

Post-Graduation Workshop

**The recording and PowerPoint slides
will be available on our workshop page**

Douglas International



Who are we?

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We are International Student Advising Specialist (ISASSs)

- We can advise on concerns/questions around Study Permit (i.e work eligibility, study permit extension, spousal work permit, Post-graduation work permit...)
- We are not able to advise on your PR options

DISCLAIMER

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The information in this workshop may change in the future!

- This workshop is for current Douglas students.
- This is not a legal document. **Information is subject to change at any time.**
- ***Always*** refer to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada for the most up-to-date information.

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New guidelines were released in response to COVID-19

For more details, visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-covid19/visitors-foreign-workers-students.html>

(We will talk about this later)

Before we start...

Some acronyms we will use:

- IRCC: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- FT: Full-time
- PT: Part-time
- SP: Study Permit
- WP: Work Permit
- PGWP: Post-Graduation Work Permit
- DLI: Designated Learning Institution (Schools that host international students – i.e. Douglas College)
- PoE: Port of Entry

What is your plan after Douglas College?

- Transfer to an university?
→ Extend a Study permit
- Go back to your home country?
→ Must leave Canada BEFORE the expiry of your status in Canada
- Get a PGWP and work in Canada?
→ Find out more today!



Agenda

- PGWP Basics
- Eligibility criteria
- COVID updates
- Application timeline
- Documents for application
- Working eligibility
- Traveling
- Scenarios
- Other considerations
- Questions and Answers (not recorded)

Transferring Institutions

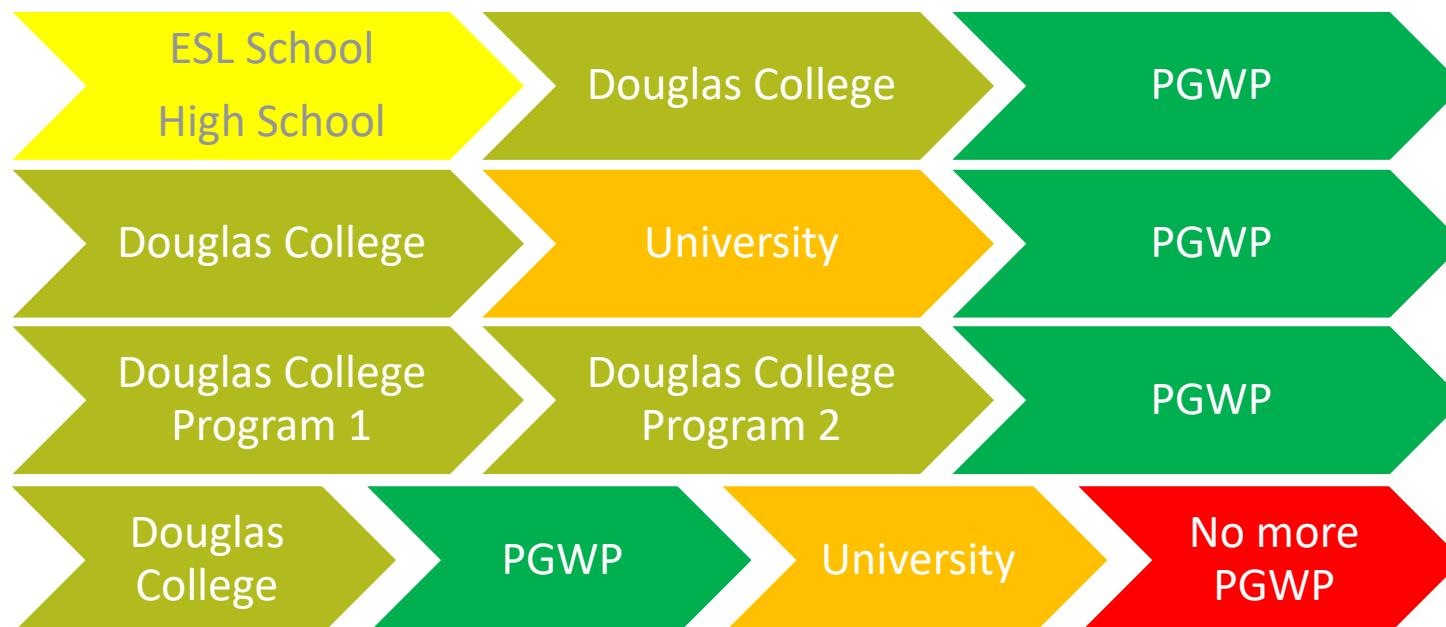
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If you are not graduating but transferring to another school:

