

Protecting Your Immigration Status

Documents, conditions, extensions, travel and deadline management

For visitors, students, workers and new permanent residents



PRACTICAL. CLEAR. SOURCE-BASED.

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www.theworldbridge.ca





How to use this guide

Use the actions in the order that fits your status, province and circumstances. Write in the planning pages and return to the source page before a high-consequence decision.

01**Start with legal and safety steps**

Confirm documents, conditions, deadlines and immediate needs before optional purchases.

02**Use official sources**

The linked authorities are the primary reference. Rules and eligibility can change.

03**Keep evidence**

Save confirmations, receipts, records and written advice in a secure system.

04**Ask early**

Use free newcomer supports and seek individualized advice for high-consequence decisions.

**IMPORTANT**

This guide provides general information and practical orientation. It is not a substitute for individualized immigration, legal, tenancy, employment, financial, tax or medical advice. Eligibility, procedures and provincial or territorial rules can change. Verify current requirements with the linked authorities before acting.

Know which document does what

1

Status documents

- Visitor record, study permit or work permit
- The document sets authorized stay and conditions
- Read the expiry date and remarks
- A passport expiry can limit document validity

2

Travel documents

- Temporary resident visa or eTA supports travel to Canada
- A visa does not extend status inside Canada
- A visitor record is not a visa
- Re-entry is always assessed at the border

3

Permanent residents

- PR status is not the same as a PR card
- A valid PR card or PRTD is generally needed for commercial travel to Canada
- Track residency obligations
- Report document loss or errors promptly

Read every condition

1

Work

- Open or employer-specific authorization
- Employer, occupation, location or medical restrictions
- Student work conditions and hour limits
- When work authorization begins and ends

2

Study

- Named DLI and program conditions
- Active pursuit and enrolment
- Authorized leave implications
- Requirements for changing schools

3

Visitor

- Authorized period of stay
- No work or study unless specifically authorized
- Reporting or medical conditions where imposed
- Departure or extension planning

Build an expiry-date system

1

Track all related dates

- Passport, permit, visa/eTA and SIN
- Health card, driver's licence and insurance
- Family members' separate documents
- Application and biometrics deadlines

2

Use layered reminders

- Six months before expiry
- Ninety and sixty days before expiry
- At least thirty days before temporary status expiry where IRCC recommends
- Weekly review once an application is being prepared

3

Do not wait for a reminder

- IRCC does not manage your personal calendar
- Employers and schools may not know every rule
- Processing times change
- A missing document can delay filing

Apply before status expires

1

Prepare early

- Confirm the correct application and eligibility
- Collect passport, status, purpose and financial evidence
- Address prior refusals or compliance concerns honestly
- Keep copies of forms and documents

2

Submission evidence

- Save the complete application package
- Keep payment and online confirmation
- Record the exact submission date and time
- Do not rely only on an email notification

3

After filing

- Monitor the correct IRCC account
- Respond to requests by the stated deadline
- Report relevant changes
- Continue respecting the conditions that legally apply

Understand maintained status

1

Basic principle

- A temporary resident who applies to extend before expiry may be legally allowed to remain while IRCC processes the application
- The former term was implied status
- The exact activities allowed depend on the prior status and application
- Temporary resident permit holders do not benefit from maintained status

2

Keep proof

- Prior permit and passport
- Complete extension application
- Submission and fee confirmation
- Evidence of continued eligibility

3

Travel caution

- Leaving Canada can affect the practical benefit of maintained status
- A valid visa or eTA does not guarantee re-entry
- Work or study authorization on return may differ
- Get advice before travel where status is pending

If status has expired

1

Act immediately

- Stop any activity that is no longer authorized
- Record the exact expiry and what occurred
- Do not submit another application blindly
- Obtain individualized advice

2

Restoration is limited

- Many temporary residents have a 90-day restoration window if regulatory requirements are met
- Restoration is not automatic
- A person generally cannot continue working or studying while awaiting restoration
- Some situations require leaving Canada or another remedy

3

Be complete and truthful

- Explain the circumstances
- Address the requested status and current purpose
- Include required fees and evidence
- Do not conceal unauthorized activity

Changes that require attention

1

Passport or identity

- Renew early where possible
- Update IRCC when required
- A new passport does not automatically extend a permit
- Correct document errors through the proper process

2

School or employment

- Changing a DLI may require a new study permit
- Employer-specific workers may need new authorization before changing jobs
- Job loss does not necessarily cancel status but can end work authority for that employer
- Review conditions before acting

3

Family and address

- Each family member has separate status and deadlines
- Update address and contact information
- Marriage, separation, birth or custody changes can affect applications
- Keep evidence current

Travel while living in Canada

1

Before booking

- Check passport and visa/eTA validity
- Check permit and pending application status
- Confirm school or employment obligations
- Carry evidence supporting return

2

Understand the risk

- A permit does not guarantee re-entry
- A border officer assesses admissibility and purpose
- Maintained status may not allow the same activity after return
- PRs without valid travel documents may face boarding problems

3

Prepare a travel file

- Current immigration documents
- School or employment letter
- Proof of residence and funds
- Application evidence and professional advice where relevant

Status-protection red flags

1

Deadline risk

- Passport expires soon
- Permit expires within 90 days and no plan exists
- Family documents have different expiry dates
- IRCC request is unread or unanswered

2

Activity risk

- Working beyond conditions
- Studying during a period without authorization
- Changing school or employer under outdated advice
- Travelling during a pending application without review

3

Information risk

- False job or school documents
- Unreported refusal or compliance history
- Someone else controls the IRCC account
- No copy of the submitted application

Monthly status checklist

1

Documents

- Passport and immigration documents stored securely
- All expiry dates entered in the calendar
- SIN and provincial documents aligned where required
- Family members reviewed separately

2

Conditions

- Current work, study or visitor conditions understood
- Any school, job or family change assessed
- Travel plans reviewed
- No outstanding IRCC request

3

Evidence

- Latest application and confirmation saved
- School/employment records current
- Address and contact information current
- Advice obtained before high-risk action

My status dashboard

1

Primary documents

- Passport expiry: _____
- Status/document: _____
- Permit expiry: _____
- Visa/eTA expiry: _____

2

Next action

- Application type: _____
- Target filing date: _____
- Missing documents: _____
- IRCC account checked on: _____

3

Risk check

- Travel planned: _____
- School/employment change: _____
- Family deadlines: _____
- Professional advice required by: _____

Reliable sources and next steps

Open the linked authority and confirm the current rule before acting.

- 01** **IRCC - Maintained status glossary**
www.canada.ca
- 02** **IRCC - Extend your stay as a visitor**
www.canada.ca
- 03** **IRCC - Guide 5551, extend or change conditions**
www.canada.ca
- 04** **IRCC - Extend a study permit**
www.canada.ca
- 05** **IRCC - Extend or change a work permit**
www.canada.ca
- 06** **IRCC - Apply for a PR card**
www.canada.ca

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