

Immigration Essentials

For International Students in Graduate Programs at McGill Published June 2022

REGISTRATION

- 1. International students completing a graduate program must be registered full-time* in order to:
 - a. Respect the conditions of their Certificate of Acceptance of Quebec (CAQ);
 - b. Maintain their eligibility to work on and off-campus with their study permit; and
 - c. Ensure their eligibility for the post-graduation work permit.

The only exception is the final term of the program, which can be part-time.

*Note: Non-thesis Master's students must take a minimum of 12 credits per academic term to maintain full-time enrollment. Thesis students (Master and Ph.D) are enrolled in full-time studies every term including summer.

ON and OFF-CAMPUS WORK

2. As per the remarks on their Study Permit, International Students who meet the requirements to work are eligible to work on-campus for an unlimited number of hours, and off campus up to a maximum of 20 hours per week during regular academic sessions and full-time during university-scheduled breaks. University-scheduled breaks are defined as breaks that apply to ALL students within the same program (e.g., certain programs designate summer as a "scheduled break", whereas others do not; students should check with their program advisor).

INTERNSHIPS and OTHER WORK EXPERIENCES

- 3. Any form of experiential learning (e.g. an internship; co-op term; practicum; field experience; clinical practice; etc.) that is a requirement of an academic program requires a "co-op work permit".
 - a. This is a work permit that is separate from the study permit, although students can apply for it at the same time as they apply for their study permit.
 - b. The application is free; however, students doing a practical component where they are in close contact with the public will require an Immigration Canada <u>medical exam</u> (cost: approximately \$250).
 - c. The co-op work permit must be obtained *before* the practical component begins, so students are advised to apply as early as possible.

REGISTRATION CONSIDERATIONS

- 4. If a student is registered in a Non-Thesis extension term, since it is a 0-credit term, the student is not considered "full-time" and is thus not eligible to work (on or off campus).
- 5. International students are not eligible to work while on a Leave of Absence; students considering a leave of absence should discuss immigration and health insurance implications with an <a href="mailto:limbackground-color: blue, color: blue, color:



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- 6. Students need to clearly understand the immigration implications of <u>Time Limitation and Readmission</u> policies (i.e., that they will be withdrawn from the University when they have passed the time limit of their degree and will apply for readmission only in the term in which they will deposit their thesis). Students should meet with an <u>Immigration Advisor</u> to discuss this.
- 7. If a student withdraws or is withdrawn from the university, they are advised to meet with an <u>Immigration</u> <u>Advisor</u> to discuss their options.

POST-GRADUATION WORK

International Students who complete a graduate program are eligible for a <u>post-graduation work permit</u>. The length of the post-graduation work permit is contingent on the official (stated) length of their program.

- a. Students in programs with a stated length of 2 years or more are eligible for a 3-year post-graduation work permit.
- b. Students in programs with a stated length of less than 2 years are eligible for post-graduation work permits that match the official length of their program.

The amount of time taken to complete the program is not considered; rather, it is the stated official length of the program that determines the length of the post-graduation work permit.

Study permits expire 90 days after completion of a program of studies, regardless of the expiry date printed on the permit. It is during this time that a student should apply for their post-graduation work permit.

QUESTIONS?

IMMIGRATION or HEALTH-INSURANCE QUESTIONS	ACADEMIC or PROGRAM-RELATED QUESTIONS
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