HOW TO IMMIGRATE TO CANADA

A step by step guide
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How to Immigrate to Canada

Canada is known as a multicultural nation or a nation of immigrants. Vast natural resources, low population, good economic and social systems, low crime rate and excellent health care - make Canada one of the best places in the world to live.

Canada offers high quality education on all levels for its residents. People from around the world choose to move to Canada permanently every day.

This guide is designed for people who make the choice of calling Canada home, so they can easily see how to go about immigrating to Canada.

The guide is divided into 5 logical sections as follows:

Section 1 – designed for people that would like to move to Canada permanently under the Federal Government of Canada guidelines. It goes over different categories under which one could apply for residency status.

Section 2 – contains information for people eligible to move permanently to Canada under Provincial Nomination category. Canadian provinces have their own immigration programs for people specifically needed in a given province.

Section 3 – is for people who would like to come to Canada temporarily, whether to go to school or work.

Section 4 - contains list of references and resources useful for anyone thinking of applying for residency status in Canada.
Chapter 1 – Skilled Worker Category

Canada welcomes people whose education and work experience contributes to the Canadian society. To be eligible to apply for permanent residency in Canada as a skilled worker one needs to meet certain criteria. It requires either having a job offer from Canadian employer or experience in one of the following fields:

Restaurant and Food Service Managers
Primary Production Managers (Except Agriculture)
Professional Occupations in Business Services to Management
Insurance Adjusters and Claims Examiners
Biologists and Related Scientists
Architects
Specialist Physicians
General Practitioners and Family Physicians
Dentists
Pharmacists
Physiotherapists
Registered Nurses
Medical Radiation Technologists
Dental Hygienists & Dental Therapists
Licensed Practical Nurses
Psychologists
Social Workers
Chefs
Cooks
Contractors and Supervisors, Carpentry Trades
Contractors and Supervisors, Mechanic Trades
Electricians (Except Industrial & Power System)
Industrial Electricians
Plumbers
Welders & Related Machine Operators
Heavy-Duty Equipment Mechanics
Crane Operators
Drillers & Blasters - Surface Mining, Quarrying & Construction
Supervisors, Oil and Gas Drilling and Service

For your application to be eligible for processing you need to get a minimum number of points for various things such as your education, language proficiency, work experience, age, etc. Before applying it is a good idea to use the eligibility tool provided by Immigration Canada. By answering simple questions you will
find out whether your application is eligible for processing:

You need to make sure to include all the forms, information, documents, signatures, proof of language proficiency and fees that have been asked for. If your application is missing any of these, it is incomplete and will be returned to you unprocessed.

More information as well as application package could be found on Canada Immigration website below:
http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/skilled.asp
List of forms that need to be filled:

1. Instruction Guide IMM EG7000

2. Application for Permanent Residence in Canada IMM 0008

3. Schedule 1: Background/Declaration IMM 0008 SCHEDULE 1

4. Schedule 3: Economic Classes IMM 0008 SCHEDULE 3

5. Additional Family Information IMM 5406
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5406E.PDF

6. Fee Payment Form – Application for Permanent Residence IMM 5620

7. Document Checklist IMM 5612
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5612E.PDF

8. Use of a Representative IMM 5476
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5476E.PDF
Chapter 2 – Canadian Experience Category

If you are already in Canada either on temporary work visa or on a student visa you might be eligible for Canadian permanent residency. As a temporary resident you are assumed to have established some connections in Canada, therefore you are more likely to be successful in getting a career and more likely to settle into Canadian society.

To be eligible to apply for permanent residency in Canada under this category you need to live in Canada but not in the province of Quebec. You need to be either a temporary foreign worker, working minimum two years in Canada or be a foreign student graduating from a Canadian post-secondary school with minimum one year of work experience. You need to apply while working in Canada or within one year after. You need to be proficient in either French or English language.

Assessment of your application is based on your work experience, language proficiency and education.

You need to make sure that you include all the forms, information, documents, signatures, proof of language proficiency and fees that have been asked for. If your application is missing any of these, it is incomplete and will be returned to you unprocessed.

