Study Permit Information from Western International

The information in this document is accurate as of June 16, 2020.

Can I begin studying in Fall 2020 if my study permit has not been approved yet?

The COVID-19 pandemic is unique and unprecedented; it has created many uncertainties for students, particularly international students. Please carefully review the information below in relation to your personal situation and your academic and post-graduation goals before deciding to begin studying if your study permit has not been approved yet. Students who are having difficulty securing their study permits should contact our International & Exchange Student Centre at iesc@uwo.ca.

Why obtaining your study permit prior to beginning fall courses is highly recommended:

a. Once in-person studies resume, a valid study permit and temporary resident visa (TRV) or electronic travel authorization (eTA) will be necessary to enter Canada and continue studies. If you start your program remotely from outside of Canada and before you receive approval for your study permit, you are not guaranteed future entry into Canada, or subsequent approval for your study permit. This means that you may not be able to finish the program that you start from outside of Canada. You won’t be able to get a refund for completed terms if you are unable to come to Canada to complete your program in the future. Western University will not be liable for any losses resulting from your failure to qualify for a study permit, or from your inability to otherwise complete the program due to immigration restrictions.

b. Having a valid study permit before beginning your studies, whether you're inside or outside of Canada, is especially important for those who want to remain eligible for the post-graduation work permit (PGWP). If you begin studying without being approved for a study permit:
   - You may have a shortened PGWP in the future.
   - You may not be eligible for PGWP at all if more than 50% of your program ends up being online.

c. If you are a student who needs university employment as part of your studies, you will not be able to get a Canadian Social Insurance Number (SIN) without a valid study permit, and without a valid SIN, the university cannot employ you.

Students should apply as soon as they have been offered acceptance to Western University. Students who have initially been denied a study permit should re-apply as soon as possible. We will be asking students to present their study permit and expiration date. Note that graduate students are required to submit a valid study permit to kmaruoka@uwo.ca.

If you have specific immigration questions pertaining to your situation, please email the International & Exchange Student Centre at iesc@uwo.ca or schedule an appointment: https://iesc.uwo.ca/remote/advising.html

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If you want to discuss how late you can begin your program, or defer your start date to another term, International Undergraduate Students should contact welcome@uwo.ca; International Graduate Students should contact their graduate program directly.