



What is a Port of Entry?

A Port of Entry (POE) is a place which is designated as an entry point into Canada by the Government of Canada. There are many land and marine POEs as well as international airports which are POEs. If you are coming into Canada through an international airport, including Winnipeg International Airport, you will enter Canada through a Port of Entry.¹ A common land Port of Entry in Manitoba is the Emerson West Lynne Port of Entry. At a Port of Entry, you may be asked to present identification documents, answer questions, and provide personal information to determine whether you are authorized to enter Canada. If you are arriving by plane, the first airport in Canada where you land will be the place that you will be examined. For example, if you fly from the United States to Toronto and then fly from Toronto to Winnipeg, you will be examined at the Port of Entry in Toronto International Airport.

Who is eligible to apply for a Study Permit²

truthfully. If you wish to apply for a Study Permit at the POE, tell the Border Services Officer that you wish to make an application. The Border Services Officer may ask you for information and documentation such as your Passport, Letter of Acceptance, A Provincial Attestation Letter or Proof of Finances. Following the initial examination, you will be asked to proceed to a secondary examination where you will be asked for further information and documentation. If the officer believes that you meet the requirements to obtain a Study Permit and are not inadmissible, you may be issued a Study Permit.

What is the advantage of applying for a Study Permit at a Port of Entry?

The advantage of applying for a Study Permit at the Port of Entry is that you do not need to apply in advance of travelling to Canada. If you have received your Letter of Acceptance shortly before the term or have decided to come to The University of Winnipeg at the last minute, applying at a POE allows you to begin your studies as soon as possible. Applying at a POE means that you do not have to wait for your application to be processed at a visa office in the United States, which can take several weeks or months.⁸

What are the disadvantages of applying for a Study Permit at a Port of Entry?

There are three main disadvantages of applying for a Study Permit at a POE, including that:

- a) The border officer may not be able to verify your acceptance letter from the University for various reasons (University closed on weekend, office hours, or not able to reach the concerned department i.e. Admission Office). In this case you may be returned to US and asked to visit again.
- b) It is likely that you will be required to spend a long period of time at the Port of Entry in order for border officials to conduct the necessary examinations. If you have a connecting flight from a POE to Winnipeg, make sure to allow sufficient time for the POE examination. If you are arriving through a land POE make sure to adjust your travel plans to anticipate a long examination period at the POE;
- c) If you do not have all of the required documentation, or are required to complete an immigration medical exam or police check before entering Canada, and have not already done so, you may not be allowed to enter Canada. Alternatively, you may be admitted to Canada as a visitor and would be required to re-submit an application for a Study Permit at a visa office in the US or at a POE. If you are admitted to Canada as a visitor, you would be unable to study until you were issued a Study Permit; and
- d) It is likely that you will be issued a Study Permit which is shorter in length than a Study Permit issued following an application made at a visa office outside of Canada. Of course, students can apply to renew their Study Permit from within Canada prior to its expiry. However, it should be noted that each time you make an application for a Study Permit you are required to pay an application fee of \$150 CAD and submit relevant supporting documentation.

DISCLAIMER: This document does not constitute legal advice, and should not be relied upon as a source of legal advice. It is a reference sheet designed to provide information on the requirements for applying for a Study Permit at a Port of Entry and describes existing requirements under the **Immigration and Refugee Protection Act** and the regulations made under that Act in general terms. IRCC regulations, policies and procedures are subject to change and may change without notice. For the most current information, please visit IRCC (www.cic.gc.ca). This reference sheet was prepared by a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant in good standing with the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council and is accurate as of April, 2024.

⁸ Study Permit processing times can be found on the IRCC website at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/times/temp/students.asp>. Instead of applying at a POE, some students decide to apply for their Study Permit at a visa office and delay the start date of their studies for one or more terms. Remember that your Letter of Acceptance is valid for three terms, which means that you can choose to start your studies in any of the three terms specified on your Letter of Acceptance.