



Update on Canada's International Student Program

Presentation for Languages Canada Annual Conference

Malcolm Eales, Director
Mélanie Bergeron, Senior Program Advisor

February 25, 2020

Disclaimer: The information in this presentation is accurate as of the date of the presentation. Policies and programs are subject to change. For the latest updates, please consult www.Canada.ca



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

Canada

Agenda

- I. IRCC and the International Education Strategy
- II. Assessment of Study Permit Application
- III. Program Integrity- Biometric collections
- IV. Update on the International Student Program
- V. Questions and Answers

I. IRCC and the International Education Strategy

- International Education Strategy Key Objectives
 - IRCC's role within the IES
- Pourquoi les étudiants étrangers sont-ils important pour le Canada
 - International Students by the numbers

I. IRCC and the International Education Strategy

International Education Strategy key objectives

Canada's new **International Education Strategy (IES)** has **three** key objectives:

- Encourage Canadian students to gain new skills through study and work abroad opportunities in key global markets, especially Asia
- **Diversify the countries from which international students come to Canada**, as well as their fields, levels of study, and location of study within Canada
- Increase support for Canadian education sector institutions to help grow their export services and explore new opportunities abroad

International education supported the equivalent of 170,000 full-time jobs in Canada in 2016



I. IRCC and the International Education Strategy

IRCC'S role in the International Education Strategy

So what's IRCC's part?

Expand SDS to additional countries =

(approx. \$1 million over 5 years and \$100,000 in ongoing funding)

Modernize immigration forms and processes =

(approx. \$18 million over 5 years and \$1.2 million ongoing)

Increased promotion of International Experience Canada (IEC) =

(approx. \$1 million supplemental over 5 years and \$200,000 ongoing)



I. IRCC et la Stratégie en matière d'éducation internationale

Pourquoi les étudiants étrangers sont-ils importants pour le Canada?

- En 2018, leur contribution à l'économie a représenté plus de **21,5 milliards de dollars.**
- Ils contribuent considérablement aux revenus, à l'innovation et à la croissance du secteur de l'éducation.
- Ils enrichissent l'expérience universitaire des étudiants canadiens et contribuent à l'internationalisation des établissements canadiens.
- Ils répondent aux besoins du marché du travail en remédiant aux pénuries de main-d'œuvre qualifiée et aux besoins démographiques (à court et à long terme).
- Les étudiants étrangers francophones contribuent à la vitalité des communautés francophones en situation minoritaire.



Au cours de la dernière décennie, l'attention accordée à l'immigration a évolué et les étudiants étrangers sont maintenant davantage perçus comme étant non seulement des résidents temporaires, mais également comme une source de travailleurs temporaires et un bassin de résidents permanents potentiels.