Your application package as well as a lot of other useful information is found here: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/cec.asp

You need to make sure to include all the forms, information, documents, signatures, proof of language proficiency and fees that have been asked for. If your application is missing any of these, it is incomplete and will be returned to you unprocessed.
List of forms that need to be filled:

1. Instruction Guide IMM 5609  

2. Application for Permanent Residence in IMM 0008 Canada  

3. Schedule 1: Background/Declaration IMM 0008 SCHEDULE 1  

4. Schedule 8: Economic Classes – Canadian IMM 0008 SCHEDULE 8 Experience Class  

5. Additional Family Information IMM 5406  

6. Document Checklist IMM 5610  
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5610E.PDF

7. Use of a Representative IMM 5476  
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5476E.PDF
Chapter 3 – Family Category

Permanent residents and citizens of Canada are able to sponsor family members from abroad to come permanently to Canada. To reunite family you can sponsor your spouse, common-law partner, conjugal partner, dependent child (including adopted child) or other eligible relative (such as a parent or grandparent) to become a permanent resident of Canada.

People sponsoring family members to Canada are responsible for supporting those family members financially. To get more information about this category you can go straight to Immigration Canada site below: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/sponsor/index.asp

To be eligible to come to Canada under the family class a citizen or permanent resident of Canada needs to apply as the sponsor. You and the sponsored relative need to sign an agreement that you will support that person financially, in case the sponsored person is a child, you agree to support that person financially for 10 years. Needless to say to have your application considered you need to be employed and in good standing with Canadian law and taxation.

To sponsor a spouse, you need to have an official marriage certificate. For common law partners (same or opposite sex) you need to prove that you have been living together for at least 12 consecutive months and you have a household together. Some of the proof could be a combination of joint bank accounts, joint ownership of a home, joint residential lease, joint bills, etc. For same sex marriage applicants you need to consult with the website below as same sex marriage laws are fairly new and immigration laws are being slowly adopting and changing. http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/sponsor/spouse-apply-who.asp

To sponsor a dependent child the child needs to be less than 22 years of age and he or she is not married. The child is a full time student or financially dependent on a parent because of disability.

You need to make sure to include all the forms, information, documents, signatures, proof of language proficiency and fees that have been asked for. If your application is missing any of these, it is incomplete and will be returned to you unprocessed.
List of forms that need to be filled:

Sponsorship of a spouse, common-law partner, conjugal partner or dependent child:

1. Guide to sponsorship IMM 3900

2. Application to Sponsor and Undertaking IMM 1344AE
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM1344EA.PDF

3. Sponsorship Agreement IMM 1344B

4. Sponsorship Evaluation IMM 5481
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5481E.PDF

5. Statutory Declaration of Common-Law Union IMM 5409
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5409E.PDF

6. Sponsor Questionnaire IMM 5540
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5540E.PDF

7. Use of a Representative IMM 5476
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5476E.PDF

8. Medical Condition Statement

9. Application for Permanent Residence IMM 0008 GENERIC

10. Schedule 1 Background/Declaration IMM 0008 SCHEDULE 1

11. Additional Family Information IMM 5406
    http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5406E.PDF

12. Sponsored Spouse/Partner Questionnaire IMM 5490
    http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5490E.PDF

13. Use of a Representative IMM 5476
    http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5476E.PDF
Sponsorship of parents, grandparents, adopted children and other relatives:

1. Guide to sponsorship IMM 3998

2. Sponsorship Agreement IMM 1344B

3. Application for Permanent Residence IMM 0008 GENERIC

4. Schedule 1 Background/Declaration IMM 0008 SCHEDULE 1

5. Additional Family Information IMM 5406
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5406E.PDF

6. Use of a Representative IMM 5476
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5476E.PDF
Chapter 4 – Business Category

