

COVID-19 Immigration Information

Our goal is to provide the most recent and accurate information to our students regarding the ever-changing COVID-19 situation. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) continues to revise and update their policies as the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve. It is the responsibility of students to be aware of any changes made that may affect their studies and immigration status. Therefore, it is recommended to check back often as links may be updated and/or new information may be published.

Please visit the IRCC page for the latest updates and policy changes regarding COVID-19 and its effect on international student's studies:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-covid19.html?cldee=YWNoYW1wYWduZUBjb2xsZWdlc2luc3RpdHV0ZXMuY2E%3d&recipientid=contact-9ac7495174d4e7118117c4346bacc0f8-c5dbf857ac6a4c4ba372ef6590611dd7&esid=f9f104c6-6f68-ea11-a811-000d3a5a1bf8>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

I am a new international student at the University of Regina starting in Fall 2020 term. Since the Fall 2020 term will be offered through distance learning and online teaching platforms at the University of Regina, can I start my remote learning program from outside of Canada?

In order to begin your study online with the University of Regina for Fall 2020 term, you will need to submit by September 30, 2020 **one of the following** documents:

- A valid study permit, or
- A letter of introduction (study permit approval), or
- A study permit approval-in-principle

According to the IRCC website:

“It is important for prospective students to note that commencing their studies online from abroad following approval-in-principle of a study permit application is not a guarantee that they will receive a full approval of their study permit application, or be authorized to pursue their studies in Canada. It is still possible that an applicant could receive a negative final decision on their study permit based on factors such as inadmissibility for criminality or security reasons, and the inability to predict how the COVID-19 situation and any associated travel restrictions will evolve.”

Reference: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2020/07/minister-mendicino-announces-changes-to-facilitate-online-learning-for-international-students.html>

What is the deadline for tuition payments of Fall 2020 term?

The tuition payment deadline for new international students for all parts of the Fall 2020 term will be **September 30, 2020**. Students who have not paid their Fall 2020 term tuition in full by the September 30, 2020 deadline, and/or fail to provide one of the three documents listed below by September 30, 2020 deadline, will be withdrawn from their Fall 2020 term classes.

- A valid study permit, or
- A letter of introduction (study permit approval), or
- A study permit approval-in-principle

I am currently outside Canada, I have a valid study permit or were approved for a study permit on or before March 18, 2020 am I exempt from the travel restrictions?

According to IRCC: “Students who have a valid study permit or were approved for a study permit on or before March 18, 2020 may be exempt from the travel restrictions **if they travel for a non-discretionary or non-optional purpose**. While many Canadian college and university campus locations are closed, classes are generally continuing online. Travel will be deemed discretionary or non-discretionary depending on individual circumstances. IRCC case processing officers will not assess whether the applicant is exempt from the travel restrictions when processing a study permit application. Prior to boarding, air carriers are instructed to conduct an assessment of foreign nationals’ ability to travel to Canada based on Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) guidance for the travel restrictions. However, the decision to allow entry into Canada will rest with CBSA officers.

Border services officers will assess the circumstances surrounding the student’s travel and consider, for example, whether any of the following apply:

- they are established, residing and studying in Canada. If they are established in Canada, their return is non-discretionary
- they are expected to begin studying upon arrival after completing their quarantine
- their presence in Canada is necessary for their continued participation in the program (such as in laboratories or workshops)
- pursuing online studies is not an option for their school or program or not possible from their home country (for example, due to internet restrictions or bandwidth limitation)
- the semester has been cancelled or the person will begin studying later in the year

A border services officer will make a final determination on the foreign national’s eligibility to enter Canada at the port of entry.

Before you travel, you can contact the Border Information [Service](#) for more information.”

UR International

3737 Wascana Parkway
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada S4S 0A2
Phone: 306.585.5082 Fax: 306.585.4957
Email: international.studentservices@uregina.ca
www.uregina.ca/international

Designated Learning Institution Number: O19425660270

Reference: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/operational-bulletins-manuals/service-delivery/coronavirus/temporary-residence/study-permit.html>

Due to the current pandemic, I am unable to submit all the required documents. Does IRCC have special procedure in place so that I can apply now with documents that I am able to submit and later submit other documents?

According to IRCC: *"If you can't submit a complete application, we'll process your application in 2 stages.*

Stage 1: We check your eligibility

In this stage, an officer reviews your application for

- *a letter of acceptance from a designated learning institution*
- *a Certificat d'acceptation du Québec (if you'll be studying in Quebec)*
- *proof that you have enough money for*
- *tuition fees*
- *living expenses for yourself and any family members who come with you to Canada and*
- *return transportation for yourself and any family members who come with you to Canada*
- *any family ties you may have to Canada*
- *evidence that you'll leave Canada when you no longer have legal status*

If your application passes this first stage, we'll let you know in your online account. This doesn't guarantee that we'll approve your application and issue you a study permit.