- You may continue to use your study permit as long as it is valid. (e.g. from the Bachelor level to the Master's level)
- But, you need to notify IRCC by changing your DLI in your Online account. This is how
 - Why? Each school is required to report to IRCC on students' status. If you do not update your DLI, IRCC will continue contacting us, and we have to report that you are not registered

Post-graduation Work Permit

The PGWP Program is a **one-time privilege** for international students who graduate from certain Canadian post-secondary institutions and **meet ALL eligibility requirements.**



PGWP Validity/Length

Length of program of study determines the maximum length of the work permit (This is based on Douglas programs)

Less than 8 month credential
(i.e. TESL certificate)

Not eligible for a PGWP

One-year credential
(PDD programs, certificates)

Max. 1 year PGWP

2 different one-year
credentials

(e.g. 2 PDDs, PDD + Certificate)

Study 2 years in total

Max. 3 year PGWP

Two-year credential or longer
(Associate, Diploma, Bachelor
programs)

Max. 3 year PGWP

Transferred to Douglas?



Did you transfer to Douglas from another school?

- If transferred **from one PGWP-eligible DLI to Douglas**, the combined duration of study must be at least 8 months.
- If transferred **from a foreign post-secondary institution (including credit transfer)**, only the time for the credits earned at Douglas will count toward eligibility for a PGWP.
- If transferred **from an *ineligible* DLI to Douglas** and graduated, only time spent at Douglas will be counted. Time spent at Douglas must be at least 8 months in duration.

[The list of eligible institutions](#)

PGWP Eligibility



PGWP Eligibility Requirements

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You must...

- Completed an academic program that is at least 8 months long
- Continuously studied full-time (in Canada), excluding scheduled breaks and final semester
- Received a graduation letter
- **Apply for a work permit within 180 days of completion** - Calculation of the 180 days begins the day the student's final marks are issued (April 28 for the Winter 2021)
- **Have a valid temporary resident status or implied status** for an inside-Canada application

[IRCC page](#)

How is COVID-19 affecting my PGWP eligibility?

- Under a normal circumstance, the portion completed online/distance learning is NOT eligible for PGWP.
- If you are **in Canada** and continued studying online since March 2020, you are not affected, provided that you meet other PGWP criteria.
- IRCC counts the portion completed online **outside Canada until December 31, 2021** but with some restrictions

[IRCC page](#)
[IRCC page](#)

How do I know if I am affected studying outside Canada?

Items to consider:

1. Study Permit situation

- Have a valid study permit
- Started studying after the submission of your study permit application
- Study permit application is be approved in the end

2. When you studied outside Canada

- Already enrolled in the Winter 2020 in Canada initially
- Started/will start between Summer 2020 through Fall 2021 semesters

How much can I study online outside Canada?

