

What is Express Entry System ?

Skilled immigrants are chosen as permanent residents based on their ability to settle in Canada and take part in our economy. We assess them on their:

- English and/or French language skills,
- education,
- work experience, and
- other factors that have been shown to help newcomers prosper in Canada.

As of January 2015, there is a new system to manage how people with skilled work experience apply to immigrate to Canada. It is called Express Entry.

Under Express Entry, people first create online profile that includes their language test scores, their Educational Credential Assessment (if they need one) and outlines their work experience.

Based on their profiles, candidates will be ranked against others in a pool. On a regular basis, CIC will issue invite top candidates from the pool to apply for permanent residence. Only those who get an Invitation to Apply from CIC will be able to apply.

Under this new system, most complete applications will be processed in six months or less.

What is the eligibility criteria for Express Entry – Federal Skilled Worker

As of January 2015, we have a new system to manage how people apply to this program. It is called Express Entry.

You can use our online tool, Come to Canada, to see if you meet the criteria to get into the Express Entry pool.

Minimum requirements

Skilled work experience

Your work experience must be:

- at least one year (1,560 hours total / 30 hours per week), continuous full-time or an equal amount in part-time,
- paid work (volunteer work, unpaid internships do not count),
- in the same NOC skill type (O, A or B) ,
- within the last 10 years, and

- at skill type 0, or skill levels A or B of the 2011 National Occupational Classification (NOC).

Full Time

30 hours/week for 12 months = 1 year full time (1,560 hours)

Part time

15 hours/week for 24 months = 1 year full time (1,560 hours)

OR

30 hours/week for 12 months at more than one job = 1 year full time (1,560 hours)

You must show that you did the duties set out in the lead statement of the occupational description in the NOC, including all the essential duties and most of the main duties listed.

If you cannot show that your work experience meets the description in the NOC, you are not eligible under this program.

Language ability

You must:

- meet the minimum language level of Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) 7, and
- take a language test **approved by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)** that shows you meet the level for speaking, listening, reading and writing.

You must show that you meet the requirements in English or French by including the test results when you complete your Express Entry profile. Your test results must not be more than two years old on the day you apply for permanent residence.

Education

You must have:

- a Canadian secondary (high school) or post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree, or
- an Educational Credential Assessment (ECA) report from an agency approved by CIC to show your foreign education is equal to Canadian education standards.

Six selection factors

If you meet all the conditions set out in the minimum requirements, we will assess your application based on the selection factors in the federal skilled worker points grid. The selection factors are:

- your skills in English and/or French (Canada's two official languages),
- your education,
- your work experience,
- your age,
- whether you have a valid job offer, and
- your adaptability (how well you are likely to settle here).

To see how many points you might get, please contact our office for more details.

Proof of funds

Unless you are currently authorized to work in Canada and have a valid job offer from an employer in Canada, you must show that you have enough money to support yourself and your family after you get to Canada.

You cannot borrow this money from another person. You must be able to use this money to pay the costs of living for your family (even if they are not coming with you).

You will need to show proof to the Canadian visa office in your home country that you have enough money when you apply to immigrate.

The amount of money you need to support your family is set by the size of your family. We update these amounts every year.

Number of Family Members(in Canadian dollars)	Funds Required
1	\$11,931
2	\$14,853
3	\$18,260
4	\$22,170
5	\$25,145
6	\$28,359
7 or more	\$31,574

What is CRS (Comprehensive ranking System) ?

The Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) is a points-based system that is used to assess and score a candidate's profile to rank them in the Express Entry pool.

The CRS will assess the profile information candidates submit, including:

- skills,
- work experience,
- language ability,
- education and other factors.

We have found these factors all play a role in economic success for immigrants once in Canada. Additional points will be awarded for candidates who have a job offer or a nomination by one of Canada's provinces or territories under their provincial nominee programs.

CIC will issue an Invitation to Apply to the highest ranking candidates from the pool through regular "rounds of invitations" so they can apply to immigrate as a permanent resident.

A goal of Express Entry is to ensure strong links between economic immigration and the Canadian labour market. For that reason, qualified candidates who also have a job offer will get enough points to ensure they are ranked high enough to get an invitation to apply.

