



Study Plan Handout

Northeastern
University

1 WHAT IS A STUDY PLAN?

Also called a **Letter of Explanation**, it is submitted to IRCC to support your study permit application. Officers use it to assess whether applicant is a **genuine (bona fide) student** by reviewing their purpose of visit, educational and professional goals, ties to home country, and whether the program is a logical next step for them.

3 YOU NEED TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS

Why Canada? Explain your choice over your home country or alternatives like the US, Australia, Europe.

Why program at NU Canadian campuses?

Reference specific courses/faculty to provide evidence of how it is different from options available in your home country/other institutions.

What is your goal? Explain how your past education and work is connected to the program and how it will benefit your career/professional goals.

Ties to home country. Prove reasons to return - family, property, job offer, or industry gap at home.

Proof of funds. Briefly explain how you will cover your tuition fees and support yourself by providing the budget and information about the source of funds, using a loan, GIC etc.

5 KEY INFORMATION TO ADDRESS

Career Progression: Explain how this program advances your career (covers skill gap, role change, salary growth). Do the research and use data and labor market reports. Address gaps or short employment stints.

Educational Gap: If 5+ years since last study, explain the gap. If changing fields, justify the transition logically.

Previous Refusal: Disclose all prior refusals (Canada or other countries). Describe what has changed since (travel history, employment, ties to home country etc).

Return on Investment: Studying abroad costs more — show it's worth it using salary data, industry needs, and employment outlook.

2 WHO SHOULD SUBMIT IT?

It is recommended for every study permit application. Especially critical if you have:

- A gap in education or work experience
- Lack of academic progression or level-of-study issues
- A previous visa/permit refusal
- A change in field of study
- A similar program available in your home country
- Weak ties to your home country

4 TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR STUDY PLAN

Don't!

- Use templates (IRCC uses AI to detect them)
- Refer to vague goals ("Canada is beautiful")
- Use emotional or pleading language

Encourage

- Professional, humble, objective tone
- Focus on facts, data, and career logic
- Include supporting evidence (e.g., employer letter)
- Target 1.5–2 pages.

[CONTACT OFFICE OF GLOBAL SERVICES CANADA](#)