Short-Term Researchers (Work Permit Exempt)

Researchers coming to Canada to take part in short-term research activities may be exempt from the requirement to obtain a work permit.

In order to qualify for the work permit exemption, the applicant must be coming to Canada to perform work for 120 days or less. This exemption can only be used once per year; at least 12 months must have passed since the first day of work on any previous exemption before a new application can be made. The exemption is available for both post-graduate researchers and undergraduate researchers.

Researchers must be engaged primarily in research activities in order to qualify for the work permit exemption. The applicant must play a significant role in the research project or add value to the research project, and the role must be appropriate for someone with the skills and experience of the applicant.

Researchers coming to the University of Victoria who are exempt from the requirement to obtain a work permit will instead receive a visitor record, which will set out the dates that they are permitted to conduct the research.

Prospective researchers are advised to contact the University of Victoria if they have any further questions about coming to Canada in order to take part in short-term research projects.