

This document is designed to give you an overview of the Visas available for students who want to study at St Giles Vancouver.

You can also visit the Canadian Immigration Website for more information: www.cic.gc.ca. In particular, you can see if you will need a visa here: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>.

1. Temporary Resident Visas (Tourist Visas)

This Visa allows students to study non-credit courses, including English as a Second Language, for up to six months. This can be a full-time or part-time course. If you do not get a dated stamp in your passport when you arrive, you can stay for 6 months from the day you entered Canada or until your passport expires, whichever comes first. A TRV does not give a student the right to work in Canada.

Students can apply for the Temporary Resident Visa at [a VAC \(Visa Application Centre\)](#). You will also need to submit [biometrics](#).

Students with EU passports do not need to apply for a Temporary Resident Visa, but they do need to apply for an [eTA \(Electronic Travel Authorizaiton\)](#). This is required to travel to Canada by air.

Students will not always be given a Visitor Visa for the full six months. It may just be for the length of their course. If they do not get a Visitor Visa for the full six months it will be possible to extend it for up to six months, after arriving in Canada. After six months, students can only extend their visa for tourism purposes, but not for further study.

Temporary Resident Visas are less expensive than Study Permits (see below) and are usually processed faster. However, it is important to note that a student cannot change Visa once in Canada e.g. upgrade to a Study Permit or Work Permit. So if you would like the option to study for more than six months, or would like to work, you should apply for a Study Permit, as detailed below.

It is important to remember that the total period of time that students can stay in Canada is six months on a Temporary Resident Visa. This includes time that the students will spend travelling within the country, either before you start your enrolment, or after you finish. If students plan to stay longer than six months in Canada, then they must apply for a Study Permit (see below).

2. Study Permits

These permits are usually for students who are studying courses for longer than six months; or for students who would like to take a work placement or work during their stay. Student Permits also apply to students who plan to study as well as travel within Canada, and plan to stay in the country for longer than six months.

A Study Permit can be for a program shorter than six months if the student wants to take a work placement during their stay. You will need to also apply for a Work Permit (see below) if you do want to work.

A Study Permit can be extended from within Canada, if the student is "in status". This means the original Study Permit cannot have expired and the student will need a letter from the school to say that the student is studying and in good standing.

Study Permits sometimes require an interview and sometimes a medical examination. Because of this, they generally take longer to apply for than temporary permits.

Students of all nationalities must apply for a Study Permit before they enter Canada, usually at the nearest VAC (Visa Application Centre).

You can find out more about what you need to apply for a Study Permit [here](#).

3. Work Permits

These are required for all work placements. An ESL student must still apply for a Work Permit if they want to work while studying. Most ESL students will apply for a Working Holiday Visa through IEC (International Experience Canada).

Working Holiday Visas are special visas that are available as part of bilateral agreements between Canada and specific countries. They are meant for young people (19 to 30 years) to be able to work part-time while travelling. Students with Working Holiday Visas can study and work part-time at the same time. Students have to find their own jobs.

Please click [here](#) for more information on Work Permits in Canada.

What documents are required for the Visa applications?

For visa applications, the school will supply an official "Letter of Acceptance" which the student uses when applying for a visa. Even if the student is coming as tourist and getting a Temporary Resident Visa upon arrival, they should carry this letter with them. Canadian Immigration officials will ask you "What is the purpose of your visit?" upon arrival. You can then show your Acceptance letter if asked.

St Giles Vancouver is accredited by Languages Canada. Languages Canada accredits both public and private institutions. St. Giles Vancouver is also a [DLI \(Designated Learning Institution\)](#) Canadian Immigration uses this list of accredited schools when assessing visa applications.

In addition to the Letter of Acceptance, you must provide proof of financial ability to pay for your stay in Canada and your studies. The amount needed will depend on the student's nationality; so you should consult the Canadian Embassy in the student's country for specific requirements. You may also need to prove that you intend to leave Canada once your studies have finished.

In some countries, students will be asked to give a "Letter of Intent" with their visa application. If this is a requirement in your country, please contact us and we can advise you on this.

You can find out more information about required documents for visas [here](#).

3. Age of Consent

The legal age for a student to be an adult in British Columbia, Canada is 19 years old. Therefore students under 19 years of age usually need a legal custodian in Canada in order to get a visa. St Giles Vancouver

can arrange this for the students. Please note that there is a fee of CAD \$100 for preparing the custodian documentation.

4. Single vs. Multiple Entry Visas

Before the student comes to study, they should check to see if they have a single entry visa or a multiple entry visa.

This refers to the number of times a student can enter/exit Canada while he is studying in Canada and it applies to all visas: Temporary Resident Permits, Study Permits and Work Permits.

If students are studying in Canada with a single entry permit, they will probably not be re-admitted if they leave Canada for any reason.

Further Information

You can find more information about Canadian Visas on the website of the Canadian Immigration Department: www.cic.gc.ca.

In addition, we recommend you check the website of the Canadian Embassy in your country for country specific information.

If you have any questions; you can also contact our team in Vancouver. They will be happy to help you!

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