**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 PNP). 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

- **Have you been nominated under a Provincial Nominee Program?**
  - **YES**
  - **NO**

- **Do you have a valid job offer?**
  - **YES**
  - **NO**

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).

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

### 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.

### Step 4. Submit a PR application online within 60 days after receiving an invitation (if you were invited to apply before June 26, 2018 you have 90 days to submit your PR application).

If your circumstances change (ex. 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).

### 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.

### Requirements (all applicants)

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<tr>
<td>Residency</td>
<td>You must plan to live outside the province of Quebec.</td>
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| Work experience  | 1 year full-time (or equivalent) skilled work experience* (1560 hours):
  - Must be gained within the 10 years prior to submitting the application
  - Can be accumulated outside of Canada
  - Must be continuous
  - Must be paid work |
| Language ability  | Must meet the minimum language requirement of Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) 7 in all four abilities – see [http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/language-testing.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/language-testing.asp) for details |

You are responsible for assessing the skill level of your work experience, and for providing clear supporting documentation from your employer. For full eligibility criteria, visit the IRCC website at [https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/express-entry/eligibility/federal-skilled-workers.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/express-entry/eligibility/federal-skilled-workers.html).

*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:

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 February 6, 2019.
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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<tr>
<td>Work experience</td>
<td>You must have 1 year [counted over a period of at least 365 calendar days] full-time or full-time equivalent skilled work experience (1560 hours):</td>
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<td>• Work experience must be gained with proper authorization within the 3 years before IRCC receives your application for PR</td>
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<td>• Experience does not need to be continuous</td>
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<td>• You are not required to be employed at the time of application</td>
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<td>• Work experience gained while engaged in full-time study (e.g. work experience gained through co-op work permits, on and off campus work while a full-time student) and self-employment are not counted towards the required hours.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language ability</td>
<td>Language requirements vary based on the skill level at which you are/were employed. See <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/express-entry/documents/language-requirements.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/express-entry/documents/language-requirements.html</a> for details.</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 full eligibility criteria, visit the IRCC website at [https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/express-entry/eligibility/canadian-experience-class.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/express-entry/eligibility/canadian-experience-class.html).

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 (SIR) 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 flow 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, and Entry Level and Semi-Skilled (ELSS)**. 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.welcometobc.ca/pnp](http://www.welcometobc.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 category 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
- Family Sponsorship
- Self-employed (in agriculture, sports, or the arts)
- Provincial Nomination Programs for other provinces/territories
- Start-up visa
- Federal Skilled Trades Program
- International Post-Graduate


Additional Links and Resources

Application processing times
Where to send your application
Using a Representative
Canada Job Bank
Employment Standards
IRCC Call Centre Services (in Canada only):

http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/offices/apply-where.asp
http://www.labour.gov.bc.ca/esb/
1.888.242.2100 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm local time)

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. See [https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/contact-ircc/offices/international-visa-offices.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/contact-ircc/offices/international-visa-offices.html)

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