I. IRCC and the International Education Strategy

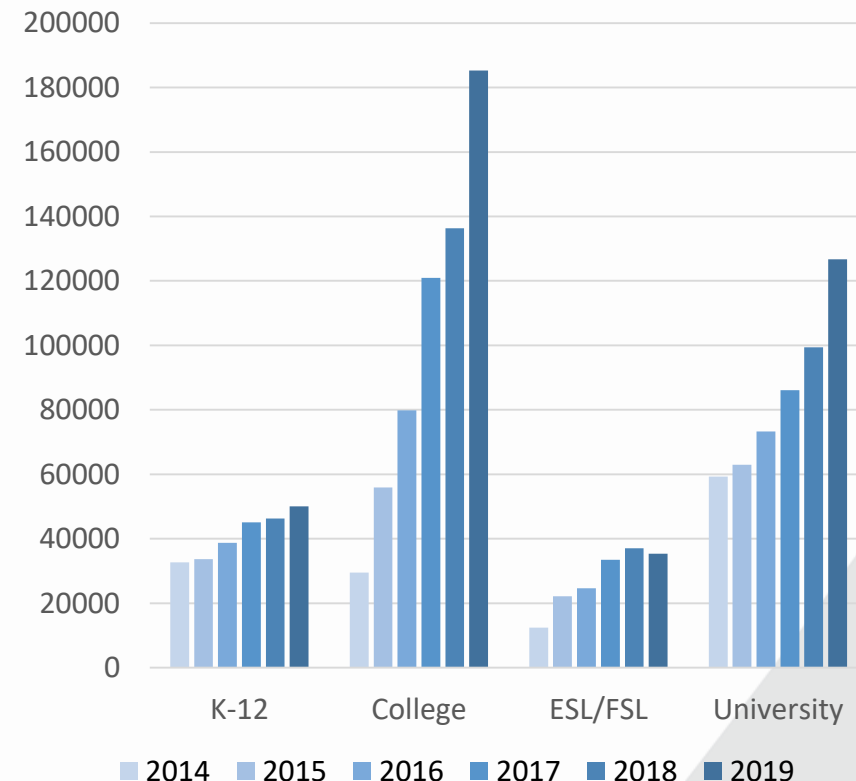
International Students by the numbers

Growth in numbers of study permit applications for most levels of study in 2019:

- **Primary/Secondary (K-12):** 50,008 SP applications-an increase of 7% from 2018
- **ESL/FSL:** 35,314 SP applications – a decrease of 5% from 2018
- **College:** 186258 SP applications -an increase of 26% from 2018
- **University:** 126,688 SP applications - an increase of 22 % from 2017

Source: IRCC OPS-Stats, February 12 2020.

New Study Permit Applications Processed
by Top Levels of Study
2014-2019



I. IRCC and the International Education Strategy

International Students by the numbers

IRCC approved 60% of all new study permit applications processed in 2019.

Level of Study	Approval Rate (New SP)		
	2017	2018	2019
ESL/FSL only	71	71	68
ESL/FSL and College	62	55	39
ESL/FSL and University	60	52	53

Type of Processing	Processing times						
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
New Permits (in days)	48	39	38	37	42	42	34
Extensions (in days)	61	23	71	41	64	50	50

Source: IRCC OPS-Stats, February 12 2020.

II. Assessment of Study Permit Applications

- Eligibility and Admissibility Requirements
- Motifs courants de refus de permis d'études à l'étranger
 - Clarifying the concept of *Dual Intent*
 - Case Study, refusals rates in Vietnam
 - Best practices

II. Assessment of Study Permit Applications

Eligibility and Admissibility Requirements

- In accordance with the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations, migration officers shall issue study permits to applicants, if following an examination, it is established that the applicant:
 - ✓ has applied in accordance with Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations;
 - ✓ has been accepted to undertake a program of study at a designated learning institution;
 - ✓ has a letter of acceptance from a Designated learning institution;
 - ✓ has a Certificat d'Acceptation du Québec, if they intend to study in Québec;
 - ✓ has undergone a medical examination, if applicable;
 - ✓ has sufficient and available financial resources, without working in Canada, to pay the tuition fees, maintain themselves and any family members who are accompanying them; and pay the costs of transporting themselves and the family members to and from Canada; and
 - ✓ will leave Canada by the end of the period authorized for their stay.



II. Assessment of Study Permit Applications Eligibility and Admissibility Requirements cont.

- Letter of acceptance from a designated learning institution;
- Purpose of visit;
- Duration of stay;
- Ties to Canada or country of residence;
- Travel documents;
- Financial support;
- Criminal and health checks;
- Previous refusals and removals.



II. Évaluation de la demande d'un permis d'études

Précisions sur le concept de *double intention*

- Il y a **double intention** lorsqu'un étranger ayant demandé la résidence permanente au Canada demande une entrée temporaire au Canada à titre de visiteur, de travailleur ou d'étudiant.
- L'intention de l'étranger de devenir résident permanent ne l'empêche pas de devenir résident temporaire. Toutefois, l'agent doit être convaincu qu'il quittera le Canada à la fin de la période de séjour autorisée si sa demande de résidence permanente n'est pas approuvée.

