

How to Apply for a Canadian Study Permit

International students planning to study in Canada generally require a study permit to attend a Designated Learning Institution, or DLI. The application normally requires evidence of acceptance for study, sufficient financial resources and compliance with the immigration requirements that apply to the student.

Applying for a Study Permit

Most students apply online through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. Visa Application Centres may be used for parts of the process, including the collection of biometrics where required. Biometrics normally consist of fingerprints and a photograph.

Many study permit applicants must also provide a Provincial Attestation Letter or Territorial Attestation Letter, although exemptions apply. Students should check the requirement that applies to their programme and circumstances.

Documents and Evidence

The documents required depend on the student's circumstances. They may include a letter of acceptance from a DLI, a valid passport or travel document, financial evidence meeting current immigration requirements and, where applicable, medical examination, police certificate, biometric, PAL or TAL documentation.

Financial Requirements

Applicants must demonstrate sufficient funds, without relying on employment in Canada, to cover tuition fees, living expenses and transportation. For applications made on or after 1 September 2025, a single student studying outside Quebec currently needs CAD 22,895 for first-year living expenses, in addition to tuition and transportation costs. Different amounts apply where family members accompany the student, and Quebec has separate financial requirements.

For programmes lasting more than one year, applicants must also explain how they intend to finance the remainder of their studies. Financial evidence should meet current Canadian immigration and, where applicable, local visa office requirements.

Current Cost Examples

Item	Current information
Study permit application	CAD 150
Biometrics	CAD 85 per person, where required
Living expenses for one applicant outside Quebec	CAD 22,895 for the first year
Tuition and transportation	Additional funds required

Medical examinations, police certificates, document translation and some Visa Application Centre services can create additional costs. Students should

therefore budget beyond the basic study permit and biometric fees.

WorldStudentAdvisors

WorldStudentAdvisors can help students understand the study permit process, organise the required documentation and financial evidence, and prepare an application based on their individual circumstances.

The Key Message

A Canadian study permit application requires careful preparation and evidence that the student meets the current immigration requirements. This normally includes acceptance from a Designated Learning Institution, appropriate financial evidence, a valid passport or travel document and any PAL or TAL, biometric, medical or police requirements that apply.

Students should check the current requirements for their circumstances before applying, particularly the financial evidence required, as these amounts can change.

Disclaimer: This information is provided in good faith and was believed to be accurate at the time of publication. Fees, dates, entry requirements, visa regulations and other information may change. Students should check current requirements before making any financial or study commitments.