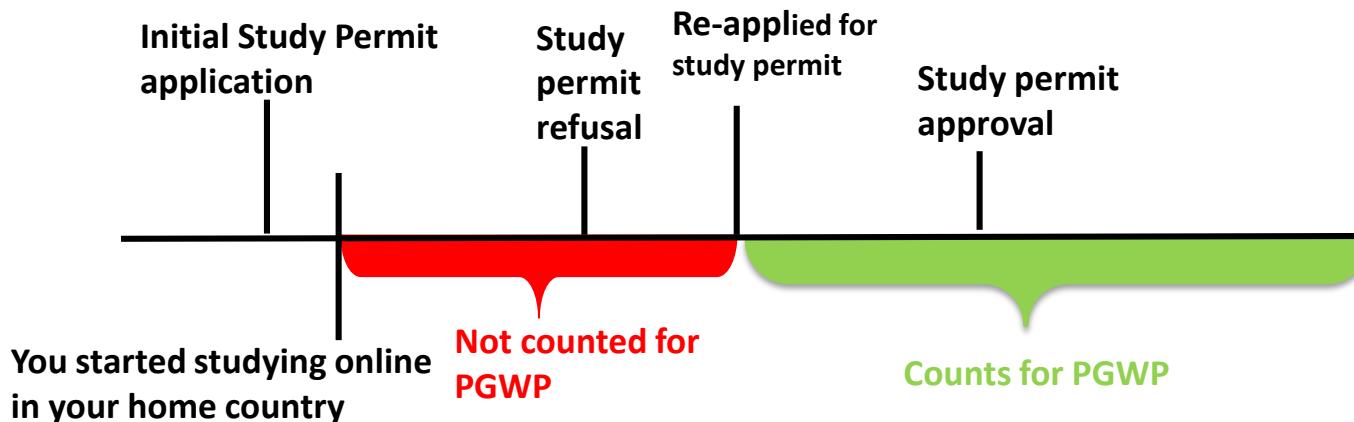
- You can complete 100% of your studies outside Canada.

What if I study part of a semester in Canada?

- IRCC counts it as completed in Canada
- Your responsibility to prove by providing explanation and flight info/boarding pass, Passport stamps

What if my SP was refused first then I re-applied?

- You started your studies while your study permit application was in progress and received refusal initially.
- If your 2nd application was approved, IRCC will count your PGWP eligibility from the portion you studied after you submitted your 2nd application.



Before applying for PGWP

Steps to follow

1. Apply for graduation

2. Wait for your final grades

3. Receive a graduation letter

4. Apply for a PGWP

How do I apply for graduation?

- You need to submit an online graduation application to Grad office by April 9th if the Winter 2021 is your final semester
- The online application form is available on Douglas website
- Link to [online Grad application](#)

Graduation office email: grad@douglascollege.ca

Graduation Letter

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PO Box 2503 New Westminster
Canada V3L 5B2

New Westminster and Coquitlam
douglascollege.ca
604 527 5400

It is an official letter from
Douglas College that
confirms you have met the
graduation requirements
for a certain program.

You will receive it by email
by May 21st (unless you
applied for graduation late)

May 21, 2020

DLI Number: 019360973

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Student Name: [REDACTED]

Student Number: [REDACTED]

Please be advised that [REDACTED] has met the graduation requirements for
their academic program at Douglas College.

Program: [REDACTED]

Level of Study: [REDACTED]

Program Length: [REDACTED]

Completion Date: [REDACTED]

Undergraduate

April 30, 2020

At Douglas College full-time enrollment means registering and completing a minimum of 9 credits per academic semester.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. M. W.' or a similar variation.

Application for PGWP

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How do I apply?

Apply online – [How-to-apply guide available](#)

What do I need to apply?

- Graduation letter(s) - receive by email
- Final transcript - with “credential awarded” stated
- Application form (IMM 5710)
- Scanned copy of Passport pages
- Digital photo ([photo requirements](#))
- Application Fee (\$255)
- Other documents that is unique to your situation/Explanation Letter

[Check the processing times](#)

An additional step, maybe?

- IRCC has added Biometric requirements for inside Canada applications.
- If you did not give your biometrics (finger-print and photo) within the last 10 years, you are required to give your biometric after submitting your application online.
- After the submission of your application, you will receive an biometric invitation letter. You need to give your biometrics within 30 or 90 days of receiving the letter.
- Due to COVID-19, Service Canada offices are closed to collect Biometrics. Even if you miss the deadline, your application will **NOT** be refused however will be pending.

BUT....

If you would like to learn general idea of Biometrics:
[Biometrics amid COVID-19:](#)
[Biometrics expansion:](#)

But...an update!

Biometrics Exemption for in-Canada applications

- IRCC website was updated on July 15th 2020
- Biometrics collection service are still not available in Canada.
- **As a temporary measure**, biometrics is exempted for **in-Canada** applications.
- The online system might ask you to pay for Biometrics fee as a default setting. You do not have to pay, but if you pay, IRCC will refund you when they process your application.
- You can ignore Biometrics Instruction Letter (BIL).

