

International students who are applying for a study permit must submit a Letter of Acceptance issued by NIC and a Provincial Attestation Letter issued by the Government of British Columbia.

## Letter of Acceptance (LOA)

A LOA is issued once you meet all admission requirements and the deposit payment is received at NIC. The instructions on how to make the deposit payment are indicated in your Letter of Offer.

A LOA, once submitted with your study permit application to IRCC, will be verified for its authenticity. You **MUST NOT** alter any part of your LOA. If altered, your LOA may not be verified and your study permit application returned to you.

## Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL)

A PAL is issued by the Government of British Columbia and sent directly to NIC. NIC will send you a LOA and a PAL together via your NIC email account (ending with @northislandcollege.ca). A PAL is required as confirmation from the Government of British Columbia to IRCC that space is available for you at NIC.

## Who needs a PAL?

If you do not hold a valid study permit or work permit, you must obtain a PAL. However, there are a few categories of students who are not required to obtain a PAL, such as exchange students, visiting students, and students submitting applications for study permit extension. For more information on whether you need a PAL, please go to [IRCC website](#).

## What you need to know about study permit applications and a PAL

Once a PAL is issued, there are no changes to the content. Therefore, you must ensure that your personal information provided to NIC is correct when you receive a Letter of Offer.

- Name: Name must match the name indicated on your passport. If your name is different on the Letter of Offer, please contact [iadmissions@nic.bc.ca](mailto:iadmissions@nic.bc.ca) immediately.
- Address: If your residential address has changed since the time you applied to NIC, you must email [iadmissions@nic.bc.ca](mailto:iadmissions@nic.bc.ca) to request your address to be updated immediately so that the address on your LOA and PAL match the address on your study permit application to IRCC. If unsure, check the address on your Letter of Offer.

## Information on Provincial Attestation Letter and Letter of Acceptance

- Expiry Date: A PAL issued this year will have an expiry date of January 21, 2025. This means that you must submit your PAL to IRCC to obtain a study permit prior to this date. If you do not submit a study permit application prior to the expiry date, your PAL is void.

It is your responsibility to apply for a study permit as soon as you receive your LOA and PAL from NIC. This will ensure that you successfully obtain a study permit approval before the study permit deadline indicated by NIC. Even if you have an NIC authorized agent or Registered Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC) supporting your study permit application, you must be aware of your study permit application date, documents submitted, and its progress.

**If your study permit is denied** and you want to re-apply, you must inform NIC immediately to obtain a new PAL. You will not be able to re-apply for a study permit using the same PAL that was used in the previous study permit application.

### **Who to ask questions about a PAL**

The implementation of PALs is an evolving process, hence there will likely be regular updates to this document. Once you are an applicant to NIC you will receive updates by email as they become available.

If you have additional questions about a PAL, please contact us at [study@nic.bc.ca](mailto:study@nic.bc.ca) or [iadmissions@nic.bc.ca](mailto:iadmissions@nic.bc.ca)