Journey to Permanent Residence in Canada for International Students

Carly Austin and Teresa Wu
Outreach Officers
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
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IMPORTANT: Policies & programs can change. Please consult www.canada.ca/immigration for up-to-date information.
Outline

Important concepts

Working in Canada during studies and after graduation

Pathways to permanent residence

Impacts of COVID-19

Questions
Important concepts
Coming to Canada

Temporary Resident Visa or Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)
  • Allows you to travel to Canada but does not give you legal status in Canada

At the Port of Entry, a Border Services Officer will decide on:
  1. Your admission
  2. Your legal status – temporary resident (visitor, student, worker) or permanent resident
  3. The length of your stay in Canada as a temporary resident
National Occupational Classification (NOC)

- **NOC 0**: management jobs
- **NOC A**: professional jobs
- **NOC B**: technical jobs and skilled trades
- **NOC C**: semi-skilled jobs
- **NOC D**: entry-level jobs

Express Entry
Language testing

Approved Language Tests

- **English**
  - CELPIP General
  - IELTS General Training
  - Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB)

- **French**
  - TEF Canada
  - TCF Canada
  - Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens (NCLC)
Educational Credential Assessment (ECA)

Do I need to have my education assessed?

- Yes
- No

My highest level of education was completed in Canada

- No

My highest level of education was completed outside Canada

- Yes
  - Find a designated organization to get an ECA
Working in Canada during studies and after graduation
Extending your Stay as a Student

**Extend your Study Permit**
- Make sure your school is on the [Designated Learning Institutions List](#)
- Gather all required documents
- Apply online, ideally 3-4 months in advance
- If you apply for a new study permit before your old one expires, you can keep studying until a decision is made on your application
Gaining Work Experience while Studying

Work On-Campus
- Full-time student at an eligible educational institution
- Study permit says you can work on- or off-campus
- Have started studying
- Have a Social Insurance Number (SIN)

Work Off-Campus
- Full-time student at a designated learning institution (DLI)
- Study program is minimum 6 months and leads to a degree, diploma or certificate
- Study permit says you can work off-campus
- Have started studying and have a SIN

Work in a Co-op or Internship
- Work required to complete studies in Canada
- Letter from school confirming all students in program need to complete work placements
- Totals 50% or less of your study program
When you complete your study program...

**WITHIN 90 DAYS** of receiving your completion letter OR final transcript:

- **Leave Canada**
  - Must stop working immediately
  - Must leave within 90 days *(even if study permit still valid)*

- **Stay in Canada**
  - Be accepted to a new study program
  - Change to visitor status
  - OR
  - Apply for a work permit *(if you want to keep working)*

• You can travel outside Canada and return with a valid visa or eTA while application in process

• If you apply when your study permit is still valid, you can work full-time until a decision is made

• You must stop working if your application is refused

• If you wait over 90 days after program completion to apply, you cannot work while your application is in process
Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP)

What is it?
- Open work permit
- Helps you gain Canadian work experience
- Helps support your PR application (NOC 0, A, B)
- Not renewable

How long is it valid?
- Depends on length of study:
  - Less than 8 months: not eligible
  - 8 months - 2 years: same length as study program
  - 2 years and longer: 3 years

  A work permit cannot be issued for longer than the validity of your passport

How do I qualify?
- Successfully complete an eligible program
- Study full-time at an eligible Designated Learning Institution
- Do not take unscheduled breaks or unauthorized leave
- Do not exceed the allowable hours of off-campus work
- Apply within 180 days of receiving written confirmation (including final transcript) that you can graduate
When your PGWP Expires...

Temporary Residence:
- Change status to visitor
- Apply for a new study permit
  - Gain more experience on a work permit
    - Temporary Foreign Worker Program
    - International Mobility Program
- Permanent Residence
  - Federal programs via Express Entry
  - Other federal immigration programs
  - Provincial & territorial nominee programs
Pathway to permanent residence through Express Entry
Pathway to permanent residence through Express Entry

Express Entry is your first step to immigrate permanently as a skilled worker under:

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

- Only skilled work experience (NOC 0, A, B) qualifies for Express Entry
- Pass an approved language test — results must be less than two years old when you
  - complete your Express Entry profile, and
  - apply for permanent residence
Minimum eligibility criteria for Express Entry

**Federal Skilled Worker Program**
- At least 1 year continuous skilled work experience (in Canada or elsewhere)
- Official Language Proficiency (CLB 7)
- Secondary education or above (supported by ECA)
- At least 67 points in the Federal Skilled Worker points grid

**Federal Skilled Trades Program**
- At least 2 years work experience in a skilled trade
- Official Language Proficiency (CLB 4-5)
- Meet the job requirements of that trade described in the NOC
- Full-time employment offer or trade certification from a Canadian province or territory