Canada set up a Business Immigration Program to attract experienced business people and investors that would help developing Canadian economy. Under the business category a prospective immigrant would be expected to invest about four hundred thousand Canadian dollars in Canada. The business program is divided into four sections: investors, entrepreneurs and self-employed: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/business/index.asp

Investor is a person that has at least 2 years of experience in business that includes managing and controlling a business. An investor is expected to create jobs and help Canadian economy to grow. The minimum amount invested to be eligible for permanent residency status is four hundred thousand Canadian dollars and the minimum amount of the applicant’s net worth is eight hundred thousand Canadian dollars. The investment however could be financed. Here is more information about investment category: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/business/investors/index.asp

The Entrepreneur Program is designed for people who will own and actively manage business in Canada. The business is expected to create jobs and contribute to Canadian economy. To be eligible for Canadian permanent residency under this category you will have to prove your business experience and have a minimum net worth of three hundred thousand dollars. Website containing more information for entrepreneur: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/business/entrepreneurs/index.asp

Self-employed program for immigrating to Canada is a program designed for people who have the relevant experience to make contribution to cultural or athletic life of Canada or experience in farm management and the intention and ability to buy a farm in Canada. Under this category you will be assessed for a combination of your experience, education, age, language skills, etc. To read more about self-employed program go to: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/business/self-employed/index.asp

You need to make sure to include all the forms, information, documents, signatures, proof of language proficiency and fees that have been asked for. If your application is missing any of these, it is incomplete and will be returned to you unprocessed.
List of forms that need to be filled:
1. Instruction Guide
   IMM 4000ESAP

2. Application for Permanent Residence in Canada
   IMM 0008BU

3. Use of a Representative
   IMM 5476
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5476E.PDF

Apart from the above forms you are also required to complete visa forms that are country specific, the correct form for your country or origin you can find here:
Chapter 5 – Refugee Category

Canada provides protection to thousands of people every year who fear returning to their home country. To apply for a refugee status in Canada a person could be in or outside of Canada. People who fear a danger of torture, prosecution or risk cruel treatment or punishment could apply under this category.

A convention refugee is any person who, by reason of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his or her nationality and is unable, or by reason of that fear, unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country; or, not having a country of nationality, is outside the country of his or her former habitual residence and is unable or, by reason of that fear, unwilling to return to that country; and has not ceased to be a convention refugee. It does not include any person to whom the convention does not apply.

A humanitarian protected person is a person in similar circumstances to a convention refugee, who is a member of one of humanitarian protected persons abroad classes: Country of Asylum Class and Source Country Class.

The Country of Asylum Class is Canada’s response to the resettlement needs of people in refugee-like situations who do not qualify as Convention refugees. The Country of Asylum class includes people who are outside their country of citizenship or habitual residence. Refugees in this class are seriously and personally affected by civil war; armed conflict or massive violations of human rights.

A member of the Source Country Class is a person who resides in their country of citizenship or habitual residence; who has been and continues to be seriously and personally affected by civil war or armed conflict; who has lost his or her right of freedom of expression, right of dissent or right to engage in trade union activity and who has been detained or imprisoned as a consequence; who fears persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion; who cannot find an adequate solution to his or her situation within a reasonable period of time; who resides in a country that has been designated as a source country.

For more information please go to the following website:
List of forms that need to be filled:

1. Instruction Guide IMM 6000
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits(guides/6000E.PDF

2. Application for Permanent Residence in IMM 0008 Generic Canada

3. Background / Declaration IMM 0008 Schedule 1

4. Refugees outside Canada IMM 0008 Schedule 2

5. Use of a Representative IMM 5476
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5476E.PDF
Chapter 6 – Provincial Nomination Category

Provincial Nominee Program is designed by Canadian provinces for people whose education and work experience could bring an immediate economic contribution to a province. This program may change without notice as the criteria are supposed to meet current economic situation in a province. That situation could change very quickly therefore potential applicants should check the website below before applying:


There is a “Working in Canada Tool” available on the internet. It is a tool for people thinking of becoming Canadian residents and it gives information on wages and job opportunities for a number of occupations in different locations across Canada:


Below is a list of provinces and territories participating in the provincial nomination program. As each province has a different set of rules it is best to read their websites for more information.