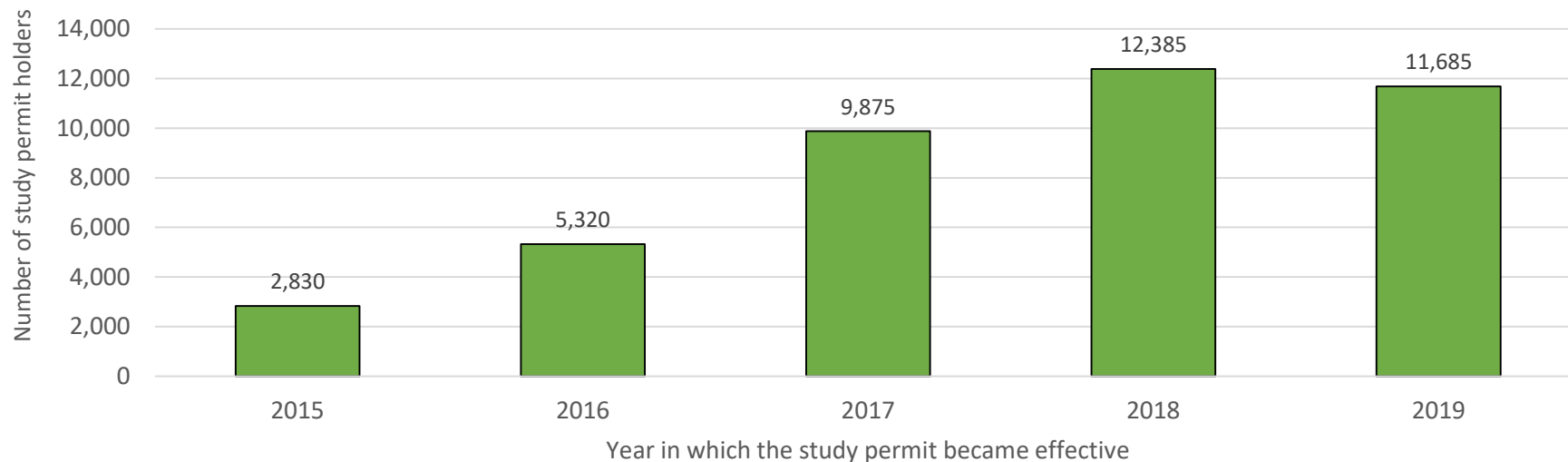
L'évaluation d'une demande lorsqu'il y a une double intention n'est pas différente de l'évaluation de toute autre demande de résidence temporaire. Chaque demandeur bénéficie d'une évaluation individuelle et équitable sur le plan de la procédure.



II. Assessment of Study Permit Applications

Case Study: Vietnam

- Vietnam is a top source country for international students – ranking 5th in new study permits effective in 2016, 2017 and 2019



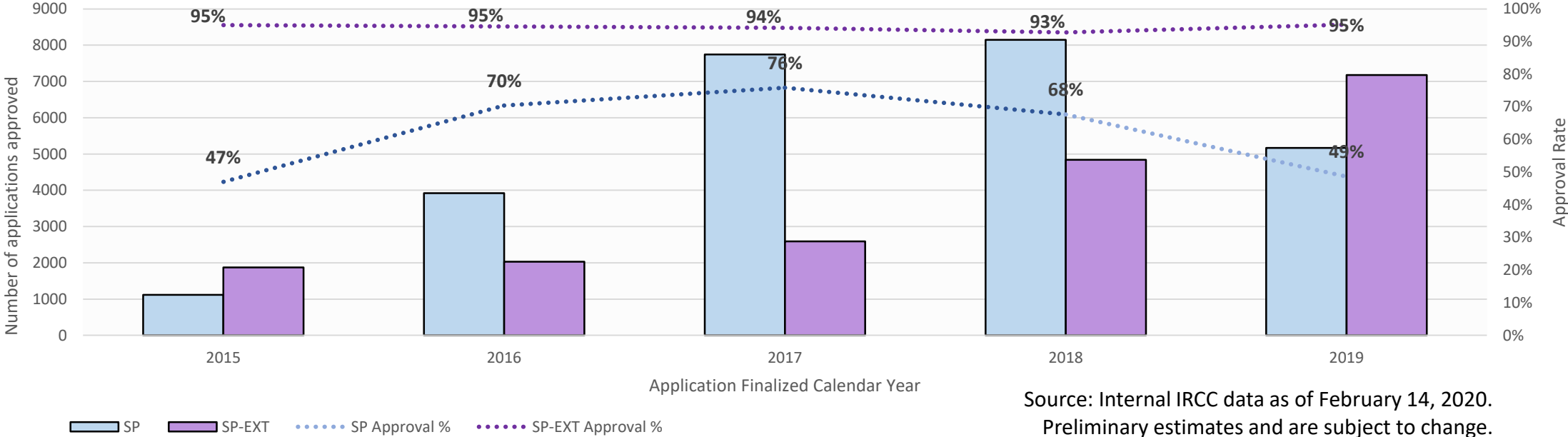
Source: Open Data Canada - Study permit holders by country of citizenship and year in which permit(s) became effective, January 2015 - December 2019, http://www.cic.gc.ca/opendata-donneesouvertes/data/IRCC_M_TRStudy_0001_E.xls