**Canadian Experience Class**
- At least 12 months skilled work experience (in Canada)
- Official Language Proficiency (CLB 7 for NOC 0, A; CLB 5 for NOC B)
- Secondary education or above (supported by an ECA)
Express Entry is a step-by-step process

Step 1: Create your Express Entry Profile

Step 2: Receive an Invitation to Apply
Creating an Express Entry profile

**IMPORTANT**

- Profile is valid for one year
- Keep it up-to-date
- There are no guarantees
- Be truthful
The Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS)

Core set of points /600 + Additional points /600 = Total score /1200

An Invitation to Apply (ITA) is sent to the highest scoring candidates in the pool for each round of invitations.
CRS additional points: Valid job offer

- Valid job offer (NOC 00 executive): **200 points**

- Valid job offer (NOC 0, A or B): **50 points**

  - Job offer must be:
    - minimum **1 year** once you receive PR;
    - non-seasonal;
    - NOC 0, A, or B; and
    - supported by a [Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA)](https://www.canada.ca) unless one is not needed

⚠️ You can still get points for Canadian work experience without a valid job offer
CRS additional points: Education completed in Canada

⭐ Diploma or certificate (1 or 2 years): **15 points**

⭐ Degree, diploma or certificate (3 years or longer), Master’s, entry-to-practice professional degree, or doctoral degree (minimum one academic year): **30 points**

⚠ You must have completed the studies at a Designated Learning Institution (DLI)

⚠ Each educational program needs to be entered separately into the Express Entry profile
French test results at NCL 7 in all four abilities: **25 additional points**

French test results of NCL 7 in all four abilities + English test results at CLB 5 or higher: **50 additional points**

*Parlez-vous français?*
Visit [canada.ca/francoimmigration](http://canada.ca/francoimmigration) to learn about Francophone life across Canada
A sibling who is a Canadian permanent resident or citizen, is residing in Canada, and is at least 18 years old: **15 points**

- **Sibling** = the biological or adoptive children of candidate or accompanying spouse’s
  - father or mother
  - father or mother’s spouse
  - father or mother’s common-law partner
Provincial/Territorial Nomination (PNP): 600 points

- Candidates nominated under the Express Entry stream of a provincial or territorial nominee program

- Criteria and streams differ across the country

To go through an Express Entry stream of a PNP you must first meet minimum criteria for 1 of the 3 Federal programs (FSW, FST, CEC)
## CRS: Maximum points for each factor

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<th>Core Human Capital Factors</th>
<th>Single 500</th>
<th>Spouse 460</th>
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<tr>
<td>Age</td>
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<td>100</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>140</td>
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<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Official Language</td>
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<td>128</td>
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<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Official Language</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>460</strong></td>
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<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Official Language</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canadian work experience</td>
<td>10</td>
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### Skill Transferability 100 points max

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Skill Transferability</th>
<th>100 points max</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education (with OL or CDN exp)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign work experience (with OL or CDN exp)</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualification cert (with OL)</td>
<td>50</td>
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### Additional Points 600 points max

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Additional Points</th>
<th>600 points max</th>
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<tr>
<td>Provincial Nomination</td>
<td>600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valid job offer 200 (max)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Education 30 (max)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French proficiency 50 (max)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Siblings in Canada 15 (max)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total: 1200 points max**
How Much Money do I Need?

**Application Fee**
- Principal applicant: $825
- Spouse/partner: $825
- Dependent child: $225

**Right of Permanent Residence Fee**
- Principal applicant: $500
- Spouse/partner: $500

**Proof of Funds**
- Family of 1: $13,213
- Family of 2: $16,449
- Family of 3: $20,222
- Family of 4: $24,553

Fee is for processing and is non-refundable.

FSW and FST only; exemption if you have a valid job offer.
If you are not eligible for Express Entry

- Gain more Experience on a Work Permit
  - Temporary Foreign Worker Program
  - International Mobility Program

- Other Federal Immigration Programs
  - Consult IRCC’s Website

- Provincial and Territorial Nominee Programs
  - Visit your province or territory’s immigration website to learn more
Register with Job Bank

• If you do not already have a valid job offer or provincial/territorial nomination, you are encouraged to register with **Job Match** after creating an Express Entry profile

• Connect with job opportunities in Canada based on your skills, knowledge, and experience:  [www.jobbank.gc.ca](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca)
International Students

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON IRCC’S CLIENTS

canada.ca/ircc-covid19
You need to be eligible to travel to Canada at this time if:
• you want to come to Canada to study
• you’re returning to Canada as an international student
• you’re coming to Canada as a family member or support person for an international student

You can find this out by:
• answering a few questions to find out if you can travel
• reading the travel restrictions and exemptions for international students
To be able to enter Canada as a student, you must meet 2 requirements:

- You must have a valid study permit or a letter of introduction that shows you were approved for a study permit.
- You must be attending a designated learning institution (DLI) with a COVID-19 readiness plan approved by its province or territory.