1. Alberta
   http://www.albertacanada.com/immigration/immigrating/ainp.html

2. Manitoba
   http://www2.immigratemanitoba.com/browse/howtoimmigrate/pnp/

3. Newfoundland and Labrador
   http://www.nlgnp.ca/

4. Ontario

5. Saskatchewan
   http://www.acei.gov.sk.ca/immigration

6. British Columbia
   http://www.welcomebc.ca/wbc/immigration/come/work/about/index.page

7. New Brunswick
   http://beinthisplace.ca/ImmigratingandSettling/Howtoimmigrate/NewBrunswickProvincialNomineeProgram.aspx
8. Nova Scotia
   http://novascotiaimmigration.com/nova-scotia-nominee-program

9. Prince Edward Island

10. Yukon
    http://www.immigration.gov.yk.ca/ynp_overview.html

11. Northwest Territories
    http://www.nominee.ece.gov.nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/Home.aspx

After being nominated by one of the provinces or territories you have to apply to Citizenship and Immigration Canada for permanent residence. Links to the forms required are below.

You need to make sure to include all the forms, information, documents, signatures, proof of language proficiency and fees that have been asked for. If your application is missing any of these, it is incomplete and will be returned to you unprocessed.
List of forms that need to be filled:

1. Application for Permanent Residence: IMM EP7000
   Guide for Provincial Nominees

2. Application for Permanent Residence in Canada
   IMM 0008

3. Schedule 1: Background/Declaration
   IMM 0008 SCHEDULE 1

4. Additional Family Information
   IMM 5406
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5406E.PDF

5. Use of a Representative
   IMM 5476
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5476E.PDF

6. Schedule 4: Economic Classes:
   IMM 0008 SCHEDULE 4
   Provincial Nominees

7. Schedule 4A: Economic Classes:
   IMM 0008 SCHEDULE 4A
   Provincial Nominees – Business Nominees
Chapter 7 – Quebec
Selected Skilled Workers
Category

Quebec is a Canadian province that has its own immigration requirements. The province of Quebec selects immigrants who will adapt well to living in Quebec. Just like the provincial nomination program with other provinces once get selected by the province of Quebec you need apply to Citizenship and Immigration Canada to finalize your application. Any potential applicant for permanent residency in Quebec should consult this website with updated Quebec requirements:

The application package for the Quebec Selection Certificate is found here:

Once you are successfully selected by the province of Quebec you need to fill the Immigration Canada application. Note that Quebec selected immigrants are not assessed by the federal skilled worker program standards.

You need to make sure to include all the forms, information, documents, signatures, proof of language proficiency and fees that have been asked for. If your application is missing any of these, it is incomplete and will be returned to you unprocessed.
List of forms that need to be filled:

1. Application for Permanent Residence: IMM EQ7000
   Guide for Quebec-Selected Applicants

2. Application for Permanent Residence in Canada IMM 0008

3. Schedule 1: Background/Declaration IMM 0008 SCHEDULE 1

4. Additional Family Information IMM 5406
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5406E.PDF

5. Use of a Representative IMM 5476
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5476E.PDF

Chapter 8 – Temporary Work Category

To help Canadian employers address skill shortages, Canada allows foreigners to come to Canada for the purpose of temporary employment.

If your occupation is one of the following you may not require a work permit: athletes and coaches, aviation investigators, business visitors, civil aviation inspectors, clergy, convention organizers, crew members, emergency service providers, examiners, expert witnesses, foreign government officials and their family members, health care students, judges, military personnel, reporters, artists, public speakers, students working on campus.

