



OPEN WORK PERMIT FOR SPOUSE

Who can get a work permit as the spouse or common-law partner of a student?

Your spouse or common-law partner may be eligible for an open work permit if you:

- have a valid study permit **and**
- are a full-time student at one of these types of schools:
 - a public post-secondary school, such as a college or university, or CEGEP in Quebec
 - a private college-level school in Quebec
 - a Canadian private school that can legally award degrees under provincial law (for example, Associate Bachelors, Masters or Doctorate degree)

How long is the open work permit valid for?

Your spouse or common-law partner's work permit will be valid for the same period of time as your study permit.

How to apply

In most cases, your spouse or partner must apply online for a work permit.

How applying online helps applicants:

- No courier fees or mail delivery time – IRCC gets their application instantly.
- Their applications may be processed more quickly.
- It helps them make sure their application is complete before they submit it.
- They can quickly submit more documents online (if IRCC asks you to).
- They get updates on the status of their application directly in their online account.

DOCUMENTS YOU MUST GIVE YOUR SPOUSE (APPLICANT)

1. Confirmation of Enrollment from Columbia College
 - a. You can request this from Main Reception Office and regular processing time is 2 business days. Rushed service is \$20 and you can pick it up within 2 hours (Cut-off is 3PM).
2. A copy of your Marriage Certificate
3. A copy of your passport
4. A copy of your study permit

For more information, please refer to the following links:

- Instruction Guide: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/application-forms-guides/guide-5553-applying-change-conditions-extend-your-stay-canada-worker.html>
- Document Checklist: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/ircc/migration/ircc/english/pdf/kits/forms/imm5556e.pdf>