



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeurs et professeurs d'université

March 13, 2026

BY-EMAIL: IRCC.Minister-Ministre.IRCC@cic.gc.ca

The Honourable Lena Metlege Diab, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
229 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Diab,

On behalf of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), representing more than 75,000 academic staff at public universities and colleges across Canada, I am writing to express serious concern regarding ongoing delays in the processing of study permits for Palestinian graduate students who have been admitted to Canadian universities.

More than one hundred Palestinian students accepted into graduate programs in Canada remain unable to travel because their immigration applications have been left in limbo. In many cases, these students have secured admission, scholarship, and faculty supervision, yet their study permits have neither been approved nor refused, leaving them unable to begin their studies.

The situation is particularly troubling given the extraordinary circumstances facing students applying from Gaza and the broader region. Universities, laboratories, and nearly all educational infrastructure in Gaza have been severely damaged or destroyed.

For these students, the opportunity to study abroad is not simply a matter of academic mobility and exchange—it is often the only viable path to continuing their education and research. The prolonged uncertainty not only jeopardizes students' safety and well-being but also undermines Canada's reputation as a welcoming destination for international research talent.

Several civil society organizations—including migrant rights advocates and student groups—have called on the federal government to adopt emergency measures to address these delays and ensure that Palestinian students with confirmed admissions can travel to Canada safely and in a timely manner. These calls reflect broader concerns that the current approach lacks transparency and fails to recognize the exceptional circumstances facing these applicants.

CAUT joins in urging the Government of Canada to:

- Expedite the processing of study permit applications for Palestinian students admitted to Canadian universities.
- Introduce temporary flexibility in procedural requirements, including biometric requirements where they cannot reasonably be completed due to conflict conditions.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further with your office and with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada officials.

Sincerely,



David Robinson
Executive Director

/sl