

Writing an effective study plan

A good study plan must be **concise, concrete**, and must enable Canadian immigration agents to conclude that the student's study plan is **legitimate and realistic**, and that the **purpose of a student's stay in Canada is to study**. Although there are programs that allow students to apply for permanent residence upon completion of their studies, the student must demonstrate that **they intend to leave Canada at the end of their authorized stay**. This is known as the [dual intent](#) principle.

A study plan is a document that should be **no longer than 2 pages in length**, since immigration officers spend an average of 10 minutes or less per application. The writing style should be **direct, and the information included well structured**. You will need to write this document in text form and remember to sign and date it. We recommend that you provide it along with your Letter of Admission, in the space provided for that document in your IRCC secured account. This document is **intended to facilitate the work of the officer** who is responsible for processing your application.

Below are some questions you can use as a basis for your document. Note that this is not an exhaustive list of questions, suitable for all circumstances. Feel free to include relevant questions that are not listed here. Refer to your [visa office's specific instructions](#) to include the details they require, if applicable:

1. Choice of destination, institution, and program:

- Why did you choose this academic program? How is it consistent with your academic career to date? If this is an academic or professional reorientation, how will this program help you achieve your goals?
- Why do you want to study at Polytechnique Montréal in particular?
- Does this program exist in your country of origin or current country of residence? If so, why did you decide to come to Canada?

2. Master's or doctoral students:

- What will your research topic be?
- How did you choose your academic supervisor?
- Is there a particular expertise in your field of research at Polytechnique Montréal that does not exist elsewhere?

3. Post-graduation life and career plans, connections to country:

- What are your career plans upon completion of your engineering studies?
- What are the employment opportunities in your country of origin or residence? Can you name some of the companies or organizations there, where you might work?
- If you come from a country that has a socio-economic situation that is less favourable than Canada's, explain how your education will help you find a job when you return to your home country.
- What are your family ties in your country of origin or residence? Name the people who are waiting for you there. If you have responsibilities to them, describe these responsibilities.
- Do you have any property in your name in your country of origin or residence?

4. Students who have lived or are living in a third country

- If you are currently residing in a country other than your country of nationality, explain the purpose of your stay (e.g., study, work). Also provide evidence that you are legally residing in that country, and that you have complied with the conditions of your stay to date.
- If you have lived for more than six months, over the last five years, in a country other than your country of nationality or country of current residence, provide proof that you have complied with the terms of your stay.

You are encouraged to attach any documentation that may support your claims to your study plan. For example, job offers in your country, entry and exit stamps in your passport to show the length of time you have been abroad, your birth certificate to show parentage, etc. **Have you ever been to Canada in the past?** You can mention that you have already been issued a TRV (Temporary Resident Visa) and that you have complied with its conditions.