

# **Newfoundland and Labrador Institutional Designation Policy under the International Student Program**

## **\* FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS \***

### **1. What is the International Student Program?**

- The International Student Program is a Federal Government program through which international students are approved to attend post-secondary educational institutions in Canada. In 2014, the Federal Government changed the regulations to only permit international students to study at post-secondary institutions designated by provinces and territories as meeting eligibility requirements based on a pan-Canadian designation framework. Information about the International Student Program can be found at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/study-changes.asp>

### **2. What is the Newfoundland and Labrador Institutional Designation Policy under the International Student Program?**

- The Newfoundland and Labrador Institutional Designation Policy is the provincial framework developed to identify which institutions are eligible to enroll international students to study in Newfoundland and Labrador in programs longer than six months.

### **3. Who is designated to accept international students in Newfoundland and Labrador?**

- The list of designated institutions can be found by following this link: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/study-institutions-list.asp>

### **4. What is the Provincial Government's role in the designation of learning institutions?**

- The Provincial Government reviews applications from learning institutions to ensure that all designation requirements are met. By applying for designation, each institution confirms their commitment to compliance with the terms of the designation framework. The Provincial Government will also conduct periodic reviews to ensure that all designation requirements are being maintained.

### **5. What Provincial Government department is responsible for the designation of post-secondary institutions and providing Citizenship and Immigration Canada with a list of designated institutions?**

- The Department of Advanced Education and Skills is responsible for the designation of post-secondary institutions. Information and applications should be directed to the Director of Literacy and Institutional Services, Department of Advanced Education and Skills, P.O. Box 8700, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, A1B 4J6.

6. Are all post-secondary institutions and training providers in Newfoundland and Labrador eligible to be on the International Student Program designation list?
  - All institutions that apply to be designated and meet the requirements of the *Implementation Guidelines for Post-Secondary Institutions* are eligible to be designated.
7. Are there any minimum criteria or national standards that must be met for language proficiency?
  - Standards for language proficiency are as follows:
    - Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) paper based test – minimum score of 550
    - TOEFL Internet based test – minimum score of 79
    - TOEFL computer based test – minimum score of 213 or equivalent
    - International English Language Testing System (IELTS) overall band score of 6.5 and 6.0 for reading and writing
    - Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB) minimum score of 85
  - Other assessments would need to be reviewed to determine the level of proficiency. As well, specific occupations require higher standards than outlined here. In these instances, institutions would need to abide by any language proficiency requirements which may exceed the above noted standards.
8. Is there a defined process or form(s) required for renewal of designation? If so, where would this information be found?
  - There is no need to renew designation. The Literacy and Institutional Services Division will conduct regular compliance reviews to ensure that designation requirements continue to be met after an institution has been designated.
9. Can an institution be on the Designated Learning Institutions list if it also offers programs that are shorter than six months in duration?
  - Yes. If an institution offers at least one program that meets all of the required elements of the provincial designation requirements, the institution can be designated and included on the Designated Learning Institutions list. Federal requirements stipulate that international students do not need a student visa for programs that are shorter than six months in duration.
10. How do I know whether an institution is approved and placed on the Designated Learning Institutions list?
  - The Citizenship and Immigration Canada website provides a list of all designated institutions in Canada: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/study-institutions-list.asp>