*Effective refers when the study permit became valid, meaning when it was printed and given to the client; this number is different from approved study permits as not all clients will decided to come to Canada or will come to Canada in the same year in which their application was approved

II. Assessment of Study Permit Applications

Case Study: Vietnam – Overall Approvals

Study Permits (SP & SP-Ext) Applications Approved for Vietnamese Citizens by Calendar Year, 2015-2019



Observations:

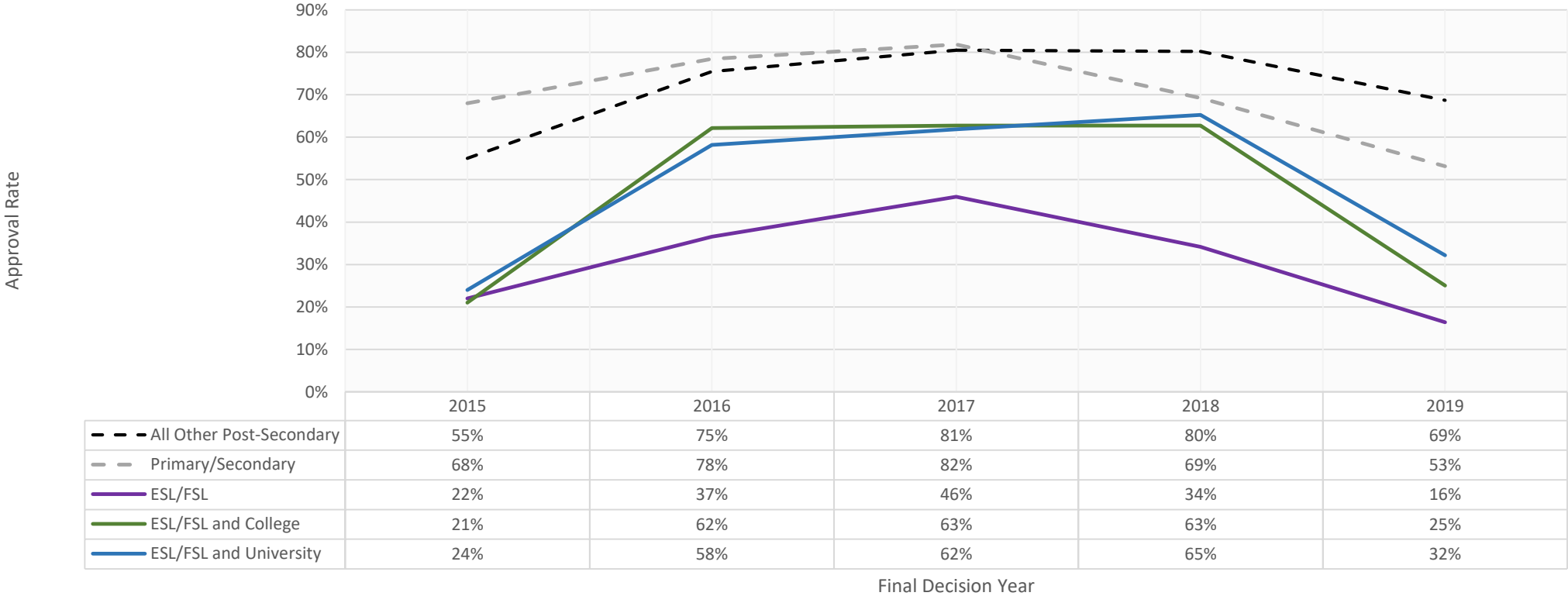
- Sustained growth across 2015 to 2019 in the number of new study permits approved.
- Decline in approval rates in 2019 is consistent across most markets, but is contributing to less new applications approved
- Growth in SP-EXT applications; reflection that increased cohort of students may be choosing to remain in Canada to study
- More analysis and research into student outcomes required to understand better understand pathway programs



II. Assessment of Study Permit Applications

Case Study: Vietnam – Approval Rates by Level of Study for Initial SPs

Initial (Outside Canada) Study Permits Approval Rate by Final Decision Year and Level of Study for Vietnamese Citizens, 2015-2019



Note: The level of study is based on what is declared on the study permit application. These approval rates may not account for instances where a pathway student indicates that will attending just “College” or “University”

Source: Internal IRCC data as of February 14, 2020. Preliminary estimates and are subject to change.



