

Working On and Off Campus

Can I work on and off campus while I study?

Eligible international students can work on and off campus without a work permit. There are different requirements for working on campus and off campus. International undergraduate and graduate students who would like to work on and/or off campus must meet certain eligibility criteria as outlined below.

On-campus work

“On-campus” is defined by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) as employment facilities within the boundaries of the campus. Your employer can be SFU (e.g. temporary assignments), a faculty member, the Student Society, yourself (e.g. private tutoring) or a private business or private contractor providing services to the institution on the campus. This does **not** include Co-op placements or SFU-approved internships or practicums.

SFU students who meet the eligibility criteria to work on-campus are permitted to work at any of the three SFU campuses (Burnaby, Vancouver or Surrey).

Students can work on-campus without a work permit if they:

- Meet [SFU's definition of full-time status](#) in the term they wish to work on-campus
- Meet [IRCC's work eligibility criteria](#) for on-campus work
- Have a valid Social Insurance Number (SIN). See our [Social Insurance Number](#) handout for more information on how to apply.

If you are studying part-time in your final term of study you *may* be eligible to work on campus in that term. To review the criteria for working on-campus if you are studying part-time in your final term, please visit the [IRCC website](#).

Off-campus work

Off-campus work includes employment outside the boundaries of the SFU campus. This does **not** include Co-op placements or SFU-approved internships or practicums.

Students can work off-campus without a work permit if they:

Can I work in a Co-op job or an internship while I study?

You may participate in a Co-op work term or SFU-approved internship or practicum if **all of the following** apply:

- You have been accepted into the Co-op program OR you are expected to complete an internship/practicum as an essential part of your program of studies;
- You hold a valid Co-op work permit;
- You apply for and obtain a valid Social Insurance Number (SIN).

For more information about how to apply for a Co-op work permit from inside Canada, please see our [Co-op handout](#). The Co-op work permit can only be used for a SFU Co-op work term or a SFU-approved internship or practicum.

Can I volunteer in Canada while I study?

Volunteer activities for which a person would not normally be paid, which are part time and incidental to the main reason you are in Canada (to study), generally do not require a work permit.

If the volunteer work is an activity for which a Canadian citizen or

What issues will I need to consider when deciding whether or not to work?

1. Work eligibility

Before starting work, you must ensure that you are eligible based on current I