An employer will need to ensure the job offer is supported by a Labour Market Impact Assessment. This process ensures they have first tried to find Canadians to fill job openings.

Similarly, a nomination by a province or territory, will give a candidate additional points to rank high enough to be invited to apply at the next eligible round of invitations.

Comprehensive Ranking System formula

All Express Entry candidates will be given a score out of 1,200, based on the four parts of the Comprehensive Ranking System formula:

- Skills and experience factors (that we know are key to economic success for immigrants once in Canada)
- Spouse or common-law partner factors (such as their language skills and education – these are known to result in better economic success for both the spouse or common-law partner and the candidate)
- Skills transferability (including education and work experience – factors that when combined, result in better chances of being employed, and higher earnings)
- Additional points for those with a nomination from a province or territory or a valid job offer

Do I need an Educational Credential Assessment to apply under Express Entry?

Not necessarily. But, to get points for your education under the Comprehensive Ranking System, you must either:

- have been educated in Canada, or
- have a valid Educational Credential Assessment (ECA) for your completed foreign education.

You may also need an ECA to meet the requirements of one of the programs included in Express Entry. For example, the Federal Skilled Worker Program requires you to have an ECA.

I have two degrees from outside Canada. Do I need an Educational Credential Assessment for both?

To get the most points possible for your education under the Comprehensive Ranking System, you should get your highest degree, diploma or certificate assessed (PhD, MA, BA).

If you have more than one credential, you may want to get both assessed if it would give you more points.

How will I know where to get my Educational Credential Assessment (ECA)?

Three of the designated organizations can assess any foreign educational credential:

- Comparative Education Service: University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies,
- International Credential Assessment Service of Canada, and
- World Education Services.

Most people will be able to choose one of those three to do their ECA.

But, if your primary occupation is

- specialist physician (2011 NOC code 3111), or
- general practitioner/family physician (2011 NOC code 3112),
- pharmacist (NOC code 3131)

you must contact our office for more details.

I am a native English or French speaker. Why do I need to take a language test for Express Entry?

Canada assesses everyone using the same standards, no matter their language of origin, nationality or ethnicity.

Even someone from an English-speaking country, who speaks English as a first language, needs to take a test. Likewise, someone from a French-speaking country, who speaks French as a first language, needs to take a test.

You need to submit third-party language results for all programs under Express Entry. You will have to include the results of your test(s) in your Express Entry profile.

Language tests have been required for our skilled immigration programs for many years.

What kind of language test can I use for Express Entry?

We only accept these tests for Express Entry:

For English

- CELPIP: Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program – CELPIP-General 2014
 - (If you took the test before April 1, 2014, you would have had to take the “CELPIP-General (CELPIP-G)” test.)
- IELTS: International English Language Testing System – General Training

For French

- TEF: Test d'évaluation de français

How they assess your application

After you apply, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) will verify that you have:

- filled out your online application for permanent residence correctly,
- paid your processing fee,
- met all the requirements,
- included all documents.

If you are not truthful in your Express Entry profile or application for permanent residence:

- your application could be refused,
- you could be found inadmissible, and
- you could be barred for five years from applying for permanent resident status.

Processing times

We expect to process most applications for permanent residence through the Express Entry system in six months or less, after we get a complete application.

You may be able to avoid delays by updating your MyCIC account if there are any changes to your personal information, such as your address, telephone number or email, or if there are changes to your family structure.

Your application may be delayed if:

- there are criminal or security problems,
- we need to do more background checks,
- your family situation is not clear – reasons could include a divorce or an adoption that is not yet complete, or child custody issues that have not been resolved,
- we need to verify information, or
- you need to submit more documents or go to an interview with us.

Decision on your application

The officer will make a decision on your application based on if you:

- meet the eligibility criteria for the program, and
- are admissible to Canada (based on the results of your medical exam, police certificates, background checks, etc.).

If we approve your application, we will issue your Confirmation of Permanent Residence and/or permanent resident visa. If you have not already paid your Right of Permanent Residence fees, you should do this now.

Confirmation of permanent residence

If we approve your application, we will issue you a Confirmation of Permanent Residence (COPR) and, if you are from a country that requires visas, a permanent resident visa.

