

## Leave of Absence & Study Break Acknowledgement for International Students September 2025

### Graduate Students

Graduate students are continuously enrolled and always full-time. As part of the Lakehead University policy for graduate students, a **Leave of Absence** may be requested for exceptional circumstances; e.g., health problems, gaining practical experience, and compassionate grounds. Please visit: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/graduate/resources/leave> for more details. Graduate students cannot work during a leave of absence.

### Leave of Absence or Study Break

International students are expected to maintain full-time status as part of their conditions of being in Canada. However, at times international students may be required to take leave from their studies while in Canada. IRCC indicates students should ensure any leave taken from a program of study in Canada does not exceed 150 days, and is authorized. Please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/operational-bulletins-manuals/temporary-residents/study-permits/assessing-conditions.html#leave> for detailed information.

Scheduled breaks are recorded in the academic calendar for all students. This includes the short breaks between each semester, winter holidays, reading weeks and other closures for all students. Students should refer to the important dates calendar for this information.

Only undergraduate students have a summer break (May to August). Graduate students maintain continuous enrollment and have no scheduled breaks. International students may work full-time during scheduled breaks. There is no hourly limit.

### Unscheduled breaks

Students who take unscheduled breaks (including LOAs) are not able to work in Canada until they return to their full-time enrollment. Additionally, taking a break in the middle of the studies could affect a student's post-graduate work permit eligibility. Students should be aware of these issues before deciding to take a break.

It is recommended that international students meet with the Immigration Advisor in Lakehead University International Student Services before deciding to withdraw from programs, take unscheduled breaks or study at part time status to ensure they are aware of these implications.

Need more info? Email [immigration.intl@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:immigration.intl@lakeheadu.ca)