



INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY

(Office of the Director (Academics))

Sector H-10, New Campus, ISLAMABAD - PAKISTAN

P.O. Box.1243 Telegram.ALJAMIA FAX: 9257915 IIU PK, Tel: 9019617

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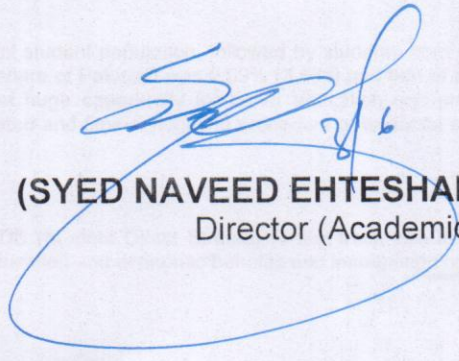
June 03, 2020

Subject: **STUDENT DIRECT STREAM (SDS) FOR FAST TRACK VISA.**

Kindly find enclosed self-explanatory email dated 19.02.2020 received from Mr. Abdul Hameed, Counul General, Counsulat General of Pakistan, Toronto, Canada on the subject mentioned above. (07-pages).

Your goodself is requested to please disseminate the information across your faculty and encourage the students to apply and avail this opportunity.

With best regards.


(SYED NAVEED EHTESHAM)
Director (Academics)

All Deans, IIUI

✓ **Web Master, IIUI** - kindly upload this information on IIU website.

**Consulate General of Pakistan
Toronto**

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In its endeavour to facilitate the Pakistani students aspiring to study in Canada, the Consulate General of Pakistan, Toronto has prepared the following information kit which briefly touches upon the opportunities available in the Canadian education market, steps to be followed and some useful links.

Why Study in Canada---Background

- Canadian government in its 2018 annual report on immigration announced plans to admit over one million new permanent residents between 2019 and 2021. In addition to the skilled and semi-skilled workers' programmes, a major chunk of the new comers in Canada traditionally consists of International students.
- Canada is one of the most favoured educational destinations especially among students from developing countries. It is currently the fourth largest market for international students.
- As per official surveys, 96% of international students recommend Canada as a study destination while 60% of international students plan to apply for permanent residence in Canada.
- Major factors making Canada a favourite destination include the high quality of education, open and welcoming Canadian society, permission to students to work part-time and the option of post-graduate work permits. Moreover, these students, based on their experience are better placed to get Canadian immigration.
- There were 572,415 international students in Canada in 2018 at all levels of study representing a 154% increase since 2010. Countries with the fastest growing number of international students in Canada (2017- 2018): Bangladesh (+53%), Iran (+48%), Vietnam (+46%), Colombia (+41%), India (+40%), Philippines (+29%) and Kenya (+29%). As per official data, engineering, business and the natural and social sciences are the top fields of study of international students in Canada.
- As of December 2018, students from India made up 30.16% (172,625) of Canada's international student population, followed by students from China 25% (142,985), South Korea 5% (24,195), France 4% (22,745) and Vietnam 3.55% (20,330). The share of Pakistan was 0.69% (3,965) and that of Bangladesh was 1.14% (6,520). It means that Pakistani students are not currently taking advantage of the huge opportunity for better education and prospects for immigration to Canada.
- Some of the barriers which earlier hampered prospects of Pakistani students were visa refusal for Pakistani students (which increased by 67 percent during 2016-18 as compared to 2013-14), visa processing time for Pakistani students and exclusion of Pakistan from the Student Direct Stream (SDS).

- In July 2019, the Canadian government added Pakistan to Student Direct Stream (SDS) (or fast track visa) list. At present the list comprises Pakistan, India, China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Morocco and Senegal. This has now been posted on Canadian official website (<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/student-direct-stream.html>).
- This is a major breakthrough for Pakistani students including those who want to take up permanent residence in Canada. The opportunities associated with Pakistan's inclusion in SDS will benefit both Pakistani students as well as future immigrants.

Initial Steps—Applying through Student Direct Stream (SDS)

- The steps involved for inclusion in the SDS are acceptance by a designated Canadian learning institution (DLI), tuition payment for the first year of study, purchase of a Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC) of \$10,000 (The Habib Canadian Bank is offering GIC to Pakistani students), completion of an upfront medical examination, qualifying score of at least 6 for English (IELTS), or Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens score of 7 for French (TEF), or graduation from a Canadian-curriculum high school.
- Inclusion in the SDS program will fast track the visa application processing. Students can apply online to get a study permit through SDS system as there would be no paper applications required.

Steps in obtaining a Guaranteed Investment Certificate

- A Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC) is an investment account that offers a guaranteed interest rate over a fixed period of time.
- Following are the steps involved in opening a GIC account:
 - i. The applicant will submit application online to Habib Canadian Bank at: hebsds@habibcanadian.com
 - ii. Once application is submitted, a representative from Habib Canadian Bank will contact the applicant in order to open the Student Direct Stream account. A confirmation email with account details will be sent to the applicant.
 - iii. The applicant will then transfer funds to his/her Habib Canadian Student Direct Stream Account by a wire transfer with the total amount of deposit (i.e. CAD 10,000 + CAD 200 fees) from his/her local bank account in Pakistan.
 - iv. Confirmation email from the bank i.e. "GIC Confirmation" will be sent to the applicant upon receipt of the amount.
 - v. The applicant will then submit completed Study permit application and GIC confirmation to the Canadian High Commission in Pakistan for processing of his or her visa.

