Permanent Residence

The purpose of this document is to provide a basic overview of three of the Permanent Residence (PR) categories most accessible to international students thinking of immigrating to Canada after graduation. For a complete list of all PR categories in Canada, refer to the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) website: [http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/index.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/index.asp)

SFU International Student Advisors can provide only general information about the Permanent Residence categories in Canada. As a Permanent Residence applicant, you are ultimately responsible for determining if you are eligible for a particular category, and for ensuring that you provide complete and accurate documentation to support your application.

Express Entry

If you plan to apply under one of the categories listed on this handout, you must begin the process using IRCC’s Express Entry system [note: some exceptions apply under the BC PNPI]. This system ranks candidates according to a variety of factors, and the top-ranked candidates will be invited to submit an application for permanent residence. Information about Express Entry can be found at [http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/express/express-entry.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/express/express-entry.asp).

Express Entry is not a category of PR. It is an application management system that allows you to be considered for an invitation to apply for PR under one of the categories below. You must meet the requirements of one of the categories below to create an online Express Entry profile. IRCC will rank all candidates in the Express Entry pool using a Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS), and top-ranked candidates will periodically be invited to apply for permanent residence based on their profiles.

**Step 1.** Check [http://www.cic.gc.ca/cometocanada](http://www.cic.gc.ca/cometocanada) to see if you qualify under a category below.

**Step 2.** If eligible, create an online profile to be entered into the Express Entry candidate pool.

Have you been nominated under a Provincial Nominee Program?

- **Yes**
  - Your profile will remain active for one year from when you created it and you may be considered for future invitations. Keep your profile up to date as your circumstances change.
  - If you do not receive an invitation within 12 months of creating a profile, you may create a new profile if you are still eligible.

- **No**

Do you have a valid job offer?

- **Yes**

- **No**

**Step 3.** You will receive an invitation to apply for PR from IRCC in the next round.

**Step 3.** Register with Job Bank—this will allow employers to view your profile and consider you for employment.

- **Step 3.** Add relevant information including employer name & address, start date, LMIA number (if applicable) and NOC related to the job to your Express Entry profile

If your circumstances change (e.g., your level of education, arranged employment or language test results) update your Express Entry profile accordingly.

You will receive an invitation to apply if you are a top-ranked candidate as per the Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS)

**Step 4.** Submit a PR application online within 90 days after receiving an invitation.

Federal Skilled Worker Program

If you have skilled work experience, you may qualify for permanent residence in Canada under the Federal Skilled Worker Program.

The IRCC website has a self-assessment tool that may help determine if you are eligible for the Skilled Worker category; however, please note that this is only a guide and the eligibility requirements may change. Check the IRCC website regularly for updates.

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<th>Requirements (all applicants)</th>
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<td><strong>Points</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Work experience</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 year full-time (or equivalent) skilled work experience* (1560 hrs):</td>
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<td>- Must be gained within the 10 years prior to submitting the application</td>
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<td>- Can be accumulated outside of Canada</td>
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<td>- Must be continuous</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Language ability</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Must meet the minimum language requirement of Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) 7 – see <a href="http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/language-testing.asp">http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/language-testing.asp</a> for details</td>
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For full eligibility criteria, visit the IRCC website at [www.cic.gc.ca/skilled](http://www.cic.gc.ca/skilled)

*According to the Canadian National Occupational Classification (NOC), skilled work experience means Skill Type 0 (managerial occupations), A (professional occupations) or B (technical occupations and skilled trades).

The following online tools can be used to determine the skill level of a job:

- [NOC Matrix](http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/English/NOC/2011/Matrix.aspx)
- [Occupational Structure](http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/English/NOC/2011/OccupationIndex.aspx)

The information in this document has been reviewed and endorsed by a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC) pursuant to section 91 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. This is not a legal document and information may change without notice. Always refer to [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca) for the most updated information. This document was last updated on January 26, 2017.
Canadian Experience Class

You may be eligible for permanent residence under the Canadian Experience Class (CEC) based on having gained skilled work experience (NOC level 0, A or B – see previous page) in Canada after graduation.

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<td>Residency</td>
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You are responsible for assessing the skill level of your work experience, and for providing clear supporting documentation from your employer. For more information about the Canadian Experience Class, visit www.cic.gc.ca/cec

British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP)

BC has an agreement with the federal government that allows BC to nominate immigrants who have the skills to meet specific economic and labor market needs. Applicants must intend to settle in the province that nominates them. In 2016, the BC PNP introduced a new intake system for certain Skilled Immigration and Express Entry BC categories*. The Skills Immigration Registration System (SIRS) is a points-based system that gives candidates a registration score based on economic and human capital factors.

Applying for permanent residence under the BCPNP is a two-step process:
1. You (and your employer, if applicable) must first apply to the BC PNP and complete the provincial nomination process.
2. If your application is accepted by the BC PNP, you must apply separately to IRCC for permanent residence (with a supporting nomination letter from BC PNP). An IRCC officer will assess your application based on Canadian immigration regulations.

If in addition to meeting the eligibility requirements for one of the PNP categories listed below you also meet the requirements for the Federal Skilled Worker Program, the Canadian Experience Class, or the Federal Skilled Trades Program, you may apply using the online Express Entry system, which may result in faster processing. A nomination from the BC PNP will guarantee you an invitation to apply in IRCC’s next round of selection after creating your profile (see chart on previous page).

Under the ‘Skills Immigration’ category of the BC PNP, there are six sub-categories: Skilled Worker, International Graduate, International Post-Graduate, Health Care Professional, Entry Level and Semi-Skilled**, and the Northeast Pilot Project**. The BC PNP website includes a self-assessment tool to help you determine your eligibility. For more information on the BC PNP, visit http://www.welcomebc.ca/pnp.

* Registration via the SIRS is not required for candidates interested in Skills Immigration – Health Care Professional, Skills Immigration – International Post-Graduate, Express Entry BC – Health Care Professional and Express Entry BC – International Post-Graduate
** Entry Level and Semi-Skilled and Northeast Pilot Project categories not eligible for Express Entry applications

Other Categories

In addition to the categories listed above, additional Permanent Residence Categories are as follows:

- Quebec Skilled Worker
- Self-employed (in agriculture, sports, or the arts)
- Family Sponsorship
- Provincial Nomination Programs for other provinces/territories
- Federal Skilled Trades Program
- Start-up visa

For links to eligibility and application information for the above categories, visit http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/index.asp

Additional Links and Resources

- Application processing times: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/times/index.asp
- Where to send your application: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/offices/apply-where.asp
- Using a Representative: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/representative/index.asp
- Canada Job Bank: http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/
- Employment Standards: http://www.labour.gov.bc.ca/esb/
- IRCC Call Centre Services (in Canada only): 1.888.242.2100

The Call Centre can answer questions, in English and French, about IRCC services and programs, or applications in process inside Canada. Agents cannot answer questions about application status once it is sent to a Canadian visa office outside Canada, make decisions on applications, or help process applications more quickly. Canadian visa offices: Canadian visa offices can answer questions about applications processed outside Canada. If you live outside Canada, visa offices can answer questions about IRCC services and programs.

http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/offices/missions.asp

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