[IRCC page](#)

Can I apply for a work permit at the border?

- NO, You **MUST** apply online
- **The Border office is NOT processing applications amid COVID-19**
- **If you go to the border, you have to quarantine for 14 days**
- CBSA officers are more like Police Officers with more authority
- You can only hold a PGWP once in a lifetime
- Join PGWP workroom in May, so we can help!

What if I am/will be outside Canada at the time of PGWP application?

- Due to COVID-19, some of you might completed your final semester outside Canada
- Must apply for graduation and receive a graduation letter
- **180 days to apply after the completion (April 28)**
- The same documents as an inside-Canada application
- **Recommended to include an explanation letter** elaborating when you left Canada and how long you were taking courses online from your home country.
- Travel to Canada once your PGWP is approved if travel restrictions allows you to do so. (check for restrictions for workers – current policy requires you to have a job offer)

COVID-19

Can I visit home for a month after I finish studies?

It is your choice, but NOT recommended.

Consider...

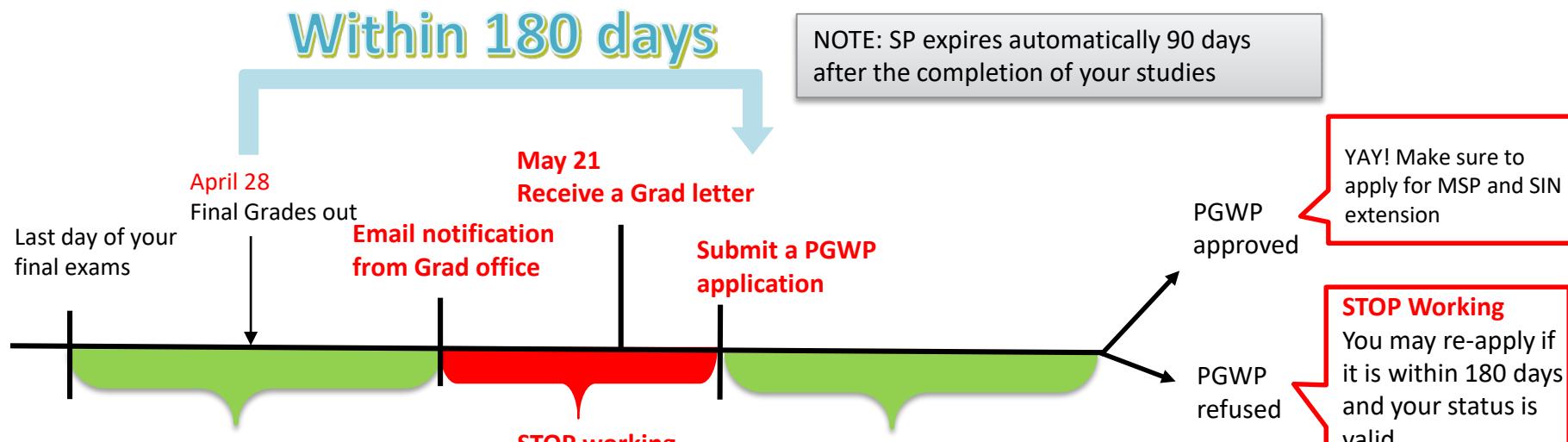
- Travel exemption for students will not apply to you because you are not returning to Canada to study.
- Even if Douglas College is on the COVID readiness DLI list, you are not coming back as Douglas student.
- Travel restrictions can change any time.
- You cannot travel to Canada with TRV or eTA.

What does it mean to travel amid COVID-19?

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- Travel advisory from the Canadian government to avoid non-essential travel. **Your trip should not be casual.**
- Travel restrictions/exemptions can be updated anytime
- Possibility of questioning at the border
- Multiple COVID tests
- 14-day mandatory quarantine when you return
- 3-day hotel quarantine at your expense (roughly \$2000?)
- Your destination might have own quarantine policies to follow
- Possibility of lockdown
- Possibility of flight cancellation
- **Your decision to make, but so many unpredictable factors...**

Working After Completion



From the last day of your final exam until the issue day of a notification, you may work on a part-time basis (max. 20 hrs/week), if you:

- ✓ have a valid study permit,
- ✓ were eligible to work off-campus without a permit while studying, **and**
- ✓ did not work off-campus more than 20 hours a week during academic sessions.