Your COPR will have information about who you are, as well as your photograph. Please check to make sure it is all correct. It should be the same as the information on your passport. If there is a mistake on your COPR, contact us through your MyCIC account.

If you are arriving from outside Canada, be sure to follow the instructions in the letter that came with your immigration document(s). You must have your COPR and your visa (if you need one) with you when you arrive in Canada.

Get ready to settle in Canada

You can find out the steps to take to [get your education, work experience, professional licences/certificates](#) recognized in Canada.

CIC also funds [services that help newcomers](#) settle and adapt to life in Canada. These services are free overseas, as well as in the area where you plan to settle in Canada. They include:

- help to adapt to your new Canadian workplace,
- language tests and classes to improve your language skills,
- information about community services, such as mentoring, and
- finding a place to live, and more.

Some useful tools to help get you started:

- [Welcome to Canada](#) – a booklet we created to help newcomers adjust
- [Living in Canada](#) – a simple online tool to find you the right services

Invitations to apply – Skilled immigrants (Express Entry)

If you are invited to apply for permanent residence, you may need to show proof of the information you gave us in your Express Entry profile. We will refuse your application if the information in your profile is different from what you submitted in your application.

If you are invited to apply, you will get a message in your MyCIC account telling you:

- which program you are invited under, and
- what to do next.

If we find that you misrepresented yourself (gave us false information or left out important details), we will refuse your application. In that case:

- your application could be refused,
- you could be found inadmissible, and
- you could be barred for five years from applying for permanent resident status.

Documents to support your application for permanent residence

You should start to get your documents ready as soon as you are accepted into the Express Entry pool.

If we invite you to apply, you will have 60 days to fill out your application for permanent residence and submit all supporting documents. Having your documents ready will make it easier to apply within the 60 days.

Language tests

Check that your language test results will still be valid on the date you plan to apply for permanent residence. If your results expire before then, you should:

- be tested again,
- apply before your test results expire, or
- decline the invitation and go back into the pool to be considered in the future.

If you apply for permanent residence with language test results that have expired, we will refuse your application.

Police certificates

You will need to get police certificates for you and each of your family members who are over 18. You must get one from each country or territory where you have lived for six or more consecutive months since the age of 18.

In some countries, it can take a long time to get police certificates. If you did not start the process to get them before you were invited to apply, you should do this right away, so you can submit them before the 60 days are up.

Program requirements

You can check the criteria for the program you have been directed to apply under to see if you are still eligible.

By understanding your program requirements, you will be more prepared to apply to Citizenship and Immigration Canada. It will also help you decide whether or not to accept an Invitation to Apply if you are issued one.

Changes to your personal situation

If your situation (or that of your spouse or partner) changes, you should re-calculate your score before applying online for permanent residence.

If your recalculated score is less than the lowest score in your round of invitations for an Invitation to Apply, you should decline the invitation.

Warning: In this case, if you decide to apply, CIC might refuse your application and will not refund your application fee.

Some examples of changes which could lower your score:

- you no longer have a valid job offer

- you no longer have a provincial nomination
- your language test scores have expired, or you re-took them and they are lower

Declining an Invitation to Apply

If you decline an invitation, you will be put back into the Express Entry pool of candidates (as long as you still meet the minimum criteria) to be considered in future rounds of invitations.

You may have to take steps to be considered again for the pool. For example, if you got additional points for a job offer but the job is no longer available to you, you may need to get another job offer. Or, if you got married or entered into a common-law relationship, you will have to update your Express Entry profile.

There is no guarantee that you will be invited to apply again. But, if you choose to re-enter the pool, declining an invitation **will not** have a negative effect on whether or not you could be invited to apply later.

If you **do not** decline an invitation and you **do not apply within 60 days**, the invitation will expire and you will have to complete and submit a new Express Entry profile **and** be accepted to the pool again to be considered in future rounds of invitations.

Your original profile information will stay in your MyCIC account for 60 days. After that, it will be deleted. To re-enter the pool, you will have to complete a new profile and still meet the minimum criteria.

If you are not invited to apply

You can only stay in the Express Entry pool for one year from the date you were accepted into it.

Your Express Entry profile will expire if you are not invited to apply in those 12 months. If it expires, you will get a message in your MyCIC telling you so.

CONTACT us Today for a Successful Application:

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