

CANADA welcomes newcomers



www.cic.gc.ca

Canada Welcomes Newcomers

People come to Canada for different reasons. To address this, our immigration system provides different categories, each with its own requirements.

You may wish to immigrate to Canada to become a permanent resident and, in time, a citizen.

You may also come here as a visitor, a temporary worker or a student.

Immigrating to Canada

To immigrate to Canada, you must usually apply at a Canadian visa office outside of Canada.

Applicants for immigration to Canada fall into three basic classes: economic applicants, family applicants and refugees or people requiring protection.

Economic Classes

There are five categories of economic class immigrants.

Skilled workers and professionals: If you have skills and experience that meet Canada's labour market needs, you may qualify to immigrate as a skilled worker. Other factors such as education, the ability to speak English or French and whether you have an offer of employment are also considered. Our website can help you to assess if you might qualify for this category. If you do not, you may want to consider other categories.

Go to www.cic.gc.ca/skilled for more information.

Canadian Experience Class: If you have worked in Canada or have graduated from a college or a university in Canada, you may be able to apply for permanent residence from within Canada. Temporary foreign workers in certain occupations require two years of work experience. Students require one year of work experience following graduation.

Go to www.cic.gc.ca/cec for more information.

Investors, entrepreneurs and self-employed persons: Canada welcomes experienced business people who can make a significant investment in our economy, own and manage their own business or have relevant self-employment experience.

Go to www.cic.gc.ca/investors for more information.

Provincial and territorial nominees: The provincial and territorial governments in Canada can ask the Government of Canada to process applications from individuals they need to meet their economic needs. In order to apply under the Provincial Nominee Program, you will need to be nominated by a province or territory.

Go to www.cic.gc.ca/pnp for more information.

Quebec-selected skilled workers: The province of Quebec selects skilled workers who have the skills or experience to contribute to Quebec's economy and settle permanently in the province.

Go to www.cic.gc.ca/quebec for more information.

Family Class

To reunite with their families, Canadian citizens or permanent residents may sponsor spouses, common-law partners, dependent children (including adopted children) or other eligible relatives (such as parents or grandparents) to become permanent residents.

Go to www.cic.gc.ca/sponsor for more information.

Refugees and protected persons

Based on its humanitarian tradition and international obligations, Canada may offer refugee status or protection to people who do not wish to return to their home country because they fear persecution, torture or cruel and unusual treatment.

Go to www.cic.gc.ca/refugees for more information.

Visiting Canada

Depending on where you live and the reason for your visit, you will need to meet certain entry requirements. You may also need a temporary resident visa depending on your country of citizenship and how long you plan to stay in Canada.

Go to www.cic.gc.ca/visit for more information.

Working Temporarily in Canada

You will need a work permit for most temporary jobs in Canada. To obtain a work permit, you will usually need to show that an employer in Canada has offered you employment.

The requirements and processing times for such permits can depend on the type of work you will do when you come to Canada.

As a temporary foreign worker, you may eventually qualify to apply for permanent resident status through the Canadian Experience Class.

Go to www.cic.gc.ca/work for more information.

Studying in Canada

To study in Canada, you will usually need a study permit. You will also need to be accepted by a school, college, university or other educational institution.

It is possible to work in Canada while you are a student. Some students who stay in Canada to work after graduating can qualify to apply for permanent residence through the Canadian Experience Class.

Go to www.cic.gc.ca/study for more information.

Foreign Credentials Assessment

Before applying to immigrate to Canada, you should consider the requirements to work in Canada, its labour market trends and the process to look for employment.

Canada's Foreign Credentials Referral Office can help you get a head start by providing you with the information you need to get your credentials assessed and recognized, based on where you plan to live in Canada.

Go to www.credentials.gc.ca for more information.

General Requirements

You do not need to hire an immigration representative to apply for a visa or for Canadian citizenship. However, if you do choose to use an immigration representative, anyone you pay to assist you through the immigration process must be an authorized representative.

Whether coming to Canada as an immigrant, a visitor, a temporary worker or a student, you must meet certain general requirements.

For example, you must not pose a threat to the health, safety or security of Canada. As well, any record of criminal activity could prevent you from being allowed to come to Canada.

You also must not provide false information or withhold information that could relate to your application.

Go to www.cic.gc.ca for information concerning immigration representatives and general information about coming to Canada.

