

An Opportunity for International Students to Work Off-Campus



Manitoba has been selected as the site of a two-year pilot project that allows international students to obtain open work permits for off-campus employment. These permits allow you to work part-time during regular academic sessions and full-time during scheduled breaks.

Full-time students who have completed two consecutive terms of study at participating Manitoba institutions are eligible to apply for an open work permit. Applicants must achieve and maintain satisfactory academic standing and full-time student status.

There are several reasons to take advantage of this opportunity:

- Participating in the work force will allow you to gain a deeper understanding of Canadian society.
- Canadian work experience may help you to obtain full-time employment – either at home or in Canada – when you complete your studies.
- You may develop additional skills that will make you more employable in the future.
- You can earn extra money through off-campus employment.*



This is a great opportunity, but it is important to consider the implications of working off-campus while you study:

- It is not always easy to balance the competing demands of work and study.
- If you are not able to maintain full-time status and satisfactory academic standing, you will lose your work permit.
- It may take longer to complete your program of study if you choose to work part-time instead of taking a full course load.
- If you take longer to complete your program, you will be paying living expenses for a longer period of time.
- You will need to apply for a new work permit every year at a cost of \$150 each time.
- Employees without Canadian work experience and a completed post-secondary qualification are seldom able to find jobs that pay more than the minimum wage.
- There is no guarantee that you will find a job.
- If you abuse the privilege of working off-campus you will lose that privilege. You may also lose the privilege of studying and living in Canada.

If you decide that you would like to apply for a work permit, please follow the steps outlined in the document entitled “Do you want to work part-time while studying in Canada?”**



** *If information in this brochure is not consistent with other sources of information, Citizenship and Immigration Canada shall provide the final authority on all matters related to the granting of work permits.*

* *When applying for permission to study in Canada, money earned while working off-campus cannot be considered as part of a student's ability to pay for tuition and living expenses.*