

ABOUT US

At BorderLaw® we are, first and foremost, immigration law experts. Our exclusive focus means that we are able to provide expert advice and comprehensive services in an increasingly complex area of law.

PERSONAL SERVICES

When you contact us, you deal with a qualified and experienced lawyer who will take the time to identify and address your specific immigration issues.

FLEXIBILITY

We can help with a specific immigration problem or develop your business immigration plan. We provide services on a fixed fee basis or bill hourly, in US or Canadian currency, as per our clients' request.

REFERRALS

We value referral relationships. Because of our restricted practice area, we regularly assist Canadian, US & international law firms. We work hard to support you and your clients.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Qualified and licensed in Canada and the US, at Borderlaw® we adhere to stringent regulatory requirements applicable to practice, accounting and ethical conduct, in both countries.

BEREZOWSKI'S BORDERLAW®

*** UPDATE ***

To: Berezowski Business Immigration Law Clients
From: Nan Berezowski, Barrister & Solicitor
Date: February 22, 2019
Re: Good News for Foreign Students

On February 14, 2019 Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada (IRCC) introduced new, relaxed guidelines for the Post-Graduation Work Permit Program (PGWP).

By way of background, the PGWP program allows foreign students who have graduated from eligible Canadian institutions to obtain an Open Work Permit for up to three (3) years. Students who use the program can, in turn, gain additional points based on their Canadian work experience, when they apply for permanent residence through the Express Entry selection program. The changes make it easier for students to stay in Canada and obtain work permits after graduation and in turn supports their subsequent Application for Permanent Residence.

There are four key changes to the updated PGWP program:

1. **Deadline to apply** ~ The deadline to apply for the PGWP has been extended to six (6) months from the date the educational institute indicates that the foreign student has met the requirements for completion of his or her program of study, up from 90 days. Calculation of the 180 days begins on either the date the student's final marks are issued or from the date the student receives a formal written notification of program completion, whichever is earlier.
2. **Valid Study Permit** ~ Foreign nationals will no longer be required to hold a valid Study Permit when they apply for a Post Graduate Work Permit; however, the Study Permit must be valid at some point during the 180-day period.
3. **Pre-February 14, 2019 Applications** ~ The old guidelines will continue to apply. However, a foreign student who had his or her application rejected under the old guidelines can resubmit under the new guidelines, if still eligible.
4. **Post-February 14, 2019 Applications** ~ The new guidelines will apply to applications submitted on or after February 14, 2019.

The PGWP is already a generous program with major benefits. For instance, graduates who apply for a Post-Graduation Work Permit, before the expiry of their Study Permit are typically able to work full-time without a Work Permit while waiting for a decision on their application. In addition, spouses and common-law

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partners of Post-Graduation Work Permit holders can apply for an Open Work Permit which means that they can work for almost any employer at any location in Canada. We expect that the relaxed guidelines will further encourage skilled students and their families to remain in the country and gain Canadian work experience. The existing benefits, the Express Entry 'leg up' and the relaxed guidelines also demonstrate the federal government's continued confidence that recent graduates make good immigrants.

Nan Berezowski (BA, LL.B, LL.M) compiled this Update with the latest available information for the general information of Berezowski Business Immigration Law clients and other interested parties. This Update is not comprehensive and should not be relied upon without appropriate legal advice.