II. Assessment of Study Permit Applications

Case Study: Vietnam –Program Changes

Impact of the closure of the Canada Express Study (CES) program and introduction of the Student Direct Stream

- CES introduced in 2016, closed in 2018; eligible to students destined to CICAN partner institutions with **overall IELTS score of 5.0**
- SDS introduced in May 2018; eligible to students destined to any post-secondary institution with an increased **IELTS score of 6.0** across all bands
- New SDS criteria means previously eligible language and/or pathway program students no longer benefit from an expedited processing stream

Initial (Outside Canada) Study Permits at the **ESL/ESL+** Level of Study - Approved and Refused by Stream and Final Decision Year, for Vietnamese Citizens, 2016-2019

	Stream	Approved	Refused	Approved %
2015	Regular SP	184	628	23%
2016	Regular SP	599	774	44%
	CES	600	36	94%
2017	Regular SP	879	810	52%
	CES	1736	437	80%
2018	Regular SP	1290	1756	42%
	CES	1499	280	84%
	SDS	36	3	92%
2019	Regular SP	715	2414	23%
	SDS	39*	18	68%

*Note: The level of study is based on what is declared on the study permit application. These numbers for may not account for instances where a pathway (ESL+) student indicates that will attending just “College” or “University”

Source: Internal IRCC data as of February 14, 2020. Preliminary estimates and are subject to change.

II. Assessment of Study Permit Applications

Case Study: Vietnam – Refusal Grounds for students destined to ESL or ESL+ programs

- Lack of or insufficient proof of adequate funds to support oneself while in Canada
- Not satisfying the visa officer that the individual will leave Canada at the end of their period of authorized stay
 - Weak or absent study plans
 - Lack of response to procedural fairness letters
- Submission of fraudulent or inauthentic documents
 - letter of acceptance, diplomas, proof of funds, language test results, prior academic diplomas and transcripts

PROOF OF FUNDS?

- evidence that the **tuition fees have been paid** for the first year of studies;
- Certificates of Deposit, dated within the last two months showing current funds available;
- bank books;
- **evidence of the applicant or their parents' income and employment:**
 - o employment letters
 - o business registration
 - o tax receipts

If the student is being supported by a person other than the parents or same information is required for them or for you.



II. Assessment of Study Permit Applications

Best practices

What information to add into a study plan:

- Why you wish to go to Canada to study at the school and in the program for which you have been accepted;
- Your overall educational goals;
- How this Canadian diploma or degree will increase your employment chances, and
- Provide information related to financial support for your program of studies offered by your parents and yourself.



III. Program Integrity- Biometric collection

- Biometrics update
- Outside Canada Biometrics collection
 - In-Canada Biometrics collection

III. Identity Management Mechanisms

Biometrics update



- As of **December 31, 2018**, **all applicants** for a visitor visa, a study, work or temporary residence permit (except US nationals), and all applicants for permanent residence (including US nationals) are required to submit their biometrics in support of their application
- **The “1 in 10”**: Temporary residence applicants only need to provide their biometrics once every 10 years
 - Applicants who have provided biometrics in support of a temporary resident application (including study permit) in the past will benefit from this new 10-year validity period as well
- Biometric exemption to in-Canada clients was **lifted** in December 2019 following the launch of the in-Canada collection service.



