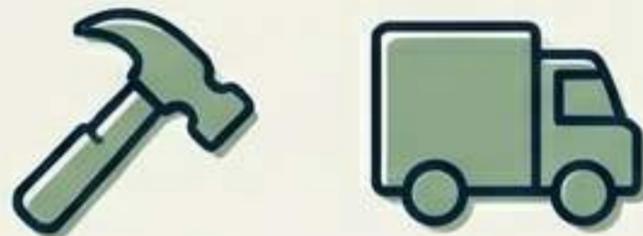
College Requirement

CLB 5 (Intermediate Proficiency)

The Field of Study Barrier (College Only)



Rule: Your graduation is only valid for a PGWP if it addresses a long-term shortage.



Validation: Eligibility is checked via **CIP Codes** (Classification of Instructional Programs).

The Non-Negotiables: Universal Requirements

These rules apply to everyone, regardless of the Nov 1 date.

1. Full-Time Status



You must have maintained full-time student status for every semester.

Exception: Only the final semester can be part-time.

2. Documentation



Do not apply until you physically hold:

- (1) Official Letter of Completion **AND**
- (2) Final Transcripts.

3. Valid Passport



IRCC cannot issue a permit past your passport expiry date. Renew before applying if needed.



The 180-Day Ticking Clock



The clock starts here.
NOT at the graduation ceremony.

▶ 180 Days Later.

Warning

Status Expiry Warning: If your study permit expires before you apply, you must pay to restore your status as a student first. You cannot apply for a work permit if you have no status.



Logistics & Costs (2026 Estimates)

Hidden Costs:

Restoration Fee: **\$229 CAD**

(Only if applying within 90 days of study permit expiry)

Processing Time:

Estimated 80– 140 Days

(Varies by volume)





Step-by-Step Application Workflow



Wait for Docs

Do not apply until you have the Official Completion Letter and Transcripts.

1

2

3

4

5

Language Test

(New Rules Only) Book CELPIP-General or IELTS-General immediately.

Submit Online

Upload documents via the IRCC Portal.

Stay in Canada

Recommended to remain in Canada while awaiting the decision to avoid border complications.



Maintained Status

If your study permit is still valid, you can start working immediately after submitting.



Why Applications Get Refused: Compliance Gaps



The 'Part-Time' Gap

Studying part-time during any unauthorized semester (non-summer, non-final) makes you ineligible.

The Fix: A strong Letter of Explanation is required.



Unauthorized Work

Working more than the allowed hours (20 or 24/week) or working while not enrolled.



Passport Expiry

Receiving a 1-year permit instead of 3 years because your passport expired early.

Always renew your passport first!



Frequently Asked Questions

Can I work while waiting?

Yes, but only if you applied while your study permit was valid and you completed the program full-time.

Does my spouse get a work permit?

Masters/PhD: Yes.
College/Undergrad: Generally NO, unless the graduate is working in a high-skilled or shortage job.

Can I extend my PGWP?

Generally, no. It is a 'one-and-done' permit.

Which language test?

ALWAYS take the 'General' option (CELPIP/IELTS), never 'Academic'.

The Bridge is Narrower. Don't Walk it Alone.

A mistake with a CIP code, a part-time semester, or a language score can force you to leave Canada. The PGWP is a one-time opportunity.

- **The DIS Advantage:** We review your entire student history to ensure your application is bulletproof against compliance gap refusals.

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