

Dear International Candidate,

We are pleased to welcome you to Pacific Rim College and Canada! As a non-Canadian national intending to study in Canada, there are steps you must take to ensure that you are eligible for your studies and temporary residency in Canada.

International Study Permit Update

Please be advised that recent [IRCC regulation changes](#) are restricting the number of study permits they will approve for the 2024 and 2025 school years and applicants now require a letter of attestation from the province with each student's study permit application, provided by the school. Due to a limited number of available attestation letters for all international students applying for study permits between January 22nd, 2024, and January 21st, 2025, we must reserve these letters for students enrolled in programs that are longer than 6 months and require a study permit, and students in programs that are only offered on-campus without the option of online studies.

Students enrolled in the Diploma of Acupuncture, the Diploma of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine, the Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine program, the Dual Diplomas of Acupuncture and Phytotherapy, the Dual Diplomas of Acupuncture and Holistic Nutrition, and the Permaculture Design and Resilient Ecosystems Diploma program are eligible for an attestation letter and may request one from PRC after acceptance to complete their study permit application.

Students enrolled in the Diploma of Phytotherapy, the Diploma of Holistic Nutrition, the Dual Diplomas of Phytotherapy and Holistic Nutrition, and the Natural Health Certificate programs are not eligible to obtain an attestation letter and must study live online for the 2024 and 2025 school years. If we have remaining attestation letters nearing the end of the year we will be happy to provide these to students in live-online programs who still desire to come to Canada. Students interested in joining us on-campus in Winter 2025, Summer 2025, or Fall 2025 may contact us near the end of October and we will be happy to provide an update regarding attestation letter availability.

Students enrolled in the Holistic Doula, the Community Herbalist, or the Holistic Nutrition certificate programs are not eligible to obtain an attestation letter as a study permit is not required for our short-duration programs and certificate students may enter Canada on a visitor VISA.

Study Permit

As per Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) regulations, international students planning to study in a program longer than 6 months in length in Canada require a Study Permit. Students in programs shorter than 6 months do not require a study permit, but IRCC recommends applying for one in case you desire to extend your studies or work part-time while in school.

USA Citizens

You can either apply for a study permit before you enter Canada, or in most situations, you can apply for and receive one at the border when you enter. For the latter, you will need your original *Acceptance Letter* and the *International Acceptance Letter Form* provided in your acceptance package, and evidence that you have met all eligibility criteria. Please note that there is a risk in waiting to apply for a study permit at the point of entry because you may be denied both the permit and entrance into Canada.

Citizens of Foreign Countries other than the USA

You will need to apply for a study permit before entering Canada. You will need your original *Acceptance Letter* and the *International Acceptance Letter Form* provided in your acceptance package, evidence that you have met all eligibility criteria, and other documentation.

How to Apply for a Study Permit

According to IRCC, to be eligible for a study permit, you must meet the following criteria:

- You must have been accepted by a school, college, university, or other educational institution in Canada.
- Immigration officers have the authority to request a wide variety of financial information in order to establish that the applicant can support themselves while studying in Canada. Examples of acceptable documents are listed under the [Proof of financial support](#) section of the study permit documents list on the IRCC website. As of November 2019, international students require a minimum of \$10,000 CAD per year (\$833 per month) in addition to the tuition amount in order to prove financial self-sufficiency.
- You must be a law-abiding citizen with no criminal record and not be a risk to the security of Canada. You may have to provide a police certificate.
- You must be in good health and willing to supply a completed medical examination by a Canadian Immigration designated physician. Applicants who have lived or travelled for 6 months in certain countries or territories in the year before coming to Canada may require an immigration medical exam (IME). Only an approved panel physician can do a complete medical exam for immigration reasons. A [list of approved physicians](#) is available on the IRCC website. During the medical exam, you can expect to complete a medical history questionnaire with the physician, and to undergo a physical exam. Depending on your age, you may be asked to do



chest x-rays and lab tests at the clinic or a laboratory. Please refer to the IRCC website for a [list of the countries and territories](#) which require an immigration medical exam, and for further [details about the exam process](#).

- You must satisfy an immigration officer that you will leave Canada at the end of your authorized stay.

