



## IMMIGRATION GUIDELINES FOR GRT REGISTRATION FORM

The following is a short summary of the different immigration categories for Research Trainees. Please make sure to indicate your immigration status in your Graduate Research Trainee Registration Form.

**Note:** As a foreign national coming to Canada to conduct research, you must qualify for one of the below immigration categories.

### WORK PERMIT

As a research trainee you may be eligible to apply for a work permit through the [International Mobility Program](#) (IMP). Applying for a work permit through the IMP exempts you from the requirement of having a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA).

There are two different types of LMIA exempt work permits: [employer specific work permits](#) and open work permits.

NOTE: On the registration form, please make sure to include the LMIA exemption code for the **employer specific** work permit you will be applying for. If you are applying for an **open work** permit, you do not need to indicate the LMIA exemption code, instead please indicate N/A (not applicable) in the box.

### EMPLOYER SPECIFIC WORK PERMITS

#### ◆ *International Experience Canada (IEC) Program* ([Code C21](#)):

You may only use Code C21 if you have been accepted under one of the [IEC programs](#). In order to be accepted, you must first submit your profile into an IEC pool of candidates. It is **only** once you receive an Invitation to Apply from Immigration Canada that you will be allowed to apply for your work permit.

There are two different ways to apply to an IEC programs.

You may apply to an IEC program through a [Bilateral Youth Agreement](#) (BYA), if your country of citizenship has a BYA with Canada. Note that only 32 countries have a BYA with Canada and each country has a [quota](#) on the number of applications received. [Depending on your country of citizenship](#), you may be eligible for the IEC program: **International Co-op Internship** (internships for students only). Participants in the internship category are eligible to apply for an employer-specific work permit to help them gain targeted experience in their field of study **to fulfill part of their academic curriculum in the home country.**

If the quota has been reached through one of the above BYA or in cases where a BYA does not exist, you may be eligible to apply to an IEC program through a number of [recognized organizations](#). The two most popular recognized organizations are GO International and SWAP. Under these two organizations you could qualify for an Open Work Permit – “working holiday program”. However, there are quotas and deadlines for each recognized organization and country.

For more information on the eligibility requirements and the different IEC programs (International Co-op, Young Professionals, Working Holiday), please see [here](#).

◆ *Award Recipient* ([Code C44](#))

This category would be appropriate if you were granted an award due to academic or research excellence and this award is used to pay for your research training in Canada. For more information please see [here](#).

◆ *Work Related to Research Program* ([Code C31](#))

Use this code **only** if you qualify under one of the following specific research programs:

- a. are coming to Canada to work temporarily for the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC);
- b. are sponsored by Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., as distinguished scientists or post-doctoral fellows;
- c. are sponsored by the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), or Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) as distinguished scientists or scholars; or
- d. are holders of research chair positions at a Canadian university, nominated for their research excellence, and partially or wholly funded by federal or provincial governments.

If the research that you will be performing does not fall under one of the above programs then you should not use this code to apply for your work permit.

For more information please see [here](#).

**Note:** The Co-op Work permits (Code C32 and Code C33) are only for international students registered as a student **in Canada** that have a study permit in Canada, and need to complete a mandatory internship as part of their academic program **in Canada**. If you are not a registered student in Canada, the code C32 and Code C33 may not be used.

◆ *Free Trade Agreement* ([Code T23](#))

This code can only be used if you are a citizen of the United States, Mexico or Chile and you already have an undergraduate degree.

For more information, please see [here](#).

◆ *Reciprocal Employment Agreement* ([Code C20](#))

This code can be used if a reciprocal **employment** agreement exists between McGill and your home institution allowing for **reciprocity and exchange of research trainees** between the two institutions.

For more information please see [here](#).

**Note: a student exchange agreement is not the same as a reciprocal employment agreement.**

## OPEN WORK PERMITS

◆ *Working Holiday Work Permit Under IEC*

Please see information above under LMIA exemption code C21.

◆ *Spousal Open Work Permit*

If your spouse or common-law partner is already in Canada or will be accompanying you to Canada and they have a Canadian work permit or study permit that is valid for the duration of your traineeship at McGill, you may be eligible to apply for a spousal open work permit.

In order to be eligible for the spousal open work permit, your spouse or common-law partner must meet certain criteria. If they are a **work permit holder**, they will need to meet the criteria as per [Immigration Canada's website](#). If they are a **study permit holder**, they will need to meet the criteria as per [Immigration Canada's website](#).

