

Canada to give visa scholars chance to work

By JOAN THORNBERRY

A GREATER number of visa students studying in Canada this autumn will have the chance to work while enrolled at university, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, has said.

The new regulation, effective from September, will be confirmed by the federal Government this week, said association spokesman Ms Danielle Frechette.

In Hongkong the association president, Dr Arnold Naimark, said the new ruling was a breakthrough for the association, which had been lobbying the Government to allow international students to work in Canada.

"By not allowing students to work we are excluding a large number of students who do not have the means to support themselves," he said.

Dr Naimark, president of the University of Manitoba, said Canada could not claim to be an important voice in the Commonwealth and yet discourage students from studying overseas by not allowing them to work.

"The cost of seeing through a graduate program in Canada is great," Dr Naimark said. "The association has been concerned about the foreign students in Canada".

The association said international students at post-secondary level and above would be allowed to start

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jobs without first being cleared through the federal Government's validation process, a check that guarantees no Canadian can be found to fill the position.

After September, international students will be eligible for on-campus employment and for work with Canadian companies for up to 12 months after graduation if the job is in their speciality.

Students sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency will also benefit from the new rules and spouses of students will also be allowed to work.

Under existing legislation, select foreign students may work when the employment is part of their studies or is part of a co-operative program. Students whose funding has been cut off because of upheavals or other problems in their home countries are also allowed to work.

Requirements regarding financial support for living expenses will also be made more flexible to avoid deterring international students from studying in Canada, the association said.

The revised guidelines provide greater leeway in determining what constitutes adequate funding and are designed to be more sensitive to the varying situations of foreign students, the statement added.