[IRCC page](#)

After IRCC receives your PGWP application, you may work full-time while waiting for a decision on your application, if you:

- ✓ had a **valid study permit** at the time of application,
- ✓ had completed your program of study,
- ✓ were eligible to work off-campus without a work permit while studying, **and**
- ✓ did not exceed the allowed hour of work

[IRCC page](#)

As a Worker

- Be mindful of the many conditions on the PGWP:

Conditions:

1. NOT AUTHORIZED TO WORK IN CHILDCARE, PRIMARY/SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHING, HEALTH SERVICE FIELD OCCUPATIONS.
2. MUST LEAVE CANADA BY 2016/09/02
3. UNLESS AUTHORIZED, PROHIBITED FROM ATTENDING ANY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION, OR TAKING ANY ACADEMIC, PROFESSIONAL OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSE.
4. NOT VALID FOR EMPLOYMENT IN BUSINESSES RELATED TO THE SEX TRADE SUCH AS STRIP CLUBS, MASSAGE PARLOURS OR ESCORT SERVICES.

Remarks/Observations:

POST-GRADUATE WORK PERMIT.

After PWGP?

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- You might have an option to apply for PR.
- PR info session by IRCC and BC PNP on April 13th. For more info, please go to our [workshop page](#)
- But, we are unable to discuss/advise your PR options.
- You can find a list of Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultants (RCICs) [here](#):

[A chart explaining some PR programs](#)

What if...???

I do not have a full-time course load in my last semester...is this okay?

- Yes, it is okay.
- If you meets all the eligibility requirements but be PT in the final semester, you are still eligible for a PGWP
- You can still work off-campus on a **PT basis** if you have been continuously FT (except schedule breaks), and the last semester is the only PT semester.

My study permit expires soon. What do I do?

You should apply for your study permit extension.

If you want to apply for your PGWP from inside Canada, you need a valid status in Canada.

Example:

- Your last semester: Winter 2021 (ends in April 2021)
- Study Permit expiry: March 30, 2021
- Apply for a study permit extension 3 months before the expiry
- IRCC generally gives an additional 90 day on the top of the completion date of your studies → July 31, 2021

What if I apply for a PGWP while I am on implied status for my SP extension?

- If you recently applied for your study permit extension, you might be in Canada under implied status when your graduation letter is released.
- You CAN apply for a PGWP under implied status
- However, you are CANNOT work until your PGWP is approved
 - Apply under implied status and start working after PGWP approval
 - Wait for SP approval then start working after submitting of a PGWP app → Unpredictable processing time

My study permit is valid for a long time after I complete my program. Can I stay longer?

- Nope,
- Your study permit will **automatically** expires **90 days after you complete your program**.
- If you stay in Canada beyond the 90 day period with your study permit, you are overstaying

I am in a 2-year program. I studied hard and completed all the courses in one year.

Does this affect my PGWP eligibility?

- Yes, it does.
- If your duration of studies is shorter than the program length, your PGWP would be issued only for the duration of your studies.
- In this scenario, the you may receive a PGWP that is valid for one year.

[IRCC page](#)

Would program change affect my PGWP eligibility?

- Not necessarily
- As a SP holder, you are allowed to change programs
- Program change itself does not make you ineligible for PGWP
- However, you have to meet all the criteria for PGWP
- Submit your explanation letter (i.e. took a lot longer or multiple program changes)
- It is your responsibility to explain

What happens with my spouse's WP?

- Your spouse's open work permit remains valid until the expiry date on the permit
- If your spouse's work permit will expire when your study permit expires, consider:
- Your spouse may apply for an open work permit under the C41 exemption if the PGWP holder (you) is employed in a skilled occupation ([NOC 0, A, or B](#)).
 - You must have your PGWP approved
 - When applying, must provide all the supporting documents
 - PGWP holder's confirmation letter from the current employment
 - a copy of the PGWP holder's last 3 pay slips

[IRCC page](#)



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THANK YOU

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