Canada’s New Study Permit System: A Smart Choice.

On June 01 2014 the Canadian government puts in effect a new student permit system.[[1]](#endnote-1) Canada will make it easier for international students to attend Canadian schools, work while they study and gain work experience in Canada post graduation. This is part of Canada’s well pronounced strategy to attract more than double the current number of international students in the years ahead. The quality of Canadian educational institutions, new government policy initiatives, the comparatively low cost of Canadian education and the quality of life in Canada are driving forces that will cause Canada continue to make strong gains as a destination for international students in the years ahead. Citizenship and Immigration Canada’s new study permit is a major new policy initiative which is vitally important to both Canada’s economic and immigration goals.

Canada is performing well in international student destination ranking 7th overall[[2]](#endnote-2), but plans to be at the top of the class. In 2012 Canada attracted 265,000 students (a nearly 100% improvement from 2002), a number however that still ranked well below Australia which received over 300,000 in the same year.[[3]](#endnote-3) The new changes coming into effect have been put in place to help Canada meet its goal of far surpassing Australia and receiving 450,000 students a year by 2022.[[4]](#endnote-4) This initiative represents an excellent opportunity for students who are considering studying in Canada.

The quality of Canadian education is well respected and well documented.

The University of Toronto and McGill University have been recognized as top 20 in the world by QS World University Rankings . [[5]](#endnote-5) In fact a total of 26 universities in Canada feature in the 2013/14 [QS World University Rankings](http://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings).[[6]](#endnote-6)Similarly Canadian students have consistently place in the top ten in the annual Programme for International Student Assessment Test (PISA) in each of the tests categories math , science and reading.[[7]](#endnote-7) It is well accepted that a Canadian degree, or diploma is globally recognized as being equivalent to those obtained from the United States or Commonwealth countries. With an international reputation like this, you can trust your time spent studying in Canada will pay off.

This June the government of Canada will put into effect improvements to its study permit program. The program now offers students attending designated institutions many benefits including the ability to work 20 hours a week during the semester, and to work full time during semester breaks. Students can also now begin work upon arrival and work at a job of their choosing off campus. In addition, students can also qualify for co-op or internship programs.[[8]](#endnote-8)

One of the best advantages Canada has is its Post Graduate Work Program (PGWP). This program allows students who have studied full time at a post-secondary institution, such as a college, trade/technical school or university to gain professional employment and Canadian work experience in their field of study immediately after graduation. Students can work in Canada under this program for a length of time that matches their length of study. Certificate and diploma programs that are a minimum eight months long qualify with a three year maximum term imposed. You can apply for the PGWP while completing your studies in Canada.[[9]](#endnote-9)

Gaining work experience in Canada is an excellent way to secure a Canadian job after graduation or after your experience in the PGWP. This opens the door for international students who want to continue their stay in Canada as temporary foreign workers or on a lifelong basis by applying to become a permanent resident. Now, both Canadian education experience and work experience are credited under the Canadian Experience Class permanent resident application.

In addition to the ability to earn money while you study, Canadian education is affordable in contrast to other destinations abroad. According to a survey published by HSBC Bank (2013) the price of studying at the post-secondary level is about 30% lower per annum than it is in Australia or the US[[10]](#endnote-10). Considering Canada’s high degree equivalency ratings in these countries this represents an exceptional value.

Canada provides an excellent environment to enjoy your experience as an international student. Canada’s reputation for exciting cities, beautiful natural attractions and multicultural tolerant communities are great assets. According to the OECD’s internationally respected Better Life Index. Canada ranks in the top 5. [[11]](#endnote-11) International students tend to agree that Canada is a great place to be. Exit surveys of international students for the last two years (2012-2013) show that nine out of ten respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with their experience in Canada and 96% of those surveyed would recommend Canada as a study destination.[[12]](#endnote-12)

With these facts in mind, and the Canadian government’s clear ambition to welcome you. Now is the time to secure a Canadian education degree and all of the benefits it brings with it. According to the Manila embassy’s processing times your ambitions and opportunities can be realized in twelve weeks once an complete application has been submitted.[[13]](#endnote-13)Canada’s new study permit system is a keynote of the Canada’s Immigration system’s shift from immigration programs that focus on “skills” and work experience of international applicants which often do NOT lead to employment within Canada. CIC plans to use international students, who acquire Canadian credentials and work experience as a main target of future Canadian labour force recruitment. International students are much more practical candidates as they will possess Canadian credentials respected by domestic employers as well as have gained Canadian work experience through the Post Graduate Work permit phase. Both of these factors make immigration success more likely as well as make labour market adaptability more practical.

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1. <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/study-changes.asp> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.cbie-bcei.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Highlights_World-of-Learning-2013.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/sydney-named-top-destination-in-the-world-for-international-students-20140427-zqz2a.html> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. <http://international.gc.ca/global-markets-marches-mondiaux/education/strategy-strategie.aspx?lang=eng> [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. <http://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings> [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. <http://www.topuniversities.com/where-to-study/north-america/canada/canada-graduate-level-country-guide> [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. <http://www.oecd.org/pisa/> [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/study-changes.asp> [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/work-postgrad-who.asp> [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. <http://globalnews.ca/news/777089/canada-boasts-some-of-the-lowest-international-student-fees-amongst-western-developed-nations-survey-finds/> [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. <http://www.oecd.org/newsroom/BLI2013-Country-Notes.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. <http://www.cbie-bcei.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Highlights_World-of-Learning-2013.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/times/temp/students.asp> [↑](#endnote-ref-13)