You can only enter Canada if you have all of the required documents and your DLI is on the approved list.

As a student, you will not be allowed to enter Canada if:

- your study program has been cancelled or suspended.
- you’re entering Canada for any reason other than to study.

*Make sure you have valid medicals, if required.*

Click here to see what you need to travel to Canada.
Travel Restrictions – Applying at the Port of Entry

• In general, you should [apply online for a study permit](#) before you travel to Canada.

• If you are already in Canada, only certain people can apply at the port of entry at this time:
  
  • U.S. citizens
  • Lawful permanent residents of the U.S.
  • A person who has lawfully been admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence
  • Residents of Greenland
  • Residents of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon
As of September 7, 2021, all fully vaccinated foreign nationals who qualify for the fully vaccinated traveller exemption will be allowed to enter Canada for discretionary travel.

Check if you qualify for the fully vaccinated traveller exemption

Fully vaccinated travellers:

• Must provide a negative result from a COVID-19 test conducted within 72 hours prior to departure or land crossing.

• Will be exempt from the 14 day quarantine and Day-8 testing.

• On-arrival testing for fully vaccinated travellers will be random and mandatory, if selected.
Those who are not fully vaccinated will not be permitted to enter Canada, unless they are otherwise exempted under the Orders in Council (i.e. approved study permit and attending a DLI on the approved list).

Travellers who are not fully vaccinated after the dates mentioned will be required to quarantine for 14 days and undertake a Day-8 test.

Government approved hotel quarantine has been eliminated for all travellers.

All travellers, regardless of vaccination status, must provide a suitable quarantine plan in advance of arrival.

Please remember that even if you are authorized entry to Canada for discretionary travel you still need a valid study permit to study in Canada.
Use ArriveCAN to enter Canada

Use ArriveCAN to provide mandatory travel information on and after your entry into Canada. It only takes minutes to help keep each other safe.

Available for iOS, Android and online.

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Sign in to ArriveCAN online
Studies have to be completed in person, however, during COVID some accommodations were made.

If you graduated or will graduate from a DLI that offers PGWP-eligible programs, you’re still eligible for a post-graduation work permit if:

• your in-class courses in Canada are moved to an online-only format temporarily because of COVID-19, or

• you had to put your studies on hold or studied part-time because of COVID-19 during the winter, spring or summer 2020 semesters.

As of the fall 2020 semester, you must be studying full-time to be eligible.
If you’re outside of Canada and you’re taking your classes online, you’re still eligible for a PGWP.

To be eligible, you must meet all the other PGWP requirements and:

• have been enrolled in a program that was in progress in March 2020, or
• have started or will start a program between spring 2020 and fall 2021, and
  • you have a study permit, or
  • you’ve been approved for a study permit, or
  • you applied for a study permit before starting your study program

Your study permit must eventually be approved.
How much of your program you can complete online?

• You can complete 100% of your studies online from outside Canada.
• All your time studying online outside Canada between spring 2020 and December 31, 2021, counts toward the length of a PGWP.
• This applies even if you’re completing 2 study programs.
• If you’re completing 2 study programs, you can finish 100% of your studies online if the programs were ongoing or started between March 2020 and fall 2021, and:
  • both study programs are from an eligible DLI and are completed within 2 years
  • each program meets all PGWP eligibility requirements and is at least 8 months long

Time spent studying outside Canada after December 31, 2021, won’t count towards the length of a PGWP.
As a temporary measure, temporary residence applicants are exempt from giving biometrics if applying from within Canada:

- to extend your stay as a student, worker or visitor
- to restore your status as a student, worker or visitor
- for a work or study permit
- for a visitor visa
- for a temporary resident permit

Applicants outside Canada who can’t give their biometrics due to a location closure or a service disruption should not go to another biometrics collection service.

You must respond to the letter sent to you within 30 days from the date of the letter.

We’ll consider extending your deadline if you have a reasonable explanation that shows you’re affected by COVID-19.
You must respond within 30 days of receiving your final letter to give biometrics.

To ensure that you meet this deadline, try to book an appointment to give your biometrics before you are contacted by IRCC.

Don’t travel to another city or country to give your biometrics.

Applicants who cannot give biometrics within 30 days can use the Web form to explain why to the processing office.

Keep visiting canada.ca/biometrics for updates.
REMINDER: Policies and programs can change. Please consult www.canada.ca/immigration for accurate, up-to-date information.

IRCC Client Support Centre:
1-888-242-2100

IRCC Web form: