Pathways to Permanent Residence for International Students

**IMPORTANT:** The information in this presentation is accurate as of the date of the presentation. Policies & programs are subject to change. For the latest updates, please consult www.Canada.ca.
After graduating you may be able to make Canada your permanent home through Express Entry.

The Express Entry system awards additional points for Canadian education and work experience, and proficiency in Canada’s official languages.

International graduates from Canadian colleges & universities are well-placed to succeed.
This presentation will cover:

• Important Concepts to Understand

• Working in Canada after graduation

• Applying for Permanent Residence through Express Entry

• Online Resources

• Q & A
Important to Know

• There are different Federal (IRCC) and provincial/territorial pathways to become a permanent resident of Canada

• The best pathway for you depends on your unique combination of skills and experience

• The best time to apply is when you are eligible

• Only the federal government can grant permanent residence, so even if you’re nominated by a province or territory, you still need to apply for permanent residence through IRCC
National Occupational Classification (NOC)

The **NOC** is a classification system used by the Government of Canada. NOC codes are used to classify work by occupational area and skill level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOC 0</th>
<th>Management jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOC A</td>
<td>Professional jobs <em>(usually require university education)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOC B</td>
<td>Technical jobs and skilled trades <em>(usually require college education or apprenticeship training)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOC C</td>
<td>Semi-skilled jobs <em>(usually require secondary school or vocational training)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOC D</td>
<td>Entry level jobs <em>(on-the-job training)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Work experience for **Express Entry**: NOC 0, A and B

[noc.esdc.gc.ca/English/home.aspx](http://noc.esdc.gc.ca/English/home.aspx)
Sample Occupations in the NOC

- **Skill type 0** – 1st digit of code is 0
  - NOC 0015 – CEO of Manufacturing Company
  - NOC 0112 – Human Resources Manager

- **Skill level A** – 2nd digit of code is 0 or 1
  - NOC 4021 – College Instructor
  - NOC 1111 – Accountant

- **Skill level B** – 2nd digit of code is 2 or 3
  - NOC 1241 – Administrative Assistant
  - NOC 6322 – Cook

- **Skill level C** – 2nd digit of code is 4 or 5
  - NOC 1414 – Receptionist
  - NOC 6513 – Food and Beverage Server

- **Skill level D** – 2nd digit of code is 6 or 7
  - NOC 6611 – Cashier
  - NOC 6711 – Food Counter Attendant
Language Tests & Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB)

- **Language Tests** are used to determine the language ability of people applying for permanent residence in Canada.

- Language Test Scores are equated to the **Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB)** - Language test **equivalency charts** are on the IRCC website.

**Everyone** must prove their language ability by taking an approved language test:

- **English**: CELPIP General
- **English**: IELTS General Training
- **French**: TEF
- **French**: TCF Canada

- Test results must be **less than two years old** when the candidate completes their Express Entry profile, and when they apply for permanent residence.
Educational Credential Assessment (ECA)

- To be awarded points for education completed outside of Canada, candidates must obtain an **Educational Credential Assessment (ECA)**
- A list of [designated organizations that offer ECAs](#) is on the IRCC website

Do I need an ECA for every certificate, diploma, or degree?

- ECAs are not needed for **education completed in Canada**
- Education points are awarded for the **highest educational credential** completed – for candidates with a masters, professional, or doctoral degree, ECAs are not needed for lower-level credentials
- Additional points are awarded for **two or more credentials** only if if one program was three or more years in length – ECAs are needed only for the three or more year credential and the next-highest credential
Express Entry is the first step to immigrate to Canada permanently as a skilled worker under the:

- Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSW)
- Federal Skilled Trades Program (FST)
- Canadian Experience Class (CEC)
- A portion of the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)

Quebec manages its own immigration programs outside of Express Entry.

Former international students are good candidates for Express Entry because of their age, education, language ability, Canadian work experience and established community networks.
Express Entry highlights – students

✓ User friendly, online system from profile creation to application for permanent residence

✓ Creating an Express Entry profile is free and a profile stays active for up to one year

✓ Points are awarded based on profile information including age, education, work experience, and ability in Canada’s official languages

✓ Extra points are awarded to former international students who completed at least a one year post-secondary education program in Canada

✓ A job offer or provincial/territorial nomination is an asset but not required

✓ The top scoring candidates in the pool are invited to apply for permanent residence in Canada in regular invitation rounds

✓ Applications are processed within 6 months in most cases
Student pathway to permanent residence using Express Entry

- Immigrating permanently to Canada is a multi-step process

1. Apply for a study permit
2. Complete studies in an eligible program
3. Apply for a post-graduation work permit
4. Gain one year Canadian work experience at the NOC 0, A, or B level
5. Pass an approved language test
Express Entry step-by-step

**STEP 1**
Create your profile
- EXPRESS ENTRY
  - Job Bank
  - registration and self-promotion to employers

**STEP 2**
Express Entry Pool
- Invitation to Apply
- ITA

Apply for permanent residence online
Express Entry Step 1: Create a profile

• Completing an Express Entry profile is free and does not require an immigration representative
• Language tests and ECAs are done by third parties which charge fees
• Be prepared to answer questions about your skills, work experience, language ability, education and other details
• To get into the pool, you need to meet the criteria of at least one of the federal economic immigration programs managed by Express Entry
Complete language tests and obtain Educational Credential Assessments (ECAs) before completing an Express Entry profile.

To complete your profile you need to meet the minimum requirements of at least 1 of the 3 federal immigration programs.

Completing a profile does not guarantee that you will get an invitation to apply.

Completing an application for permanent residence does not guarantee you will be approved for permanent residence.

You still need to meet all eligibility requirements and be admissible to Canada.

Keep your profile up to date at all times (e.g. new job offer, new language test results, education completed, changes in family composition, etc.).

Be truthful. If you provide false information you could be found inadmissible for misrepresentation and could be barred for five years from applying to come to Canada for any reason.
Register in the Job Bank

- You are encouraged to register with **Job Match** after creating an Express Entry profile.
- Create your Job Match account by providing your Express Entry profile number and their Job Seeker Validation Code.
- Job Match will help connect you with job opportunities in Canada based on your skills, knowledge and experience.
Canadian Experience Class

**Key criteria:**

- At least 12 months of skilled Canadian work experience (in a NOC 0, A or B job) within the last three years
- Language skills (for NOC 0 and A jobs = CLB 7 in all 4 abilities; for NOC B job = CLB 5 in all 4 abilities)
- The following work experience is **excluded** from CEC eligibility:
  - work while enrolled in full-time studies in Canada
  - self-employment
  - unauthorized work
Federal Skilled Worker Program

Key criteria:

- At least one year of *continuous* work experience within the last 10 years (in a NOC 0, A or B job), in Canada or in another country
- Language skills (CLB 7 in all 4 abilities)
- Education (Canadian secondary or post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree, or the foreign equivalent)
- A score of 67 or higher out of 100 on the Federal Skilled Worker points grid (assesses six selection factors: language skills, education, work experience, age, arranged employment, adaptability)
Federal Skilled Trades Program

Key criteria:

• All work experience in this program falls under NOC B
• At least 24 months of work experience in an eligible skilled trade within the last five years
• Meet the job requirements of the skilled trade as set by the NOC (except the requirement related to certification)
• Language skills (CLB 5, speaking and listening; CLB 4, reading and writing)
• A valid job offer in the skilled trade for at least one year, or a Canadian certificate of qualification in the skilled trades
Express Entry pool

- When a candidate is accepted into the pool, they are given a Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) score
- Points are awarded based on profile information
- Candidates in the pool are ranked top down based on their CRS score
- Top ranking candidates are invited to apply in every invitation round

Notes to remember

- Invitation rounds take place regularly
- Candidates are eligible for each invitation round while their profile is active in the pool
- Candidates may be eligible for more than one program so they may be invited for a different program than they expected
- If after 12 months a candidate does not get an invitation to apply (ITA) their profile will expire and they will need to complete and submit a new profile
## Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core human capital factors</th>
<th>Single 500</th>
<th>Spouse 460</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1(^{st}) Official Language</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2(^{nd}) Official Language</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian work experience</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Spouse factors** 40

| Education                  | 10         |
| 1\(^{st}\) Official Language| 20         |

**Skill transferability** 100 points max

| Education (with OL or CDN exp) | 50         |
| Foreign work experience (with OL or CDN exp) | 50         |
| Qualification cert (with OL)     | 50         |

**Additional points** 600 points max

| Provincial Nomination           | 600        |
| Valid job offer                | 200 (max)  |
| Canadian Education             | 30 (max)   |
| French proficiency             | 30 (max)   |
| Siblings in Canada             | 15 (max)   |

**Total:** 1200 points max
Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) tool

• This tool will help you calculate your Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) score before you create your Express Entry profile:

A total of 600 points are awarded to candidates with a P/T nomination.

- Participating provinces and territories can nominate foreign nationals under their Express Entry Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) streams.
- PNP criteria and streams are different across the country; check individual P/T websites to learn more.
- All candidates nominated via an Express Entry PNP stream must meet the minimum entry criteria for Express Entry including meeting the criteria for 1 of the 3 federal programs (FSW, CEC, FST).
Valid job offers (200 or 50)

- 200 points are awarded to candidates with a valid job offer in a NOC 00 occupation.
- 50 points are awarded to candidates with a valid job offer in a NOC 0, A or B occupation.
- A job offer must be for a minimum of one year once an applicant receives permanent residence.

Notes to remember

- Job offers must also be non-seasonal, at the NOC 0, A or B level and supported by a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) unless exempt.
- Candidates who don’t have a valid job offer can still get points for Canadian work experience.
Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA)

• Job offers in Express Entry require an LMIA except those which meet the criteria for an LMIA exemption
• Employers who can’t find a Canadian or permanent resident for a position may offer a qualifying job to a foreign national
• There is no fee for employers to apply for LMIAs related to permanent residence

LMIA Exemption Criteria

The candidate:
✓ Holds a work permit issued under an LMIA exemption
  (e.g. international agreement, intra-company transferees, significant benefit to Canada)
✓ has already been working full time for the employer specified on the work permit at least one year
✓ Has a qualifying future job offer of at least one year from the same employer
CRS – additional points

Education completed in Canada (15 or 30)

• 15 points are awarded for a one- or two-year diploma or certificate
• 30 points are awarded for a degree, diploma or certificate of three years or longer, or for a Master’s, entry-to-practice professional degree*, or doctoral degree of at least one academic year

Notes to remember

✓ To get these points, a candidate must have completed their studies at a designated learning institution in Canada
✓ Each educational program completed in Canada needs to be entered separately into the Express Entry profile.

*Entry-to-practice professional degree for an occupation listed in the National Occupational Classification matrix at Skill level A for which licensing by a provincial regulatory body is required. Eligible occupations: medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, optometry, law, chiropractic medicine, or pharmacy.
CRS – additional points
Proficiency in both official languages (15 or 30)

• More points for proficiency in both of Canada's official languages (English and French)

• **15 points** for French test results at NCL 7 in all four abilities (listening, speaking, reading, writing)

• **30 points** for French test results of NCL 7 in all four abilities + English test results at CLB 5 or higher

Do you speak French? Visit canada.ca/francoimmigration to learn about Francophone life across Canada
**CRS – additional points**

**Sibling in Canada (15)**

- **15 points** for having at least one *sibling* who is a Canadian permanent resident or citizen, is residing in Canada, and is aged at least 18 years old

* *sibling* = the biological or adoptive child of the candidate or accompanying spouse’s
  - father or mother
  - father or mother’s spouse
  - father or mother’s common-law partner
Express Entry Step 2: Get an Invitation to apply (ITA)

- ITAs are issued to the **highest scoring candidates** in the Express Entry pool in each round.
- Invitation rounds take place regularly, every 2 to 3 weeks.
- Rounds are based on the Government’s annual levels plan for immigration to Canada and IRCC’s ability to process applications.
- Results of each round are posted on the Government of Canada website.
- The CRS scores of the lowest-ranked candidate invited to apply in recent rounds have been in the range of **430-460** points.
After receiving an invitation to apply...

- Candidates have 60 days to complete and submit an application for permanent residence
- IRCC then determines if the application has all required forms, documents and fees
- If the application is complete, IRCC verifies the applicant’s eligibility & admissibility
- IRCC processes complete applications in six months or less, 80% of the time
How much money do you need?

• Application fee
  – $550 for principal applicant
  – $550 for spouse or partner
  – $150 per dependent child

• Right of Permanent Residence fee
  – $490 for principal applicant
  – $490 for spouse or partner

• Proof of Funds (for FSW/FST*)
  – $12,474 for a family of 1
  – $15,530 for a family of 2
  – $19,092 for a family of 3

*exemption if you are authorized to work in Canada and have a valid job offer
For more information

English: Canada.ca/ExpressEntry
French: Canada.ca/EntreeExpress

English: CitCanada
French: CitImmCanFR

English: @CitImmCanada
French: @CitImmCanFR

CitImmCanada
Off-campus work for graduating students

- If you are an **International Student** who
  - has completed the requirements for graduation, and
  - is eligible to work off-campus

- You can continue to work off-campus part-time, up to 20 hours a week, until you get a **notification of completion of studies from your institution**

- Once you receive notification, you can continue to work in Canada **if and only if** you have applied for a work permit

- Once you apply for a work permit, you can transition to **full-time**

- If you have **not** applied for a work permit, you are **not authorized** to work in Canada

- You **must stop working** if your work permit application is **refused**
Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP)

• The PGWP allows students who have graduated from an eligible Canadian post-secondary institution to gain valuable Canadian work experience.
• Skilled Canadian work experience gained through this program helps graduates qualify for permanent residence in Canada through Express Entry.
• You can only apply for PGWP once in a lifetime.
• PGWP is an open work permit.
• PGWP validity depends on the length of the program of study completed in Canada.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration of study program (determined by DLI)</th>
<th>Duration of PGWP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>at least 8 months but less than 2 years</td>
<td>same as study program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 years or longer</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PGWP eligibility

• You may be eligible for a Post-Graduation Work Permit if:

  ✓ You have **completed and passed** a post-secondary academic, vocational, or professional training program in Canada

  ✓ The program was **at least 8 months** in length

  ✓ You studied at an **eligible Designated Learning Institution (DLI)**

  ✓ You studied **full time**

  ✓ You did not take **unscheduled breaks**

  ✓ You did not exceed the **allowable hours of off-campus work**

  ✓ Your **study permit is still valid**

  ✓ You **apply within 90 days of** receiving written confirmation from the educational institution indicating that you are eligible to obtain a degree, diploma, or certificate
After applying for a PGWP

• You may work **full-time on or off campus** while you are awaiting for a decision on your PGWP application if:
  ✓ You were a full-time student enrolled continuously at a DLI
  ✓ You were eligible to work off-campus without a work permit while studying
  ✓ You did not exceed the allowable hours of off-campus work
  ✓ Your study permit is still valid

• You can leave Canada and return, but make sure you have a valid visa or eTA
Come to Canada Tool

- So you’ve got a year of skilled work experience
  - How do you know if you’re eligible for permanent immigration to Canada?
  - Which program is right for you?

What if you don’t qualify for Express Entry?

IRCC – Work Permit Options: Temporary Foreign Worker Program & International Mobility Program
www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/work-canada

IRCC – Other Immigration Programs
www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada

Provincial & Territorial Nominee Programs
Options for candidates who do not meet EE requirements
Any questions?

www.Canada.ca/Immigration

Help Centre

What do you need help with?

www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre

English: CitCanada
French: CitImmCanFR

English: @CitImmCanada
French: @CitImmCanFR