## STUDY PERMIT

This category should **only** be chosen, if you are completing your graduate studies at a Canadian university and you would like to complete part of your thesis research at McGill. If this category applies to you, you may complete your traineeship under the off-campus work regulations if you [meet the eligibility requirements](#).

NOTE: If you are completing your studies at a University located in Quebec, you must also have a CAQ issued by Immigration Quebec, in addition to your study permit.

## WORK PERMIT EXEMPTION (VISITOR STATUS)

### ◆ 120-Day Researcher

You may be exempt from the requirement of having a work permit if you are coming to do research at McGill University **for a period of up to 120 days**. In order to benefit from this work permit exemption, you must :

- 1) engage primarily in research activities while at McGill;
- 2) have a significant role to play or value to add to the research project;
- 3) not have used this work permit exemption within the 12-month period prior to your arrival date;
- 4) be outside of Canada prior to the start of your research stay.

For more information, please see [here](#).

If you qualify under this category, please check “visitor” on the registration form.

Foreign nationals who require a visitor visa (see <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>) will still need to obtain one before entering Canada.

**Note:** If you will be requesting this work permit exemption, your hosting professor should provide you with an invitation letter. When entering Canada or applying for a visitor visa, you should provide a copy of this invitation letter **in addition to** the letter from Enrolment Services.

In order to facilitate the request for this work permit exemption upon entry to Canada (for visitor visa exempt foreign nationals only) or the application for a visitor visa under this work permit exemption, it is recommended that the following be demonstrated with the supporting documents listed below:

- 1) **the purpose of your stay:**
  - Letter of invitation from hosting professor, which must include:
    - The start and end date of your stay (up to 120 days);
    - A statement that the purpose of the stay is to perform research;
    - A brief description of the research project;
    - A brief description of your role in the research project.
  - Letter from Enrolment Services
  
- 2) **that you are a student at your home university:**
  - Proof of enrolment
  - Transcripts

◆ *Self-Funded Researcher*

You may be exempt from the requirement of having a work permit, if you meet the eligibility requirements to come to Canada as a Self-funded Researcher. As such, your status will be that of a business visitor.

The conditions that must be met in order to qualify as a Self-funded Researcher are:

- 1) There should be no displacement of Canadian or permanent resident workers;
- 2) There should be no employer-employee relationship created with McGill;
- 3) You must not receive any remuneration from McGill and must be coming to McGill with your own funds;
- 4) McGill must not receive compensation for the training period, nor benefit from the research; and
- 5) The maximum duration of your stay is **6 months**.

**In other words, the graduate research trainee must be coming to Canada with their own funds to work on research that will only benefit their studies back home and not to contribute to a McGill research project.**

As such, the Self-funded Researcher comes to Canada to acquire knowledge and conduct research at their own expense. Each file is assessed on a case-by-case basis by CIC.

If you qualify under this category, please check “visitor” on the registration form.

Foreign nationals who require a visitor visa (see <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>) will still need to obtain one before entering Canada.

**Note:** If you will be requesting this work permit exemption, your hosting professor should provide you with an invitation letter. When entering Canada or applying for a visitor visa, you should provide a copy of this invitation letter **in addition to** the letter from Enrolment Services.

In order to facilitate the request for this work permit exemption upon entry to Canada (for visitor visa exempt foreign nationals only) or the application for a visitor visa under this work permit exemption, it is recommended that the following be demonstrated with the supporting documents listed below:

- 1) **the purpose of your stay:**
  - Letter of invitation from hosting professor
  - Letter from Enrolment Services
  - Outline of research project
- 2) **that you are a student at your home university:**
  - Proof of enrolment
  - Transcripts
  - Letter from home university confirming research project at McGill
- 3) **that you are self-funded:**
  - Proof of funds: e.g.: bank letter, employment letter from home country, letter of support from family members and bank letter.
  - Funds should be sufficient to cover duration of stay (i.e. less than 6 months)

◆ *Military Personnel*

You may be exempt from the requirement of having a work permit if you are a member of the armed forces of a country designated in the [Visiting Forces Act](#) and you have received military marching orders to complete your research traineeship at McGill.

For more information, please see [here](#).

## FURTHER QUESTIONS?

If after consulting the information in this document you have further immigration-related questions, please communicate directly with your host department at McGill.

### **SOURCES:**

**Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations:** <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2002-227/index.html>

**Citizenship and Immigration Canada:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/operational-bulletins-manuals/temporary-residents/foreign-workers.html>

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