

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*

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 other options.

◆ *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

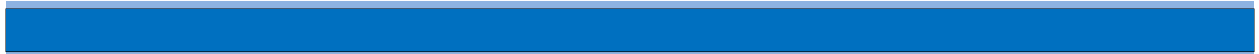
◆ *Working Holiday Work Permit Under IEC*

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](#).



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