Our aim is to pass most applications through stage 1 before the fall semester starts.

Stage 2: We check your application for admissibility and any changes to your eligibility

In this stage, an officer reviews your application for

- *a medical exam, if needed*
- *police certificates, if needed*
- *your biometrics*
- *any information that changed after we reviewed your application for eligibility*

If your application passes this second stage, we'll approve it.

At this point, when current travel restrictions change, you'll be

- *ready to travel to Canada and begin your studies, or*
- *able to continue your studies in Canada, if you've already started studying online*

This 2-stage process will only apply to study permit applications

- *submitted by September 15, 2020, and*
- *for programs that start, or have started, in spring, summer or fall 2020.*

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

Will online courses affect my Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) eligibility?

According to the IRCC website:

“You’re still eligible for a PGWP if

- *you have a study permit or have applied or been approved for one*
- *you can’t travel to Canada at this time due to travel restrictions*

If you’re in this situation, you may

- *begin your classes while outside Canada, and*
- *complete up to 50% of your program while outside Canada, if you can’t travel to Canada sooner*

After you apply for your study permit, any time spent studying online from outside Canada now counts toward the length of a PGWP. (Before, only the time spent studying online after you were approved for a study permit counted.)

For this time to count, you must

- *complete at least 50% of your program in Canada*
- *apply for a study permit by September 15, 2020, and*
- *start, or have started, your program in spring, summer or fall 2020*

You won’t have time deducted from the length of your PGWP for studies you complete outside Canada until December 31, 2020”

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

Please also read through the following link to learn recent updates regarding PGWP eligibility:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2020/07/minister-mendicino-announces-changes-to-facilitate-online-learning-for-international-students.html>

According to the IRCC website:

“The new measures include

- *providing priority study-permit processing for students who have submitted a complete application online, to ensure that permits are processed as quickly as possible*

UR International

3737 Wascana Parkway
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada S4S 0A2
Phone: 306.585.5082 Fax: 306.585.4957
Email: international.studentservices@uregina.ca
www.uregina.ca/international

Designated Learning Institution Number: O19425660270

- *allowing students to count the time spent pursuing their studies online abroad toward their eligibility for a post-graduation work permit, if they have submitted a study permit application and if at least 50% of their program is completed in Canada*
- *providing reassurances to international students who cannot submit all of the documentation needed to complete processing of their applications, and who choose to pursue programs through distance learning, by implementing a temporary 2-stage approval process.*

I need to provide biometrics. How does this impact my application?

If you are outside Canada:

All biometrics collection services in Canada and the US are suspended until further notice, and some Visa Application Centres (VACs) outside of Canada are temporarily closed. The time period to provide biometrics has automatically been extended until the biometrics collection sites near you reopen.

You do not need to request a new Biometrics Instruction Letter even if the letter says you have 30 or 90 days to provide biometrics. Your application will not be refused if you can't provide biometrics due to COVID-19 service disruptions.

Keep checking the Government of Canada's [updates on biometrics](#) on office closures. Schedule your biometrics appointment as soon as offices return to normal operations.

Since applications are typically not processed until biometrics have been provided, the delay in providing biometrics may cause increased processing times. We are confident that Immigration will account for these delays and will process study permits as quickly as possible.

If you travel after submitting your immigration application and a VAC near you is open, contact them to confirm if you can provide biometrics there. Do not travel to another country solely for the purpose of providing biometrics.

IF YOU ARE IN CANADA

IRCC has temporarily suspended the biometrics requirement for temporary residents who apply from inside of Canada. This applies to both new and previously submitted applications in progress for:

- Study permit, work permit, and Visitor Record extensions
- Temporary Resident Visas
- New study permits, work permits, or Visitor Records
- Restoration of student, worker or visitor status
- Temporary Resident Permits

UR International

3737 Wascana Parkway
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada S4S 0A2
Phone: 306.585.5082 Fax: 306.585.4957
Email: international.studentservices@uregina.ca
www.uregina.ca/international

Designated Learning Institution Number: O19425660270

If you are submitting a new application, you do not need to pay the biometrics fee, even if the system is telling you to.

If you have already submitted an application which is in progress and paid for the biometrics fee, you do not need to submit biometrics, even if you got a letter telling you to. Your application will be processed and your biometrics fee will be automatically refunded when your application is finalized. You do not need to take any action steps.

Reference: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-covid19/biometrics.html>

If I want to self- quarantine on campus, does the University of Regina offer any self-quarantine accommodation?

The University of Regina Housing Services is offering an on-campus self-quarantine package to help streamline your quarantine plan upon arrival in Regina. If you require further information about this option, please visit: <https://www.uregina.ca/housing/International-Arrivals/index.html>