- vi. On arrival in Canada, the applicant will visit a Habib Canadian Bank branch i.e. Mississauga, Brampton or Scarborough to activate the SDS account and receive initial payment of \$2,000 to cover initial expenses. The remaining \$8,000 will remain in the GIC Account and the applicant will receive the full amount, plus interest in equal monthly payments over the next one year.

Settling down in Canada---A Brief Guide for Pakistani Students

Before Your Arrival

- Arrangements such as housing and finding a supportive community are important. You should make these arrangements before your arrival in Canada. Below is a list of things you should consider before your arrival.

Residence

- Housing is a must-have before your arrival if you wish to be cost-efficient. You can save money if you share an apartment or house with other people. Rent costs are different in different parts of Canada and within cities. Usually, rent costs are higher near the centre of a major city or close to transit. Learn as much as you can about the rental market before you arrive. To search for housing, use community sourced websites such as www.kijiji.ca to find long term housing for rent.

- If you have already arrived and are looking for urgent housing, you can also find housing at www.airbnb.com. Airbnb is generally used for short term rentals given its price point.

- Ask yourself these questions before you rent a place:

- Is it close to a bus route or subway station?
- Is it close to other services? (schools, stores, laundromats, parks, playgrounds, community centres, medical clinics, places of worship)
- Is there a place to park a car? Do I have to pay extra for parking?
- Is it close to your university or college?
- What are the other tenants like?
- Do I have to pay extra for heat, air conditioning and electricity?

Documentation

Ensure you have the following documents upon your arrival at the Customs:

- Valid passport, including valid Canadian temporary resident visa if required;
- Letter of Introduction or Study Permit (issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada);
- Original letter of admission from the relevant universities or colleges;
- Proof of funds available;
- Medical records and immunization records, translated if applicable (useful but not required); and
- Any other documents pertaining to or required by your Student Direct Stream application

As a non-Canadian residing in Canada for no less than six months, you are required to follow these requirements as specified by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). When you arrive in Canada, you will be met by an officer from the CBSA at the airport where he/she will ask to see your travel documents. Make sure they are not packed in your luggage and that you have them with you.

You should also be prepared to answer some questions. A few of the most common questions asked are:

- At what institution will you be studying? What program are you enrolled in?
- Where will you be staying?
- Do you have any items to declare? (e.g. food, medication, etc.)
- Have you traveled to Canada before?
- Do you have any family members in Toronto?
- How much money are you traveling with?
- Once the CBSA officer has completed this Secondary Inspection, they will print a paper copy of your Study Permit. Please do not leave the Port of Entry without your Study Permit!

You Have Arrived

This section will take you through what you need to have in order to be able to sustain yourself in Canada.

Upon Arrival

A number of cities and towns have Newcomer Information Centres (NIC) when you first arrive. NICs refer you to the community agencies that can help you to settle in these areas. Visit Ontario's Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade (MCITT) website to find one in your area or check online to find an NIC in your area.

How Much Money Will I Require Per Month?

The average monthly costs for a student are as follows. Please note that these categories have been estimated based on average costs in the most economical range of options, based on shared services wherever possible.

Commuting/Travel

Cost: \$120

Description: A monthly pass by the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) provides unlimited access to commuting around the city via bus and subway. In other cities, the amount may differ. However, Toronto is considered to be more expensive than several other cities of Canada.

The most economical means of transportation within cities is local public transport. Consisting of subway and bus routes, public transport offers monthly passes which can be purchased at a

discounted price for students with a valid student ID from your school. These monthly passes allow unlimited travel throughout the city for the month.

Additional ride-sharing services such as Uber and Lyft are also available.

Food

Cost: \$400

Description: Home cooked food and occasional takeout meals will cost an estimated \$400. Your campus may depending on the city where one is based, also have a tax-free and/or prepaid payment system for purchasing on-campus food.

Housing

Cost: \$400-\$1000/month

Description: Housing in Toronto will cost significantly more than in housing around the rest of the country. Your landlord may request a first-and-last-payment in advance. This is an amalgamation of your first and last month's rent payments. For example, if your rent is \$400/month, then you will be required to submit \$800 in advance before moving in to your residence.

Average Expenses

The average monthly expenses for a single student are approximately \$ 1000-\$1,500 per month per student.

At School

Health & Dental Insurance: Health and dental insurance is covered as part of the fees students pay to an educational institution. All students must have health insurance for the duration of their stay in Canada. Health insurance covers most of the basic health services such as consultations and blood work. Dental insurance varies from school to school, but will most likely covers basic services such as cleaning once a year.

Finding Help

If you have questions about your immigration status after you arrive in Canada, call the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Call Centre at 1-888-242-2100 or visit the IRCC website. You can get information from the recorded message, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you want to speak to a person, call from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Pakistani students are advised to register with Pakistan Consulate, Toronto or register with Pakistan High Commission, Ottawa or Pakistan Consulate Vancouver so that assistance could be provided to them in cases of urgency. Please visit website of Consulate General of Pakistan, Toronto for consular services during your stay in Canada, i.e. www.pakmission.ca

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Useful Links

- Consulate General of Pakistan, Toronto: www.pakmission.ca
- Help Centre Student Direct Stream: <https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/results-by-topic.asp?st-15.7>
- Student Direct Stream-About the process: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/student-direct-stream.html>
- Designated learning institutions list: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/prepare/designated-learning-institutions-list.html>
- Guaranteed Investment Certificate: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/student-direct-stream/eligibility.html#GIC>
- Habib Canadian Bank: <https://habibcanadian.com/>

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