



# Family Members

This guide provides information on the following aspects of bringing your family with you to Canada:

- General information
- Minor children studying in Canada
- Work permit for spouse (Study Permit)
- Work permit for spouse (PGWP)

## General information:

It may be possible for your family members to live with you in Canada while you study. In most cases, "family" includes spouses, common-law/conjugal partners, and dependent children. If your family members enter Canada without you, they may be admitted on visitor status for up to six months. Family members most often apply to come initially as visitors. They may need to pass a medical examination in advance.

**It is important to include these family members on your "Family Information Form (IMM5645)" when submitting your initial application for a study permit. If they are not included on this form, you will encounter difficulty in applying for them to come with you.**

If you are accompanied by family members while attending NSCC, you must ensure your dependents and/or spouse have all the required immigration documents.

If your family members have not already applied for status in Canada (e.g., an Open Work Permit) at the same time as your Study Permit, it is recommended they obtain a **Visitor Permit (Record)** upon arrival. This document will allow your dependents and/or spouse to renew their status online.

To ensure that family members travelling without you are admitted to Canada for the same length as your study permit, send them copies of your study permit, TRV (Temporary Resident Visa), if applicable, and passport. They can present these to the authorities at the Canadian port of entry.

## Minor Children in Canada: (Under the age of 19 in Nova Scotia)

Children who will be attending pre-school or Grade Primary (under 6 years of age) do not need a study permit.

Minor children already in Canada can study without a study permit at the primary or secondary level if at least one parent is authorized to work or study in Canada.

If your children are outside Canada and are coming to stay for 6 months or longer, they must apply for a study permit before coming to Canada. They do not require a letter of acceptance for this application, as long as one or both parents hold a study or work permit.

You should bring two years of official school records for your children, in English or with a certified English translation.

## Travelling with Minor Children

If you are travelling with your minor children without your spouse, you must present the following documents:

- A copy of the child's birth certificate
- A letter of authorization signed by the parent who is not travelling, containing their address and telephone number, in English or French if possible
- A photocopy of the non-accompanying parent's signed passport or national identity card

Please view further information provided by IRCC on travelling with minor children:  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/minor-children-travelling-canada.html>

## Work Permit for Spouse – Study Permit

If you hold a valid study permit, your spouse may be eligible to apply for an open work permit. This permit will be valid for the same length of time as your study permit and allows the holder to work in any job for any employer.

Your spouse or common-law partner may apply for an [open work permit](#) if you:

- are a full-time student at a:
  - public post-secondary school, such as a college or university, and
- have a valid study permit.

The application for this work permit can be made from outside Canada or from inside Canada. You can submit this application together with your application for a study permit, or to apply after your study permit is approved. Alternatively, your spouse can travel to Canada as a visitor, and apply online from within Canada.

You can access more information here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/work/help-your-spouse-common-law-partner-work-canada.html>

## Work Permit for Spouse – PGWP

**Important** - if you hold a Post-Graduate Work Permit, your spouse is **only eligible to apply for a work permit if you have a full-time job in an occupation in skill level 0, A or B.**

Your spouse will submit their own application for a work permit, along with proof of your employment, including the following:

- a copy of the principal applicant's work permit
- a letter from their current employer confirming employment or a copy of their employment offer or contract
- a copy of 3 of pay stubs

If your spouse has an open work permit that is attached to your study permit, this is only valid until the expiry date of your study permit, or until you receive new status as a worker. If you do not have immediate employment that meets the conditions above, your spouse will need to stop working and change to “visitor” status until you meet the criteria.