III. Program Integrity Mechanisms

Outside Canada Biometrics Collection



Outside Canada, applicants have to go to one of these official locations to give their biometrics:

- visa application centres (VACs) worldwide
- application support centers (ASCs) in the United States and its territories

Visa application centres (VACs) are private companies that have formal contracts with the Government of Canada. They:

- securely send applications and passport to the visa office
- are official locations to give biometrics (fingerprints and a photo)
- are located around the world- 161 locations
- speak local languages



III. Program Integrity Mechanisms In-Canada Biometrics Collection



- As of December 2019, those eligible to apply from within Canada are no longer be exempt from biometric requirements if they have not previously provided their biometrics to IRCC in the last 10 years.
- Biometric collection within Canada are offered in partnership with the Department of Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), and is available as of December 2019.
 - Clients in Canada are able to enrol their biometrics at any one of 58 Service Canada locations across the country, as per their convenience.
 - A list of locations where clients may enrol their biometrics is available on ESDC's/IRCC's website, and includes information on hours of operation, office closures, etc.



IV. International Students Program Updates

- Student Direct Stream
- Pre-requisite courses
- Transition d'un niveau de scolarité à un autre

IV. International Students Program Updates

Student Direct Stream - Overview



The Student Direct Stream (SDS) is an expedited study permit application stream that was launched by IRCC in June 2018.

- SDS was created for study permit applicants who are legally residing in certain countries, intending to study at a designated post-secondary learning institution, and who meet specific language, medical and financial requirements.
- IRCC requests additional documentation to provide some assurance to officers that the study permit applicants will succeed academically and are able to financially sustain themselves while in Canada.
- SDS does not replace IRCC's regular study permit program. SDS is an expedited stream that is offered to eligible applicants who meet specific criteria.



IV. Mise à jour sur le programme des étudiants internationaux

Volet direct pour les études- Qui peut présenter une demande?

Offert aux residents autorisés vivant présentement dans l'un des pays suivants:

- Chine
- Inde
- Maroc
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Sénégal
- Vietnam



VOLET DIRECT POUR
les études 



IV. International Students Program Updates

Student Direct Stream - Eligibility Criteria



Applicants must submit the following documents with their **electronic** application:

- a copy of their acceptance letter from a post-secondary designated learning institution
- a copy of their upfront medical exam confirmation document (if required)
- a police certificate (if required)
- proof that they have a Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC) of \$10,000 CAN
- proof that they've paid the tuition fees for their first year of study,
- a copy of their most recent educational transcript, and
- proof that they have completed a language test showing a
 - score of at least 6 for English (International English Language Testing System), or
 - Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens score of at least 7 for French (Test d'évaluation de français).

Applications that do not meet SDS eligibility requirements will be processed through the regular study permit stream



IV. International Students Program Updates

Student Direct Stream - What's new?



As part of the new International Education Strategy, IRCC will expand the SDS to additional markets with the goal of diversifying the international student population in Canada.

These are some key elements we will consider when deciding to expand SDS to a new market:

- GIC availability and financial institutions' timelines to offer a GIC in a new country
- Language test locations
- Stakeholder consultations
- Internal Market Evaluations and Risk Assessments
- Internal timeframes to execute system changes
- Study Permit application volumes
- Caseload complexity
- Ministerial approval of new markets



IV. International Students Program Updates

Pre-requisite courses

As of **April 16, 2019**, PDI updates include information on:

- Eligibility requirements to apply for a study permit within Canada
- Increasing the validity of the study permits for applicants taking a pre-requisite course or program:
 - length of the pre-requisite program, plus 1 year
- Work authorizations
 - Students cannot work off-campus while completing their pre-requisite program. They must complete the pre-requisite **and** also begin their main program of study before being able to work off-campus



IV. Transition d'un niveau de scolarité à un autre (primaire, secondaire et postsecondaire)

- Les étudiants qui font la transition d'un niveau de scolarité à un autre (primaire, secondaire et postsecondaire) **ne sont plus tenus de présenter une demande pour obtenir un nouveau permis d'études**, à condition que leur permis d'études actuel soit encore valide.
- Les étudiants fréquentant un établissement d'enseignement désigné au Québec doivent obtenir un nouveau CAQ s'ils souhaitent changer de :
 - d'établissement d'enseignement,
 - de programme,
 - de niveau d'études.
- Ces changements doivent être communiqué à IRCC via le compte en ligne de l'étudiant.



Questions? Comments?

Subscribe via **RSS** to stay up to date with IRCC program delivery updates:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/operational-bulletins-manuals.html>