To make sure whether you fall into one of these categories please check the links:

To be eligible for a temporary work permit in Canada a potential applicant needs to show the intent to return to his or her home country. Have sufficient funds to support themselves in Canada. Have a valid job offer. Proof that they possess the education and experience required by the position. For more information please refer to:

You need to make sure to include all the forms, information, documents, signatures, proof of language proficiency and fees that have been asked for. If your application is missing any of these, it is incomplete and will be returned to you unprocessed.
List of forms that need to be filled:

1. Application for a Temporary Resident Visa outside Canada
   IMM 5257
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5257E.PDF

2. Instruction Guide
   IMM 5256

3. Family Information
   IMM 5645
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5645E.PDF

4. Document Checklist
   IMM 5484
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5484E.PDF

5. Schedule 1 - Application for a Temporary Resident Visa Made Outside of Canada
   IMM 5257 - Schedule 1
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5257B_1.PDF

6. Statutory Declaration of Common-law Union
   IMM 5409
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5409E.PDF

7. Authority to Release Personal Information to a Designated Individual
   IMM 5475
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5475E.PDF

8. Photograph Specifications

9. Use of a Representative
   IMM 5476
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5476E.PDF
Chapter 9 – Studying in Canada Category

Canada is an attractive place to obtain education. Canadian universities and colleges are recognized world-wide for their excellence. Every year more than 130000 foreign students come to study in Canada.

Canadian provinces regulate education and schools in Canada. This guide will provide you with basic procedure of getting a study permit. It is a very good idea to select your school and field of study first, then contact the school itself for details about becoming a foreign student in Canada.

You need to make sure to include all the forms, information, documents, signatures, proof of language proficiency and fees that have been asked for. If your application is missing any of these, it is incomplete and will be returned to you unprocessed.

Below is a list of forms that need to be filled in order to be considered a foreign student in Canada.
List of forms that need to be filled:

1. Application for a Temporary Resident Visa outside Canada IMM 5257
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5257E.PDF

2. Instruction Guide IMM 5256

3. Family Information IMM 5645
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5645E.PDF

4. Document Checklist IMM 5484
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5484E.PDF

5. Schedule 1 - Application for a Temporary Resident Visa Made Outside of Canada
   IMM 5257 - Schedule 1
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5257B_1.PDF

6. Statutory Declaration of Common-law Union IMM 5409
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5409E.PDF

7. Authority to Release Personal Information to a Designated Individual IMM 5475
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5475E.PDF

8. Photograph Specifications

9. Use of a Representative IMM 5476
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5476E.PDF
Chapter 10 – Live-In Caregiver Category

People qualified to care for children, elderly or persons with disabilities are considered Live-In Caregivers. Live-In Caregivers must live in private homes and provide care without supervision.

To be eligible for a temporary stay in Canada as a Live-In Caregiver you must meet certain criteria. You need to have a written contract with your future employer in Canada. You must have completed the equivalence of Canadian post-secondary school. You must have formal training or experience as a caregiver. You must possess language skills, whether English or French.

Note that Live-In Caregivers are eligible to apply for permanent residency in Canada after 24 months of full time employment or a total of 3900 hours of employment.

You need to make sure to include all the forms, information, documents, signatures, proof of language proficiency and fees that have been asked for. If your application is missing any of these, it is incomplete and will be returned to you unprocessed.

For more information on how to apply for Live-In Caregiver category you can go to: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/caregiver/index.asp
List of forms that need to be filled:

1. Labour Market Opinion application   EMP5093B
   http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/foreign_workers/forms/EMP5093e.pdf

2. Foreign Live-In Caregiver Application   EMP 5093F
   http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/foreign_workers/forms/EMP5093e.pdf

3. Application for a Work Permit   IMM1295

4. Use of Representative   IMM 5476
   http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5476E.PDF
Chapter 11 – Resources

1. Citizenship and Immigration Canada

2. Department Of Human Resources And Skills Development
   http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/home.shtml

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

4. Canadian Embassy, high commission or consulate address abroad
   http://w01.international.gc.ca/era-ree/index.aspx

5. Refugee
   http://www.unhcr.org

6. Quebec Immigration

7. Live-In caregiver program
   http://www.liveincaregiverprogram.com/

8. Visa offices in your country

9. National Occupational Classification

10. Working in Canada Tool