

FAQ: Program Changes & Study Permits

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The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) listed below are general in nature. If you have questions about your specific situation and it differs from the situations listed below, please contact international@nbcc.ca directly or join an upcoming [NBCC immigration webinar](#).

QUESTION: I already have a study permit approval for NBCC. I am now changing my program at NBCC. How will this impact my study permit application?

ANSWER: From an immigration perspective, it is possible to change your program of study at NBCC. If the program of study is at the same institution (NBCC) then you do not need to notify Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) since all of our programs fall under the same designated learning institution (DLI) number. You only need to notify IRCC if you are changing institutions (see: [Changing your school or program - Canada.ca](#)).

If you are changing to a shorter program of study, it is important to note that your study permit becomes invalid 90 days after you have completed your program of study or on the expiry date, whichever comes first (Source: [Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations \(justice.gc.ca\)](#)). This may also impact the duration of your post-graduation work permit (PGWP) (Source: [Post-graduation work permit \(PGWP\) validity and application - Canada.ca](#)), resulting in a shorter PGWP.

QUESTION: I've already applied for a study permit with an acceptance from NBCC. I am now changing my program at NBCC. My study permit application is still pending. How will this impact my study permit application?

ANSWER: If your study permit application is still pending when you receive a letter of acceptance to a different or later NBCC program, then you can update Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) about the change in your program of study by uploading the new letter of acceptance, a letter of explanation, and a revised study plan via an [IRCC Webform \(cic.gc.ca\)](#).

In this scenario, you should have both your original letter of acceptance (LOA) and the new letter of acceptance (LOA) when you travel to Canada and be prepared to adequately explain the change in program/term at the Canadian border.

QUESTION: I received my study permit approval late and was not able to join my anticipated start term. I have now received a letter of acceptance (LOA) for a later program at NBCC. Can I use the same study permit approval for this new program?

ANSWER: If you were issued a study permit for an NBCC program, and had to enter a later intake or change your program, you are able to use that same study permit for the new program at NBCC (see: [Changing your school or program - Canada.ca](#)). You would need to ensure the following:

- that you are entering Canada to begin that program while the study permit approval is still valid (check the validity date on the approval letter);
- that you travel with both your original LOA and the new LOA and be prepared to adequately explain the change in program/term at the Canadian border; and
- that your medical exam (if required at the time of your study permit application) remains valid upon arrival in Canada (see: [Medical exams for visitors, students and workers - Canada.ca](#)).

You would then be able to apply for a study permit extension after you have entered Canada, if necessary. NBCC hosts webinars throughout the school year on a regular basis on this topic.