You can apply for a study permit online or with a paper application. Generally, online applications are processed faster. Processing times vary and can depend in part on your country of citizenship. Please refer to the [processing time lookup tool](#) on the IRCC website.

To satisfy the assessing officer, you should be prepared to provide documentary evidence to support all application requirements. Study permits can be denied for a variety of reasons, but common reasons for refusal include the immigration officer assessing the application is not satisfied that the applicant has sufficient funds to support themselves while in Canada, that the applicant will leave Canada at the end of their authorized stay, or if the applicant has a criminal conviction or medical exam results which make them inadmissible to Canada.

For general information about the application process, including application forms and locations of Canadian visa offices, please consult the [Study in Canada as an international student](#) section of the IRCC website. All applications relating to programs of study at Pacific Rim College must include the Pacific Rim College Designated Learning Institution (DLI) number: O19304067532.

Family Permit Eligibility

Your spouse/common-law partner and any dependent children/grandchildren may be eligible to join you in Canada during your studies. Dependents must be under the age of 19.

If you and your family are outside Canada at the time of your initial study permit application, IRCC recommends that you apply for their permits while you submit your application. If you have already received a valid study permit, then your spouse or common-law partner may apply for an open work permit. Family members must complete their own application forms; however you can submit your applications together and make one payment for the total amount. If you are already in Canada and wish to have your family join you during your studies, you will be required to send a [letter of invitation](#) to your family stating the length of time they will be in Canada (generally this is the same duration as you intend to remain here). They must then apply through the Canadian visa office [nearest them](#).

For more information, please refer to the [Can my spouse or common-law partner and dependent children come with me to Canada?](#) section of the IRCC website.

Employment while Studying

You can work as an international student in Canada if your study permit specifically lists a condition that says you're allowed to work on- or off-campus. If you do receive a condition on your study permit that permits off-campus work, you can work up to 20 hours per week during the semester, and full-time during scheduled breaks in your school year, such as during winter and summer holidays. For more information, please refer to the [Studying and working in Canada as an international student](#) section of the IRCC website.

Post-Graduation Work Permit

At present, graduates are not eligible to apply for the Post Graduation Work Permit on the basis of programs completed at Pacific Rim College. However, graduates may be eligible to apply for other kinds of work permits, including [employer-specific work permits](#). If you wish to remain in Canada to work after graduating, please consult the [Stay in Canada after graduation](#) section of the IRCC website.

Extending Your Study Permit/ Changing Programs

You do not need to change or apply for a new study permit if you want to change the program you are enrolled in, but if your existing permit will expire before you complete the new program, you will need to apply to extend your study permit. For more information, please refer to the [Extend your study permit: About the process](#) section on the IRCC website.

In most cases, if you apply to extend your study permit before your current permit expires, the application is submitted online or by mail and does not require the applicant to leave Canada. If you apply to extend your study permit but haven't received a decision by the time it expires, you can usually remain in Canada to continue studying under the same conditions as your original document until a decision on your extension application is reached (this is called "implied status").

Health Insurance

International students with a study permit valid for a period of six or more months are required to apply for the Medical Services Plan (MSP, B.C.'s health-care coverage) as soon as they arrive in British Columbia. Through this application process, they will be enrolled and then invoiced for the new health fee of \$75 per month. Before health-care coverage begins, there is a wait period consisting of the balance of the month that



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residency is established, plus two months. International students should carry private insurance until this wait period ends and provincial coverage begins, such as [Guard Me](#). To apply, and for more information, please visit their website [here](#).

Enrolment in the MSP is mandatory for all B.C. residents, and only adult international students who formally opt out of provincial health coverage through the MSP are exempt from paying the health fee. If they do, they should secure private health-care insurance, or they will be liable for the costs of all health-care services received in British Columbia. Additional information can be found [here](#).

Should you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the Office of Admissions.

Sincerely,

PRC Admissions Team

** Please note that the information found in this document is given for informational purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice. Although best efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this information at time of writing, federal and provincial regulations and policy change frequently, often without notice. To determine and assess your eligibility for immigration programs, please contact [MSP](#) and [IRCC](#) directly or seek the services of a [registered immigration consultant](#).*