

Statement from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, July 29, 2026

Please find our response to this request.

The Government of Canada remains deeply concerned about the ongoing situation in Gaza and recognizes the extremely difficult circumstances faced by people in the region, including those hoping to study in Canada.

Despite significant challenges, over 1,400 Gazans have been able to arrive in Canada through our programs since the start of the current conflict.

We understand that some Palestinian students with acceptance letters from Canadian institutions, have experienced increased processing times for study permits.

IRCC is committed to a fair and non-discriminatory application of immigration procedures. Anyone looking to come to Canada must meet admissibility and eligibility requirements, including biometrics and security screening, as set out in the [Immigration and Refugee Protection Act \(IRPA\)](#) and the [Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations \(IRPR\)](#). After receiving their acceptance letters, prospective international students must still meet all Canada's visa requirements.

In February 2026, Minister Diab directed IRCC to prioritize processing applications from a group of Palestinian students identified through the Palestinian Students and Scholars at Risk (PSSAR) Network.

IRCC has been working with partners to expedite the processing of this group of study permit applications for 37 Palestinian students and their family members who have exited Gaza.

As of the latest update, IRCC has completed all required interviews for this group and decisions are being made and communicated to applicants.

We continue to process study permit applications from people in Gaza, which requires biometrics and security screening. The ability to exit remains a significant obstacle to finalizing applications, and is outside of IRCC's ability to control.

When responding to international crises, Canada's immigration responses are tailored to each individual context to meet the unique needs of those who require our support. We cannot comment on policies implemented by other countries.

Thanks,

Jeffrey MacDonald

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