

Info Sheet 3

Study without a study permit - The Six-Months Rule

Foreign nationals may enter Canada or remain in Canada without a study permit to attend a course or study program of **six months' duration or less**.

This six-month criterion will help facilitate easy access to short-term courses, regardless of subject matter. The course should be completed within the six months authorized upon entry. Foreign nationals wishing to enrol in other educational programs, even those that are shorter than six months, must leave Canada and obtain study permits in the normal manner.

However, the Regulations do state that, despite this exemption from the requirement of a study permit, students may obtain a study permit before entering Canada. This will allow them to apply later, in Canada, for an extension or for changes to the conditions imposed when they entered in order to pursue studies over a longer period of time or to work "on campus".

Eligibility for employment on campus - only for study permit holders!

To be eligible for employment on campus the student must:

- a) **be in possession of a valid and subsisting study permit;**
- b) be registered at the educational institution as a full-time student;
- c) work on campus at the institution to which they are registered, whether for the institution itself or for a private business located on campus.

In addition, students working as graduate assistants, teaching assistants or research assistants will be considered to be within the scope of "on campus" employment provided:

- d) the student has been recommended by officials of their department;
- e) the work to be performed is directed by a department head or a faculty member; and
- f) the work takes place in a research institute or program in an affiliated hospital or research unit.