Applying for a Co-op/Internship Work Permit

Who can apply for a Co-op/Internship work permit?
Students who have been accepted by the Co-op Program and who have received an official letter of confirmation from their Co-op Coordinator (i.e. Co-op Letter) may apply for a Co-op work permit. Please check with the Co-op office to determine if you are eligible. Students may also apply for a Co-op work permit when expected to complete an internship or practicum which is an essential part of their program of study at SFU.

When should I apply for a Co-op work permit?
Apply as early as possible for a Co-op work permit. You will not be able to access the job postings unless you have a valid work permit. As work permits can sometimes take a long time to process, you should apply well before you intend to do your first co-op term.

What happens if my Study Permit will expire soon?
If your study permit will expire in the next 90 days, you may apply to extend your study permit and apply for a new Co-op work permit or extend your existing Co-op work permit in the same application package. See our Extending your Study Permit handout at https://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/students/isap/Advising%20Handouts/Extending%20Your%20Study%20Permit.pdf for details. Your Co-op work permit will not be issued past the expiry date of your study permit.

How can I apply for a Co-op work permit?
As per Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) instructions, you are required to submit your work permit application online unless you are otherwise exempted. For more information regarding the exceptions to this rule, please see: https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/operational-bulletins-manuals/temporary-residents/visitors/place-application-visa-electronic-travel-authorization-study-permit-work-permit/exempt-electronic-applications.html

What are the instructions for applying online?

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| Application Form      | Application to Change Conditions, Extend My Stay or Remain in Canada as a Worker [IMM 5710] → Once completed, click on the “Validate” button. This will generate a series of barcodes on page 5. When submitting your application, you must include this page which contains your unique barcodes. | * Complete the application form electronically (not by hand).  
* Do not print the form – simply validate, save and upload it in the space provided.  
* You will be prompted to electronically sign your application later in the online process. |
| Passport or travel document | Scanned copies of all relevant passport pages | * Include all pages with photos, signatures, entry stamps, visas, and any other markings. |
| Co-op letter | Obtain a letter from your Co-op Coordinator confirming your acceptance into Co-op. |  |
| Digital photo |  | * Refer to the photo specifications in your online checklist. |
| Biometrics (fingerprints and photo) | Within 24 hours of applying for your work permit and paying the biometrics fee you will get an biometric instruction letter in your MyCIC account. Bring this letter and your valid passport when you give your biometrics at a designated Service Canada location. IRCC can only begin to process your application after you pay for and give your biometrics.  
If you gave biometrics in the last 10 years for a Canadian visa, work or study permit and they are still valid you do not have to give them again when you apply for your work permit. | * There are biometrics collection points across Canada including in Metro Vancouver  
* For more information about biometrics requirements and exemptions, visit: https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/campaigns/biometrics/facts.html  
* Check to see if your biometrics are still valid at: https://onlineservices-servicesenligne.cic.gc.ca/extapp/termsAndConditions?&lang=en |
| Fees | There is no fee for the co-op work permit. If you are required to provide biometrics you will be charged a fee of $85 when you submit your application. |  |

The information in this document has been reviewed and endorsed by a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC) pursuant to section 91 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. This is not a legal document and information may change without notice. Always refer to www.cic.gc.ca for the most updated information. This document was last updated on July 30, 2020.
Other documents as per your situation may be required (e.g. copy of payment made for a medical examination, if one is required for your anticipated field of work, letter of explanation, etc.). When applying online, you will need to scan these documents within available checklist items.

How long will it take to issue my work permit?

Processing times vary. For up-to-date processing times please check the IRCC website at https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/check-processing-times.html

When is a medical exam required for a Co-op work permit?

In some cases, there may be restrictions on the type of job you can hold unless you complete and pass an immigration medical exam prior to submitting an application for your work permit. Examples of occupations include workers in the health services fields, teachers in primary or secondary schools or other teachers of small children. If you wish to work in agricultural occupations, a medical exam will be needed if you have visited or lived in a designated country for six months or more. See list of designated countries at https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/medical-police/medical-exams/requirements-temporary-residents/country-requirements.html

For a complete list of occupations requiring a medical exam, refer to: https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/medical-police/medical-exams/requirements-temporary-residents/country-requirements.html#jobs-med

If you have already passed an immigration medical exam, which remains valid, or will not be working in the occupations outlined on the IRCC website, you do not require a medical exam.

If a medical exam is required, you must make an appointment with a designated Panel Physician: https://secure.cic.gc.ca/pp-md/pp-list.aspx

Note: After you have completed your medical exam, it may take a few weeks to have results available. You should complete your medical exam at least one month before submitting your work permit application. Along with your application, you must also submit supporting documentation that you underwent a medical exam (e.g. IMM 1017 Upfront Medical Report form, eMedical information sheet print out, copy of fees paid receipt.) Failure to do so may result in processing delays or the application being refused or returned.

Do I have to have a job offer prior to applying for a Co-op work permit?

No. Your letter from your Co-op Coordinator will be considered your “job offer letter” for Canada Immigration purposes only. You may apply for a Co-op work permit as long as the work is deemed by SFU to be an “essential and integral part of your academic program”.

Can I use my Co-op work permit to apply for non-Co-op jobs?

No. SFU will be listed as your employer on your work permit; therefore, it will only authorize you to accept jobs affiliated with the SFU Co-op program.

In order to work at non-Co-op jobs, you must hold a valid study permit AND meet the full-time enrollment requirement as per the information in our Working On or Off Campus handout (located at https://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/students/isap/Advising%20Handouts/Working%20On%20or%20Off%20Campus.pdf)

When should I extend my Co-op work permit?

You should apply to extend your work permit 90 days in advance of expiry. However, as long as the Case Processing Centre in Alberta receives your application before the expiry date, you have “implied status” to continue working until a decision has been made on your application. This is only the case if you do not leave the country during this time. If your work permit has already expired, see an International Student Advisor, Immigration Specialist immediately for advice and assistance.

Notes: