Pathways to Permanent Residence for International Students

Vancouver Island
October 2017

NOTE: Policies & programs are subject to change
The information in this presentation is accurate as of 20 October 2017
This presentation will cover:

• Definitions

• Pathways to Permanent Residence for International Students:
  ➢ Post-Graduation Work Permits
  ➢ Express Entry

• Q & A
National Occupational Classification (NOC)

The **NOC** is a classification system used by the Government of Canada. **NOC codes** are used to classify work by occupational area and skill level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOC</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOC 0</td>
<td>Management jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOC A</td>
<td>Professional jobs <em>(usually require university education)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOC B</td>
<td>Technical jobs and skilled trades <em>(usually require college education or apprenticeship training)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOC C</td>
<td>Semi-skilled jobs <em>(usually require secondary school or vocational training)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOC D</td>
<td>Entry level jobs <em>(on-the-job training)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Work experience for **Express Entry**: NOC 0, A and B

[noc.esdc.gc.ca]
Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB)

Everyone must prove their language skills by taking an approved language test:

- CELPIP General
- IELTS General Training
- TEF compréhension de l’écrit, compréhension de l’orale, expression écrite, et expression orale

Test results must be less than two years old when you complete your Express Entry profile, and when you apply for permanent residence

Language tests

- Used to determine the language ability of people applying for Canadian permanent residence
- Language test equivalency charts are on the IRCC website
Educational Credential Assessment (ECA)

- To get points for education completed outside of Canada an Educational Credential Assessment (ECA) must be completed
- A list of designated organizations that offer ECAs is on the IRCC website
- Many international students who completed studies in Canada will not need an ECA
International students have the education, skills and experience that Canada is looking for.

After graduating you might be able to make Canada your permanent home through Express Entry.
Express Entry is the first step to immigrate to Canada permanently as a skilled worker under the:

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

Quebec manages its own immigration programs outside of Express Entry.
Express Entry highlights - students

 ✓ User friendly, online system from profile creation to application for permanent residence
 ✓ Creating an Express Entry profile is free and a profile is active for up to one year
 ✓ Points are awarded to former international students who completed at least a one year program of education in Canada

 Former international students are good candidates for Express Entry because of their age, education, language ability, Canadian work experience and established community networks.

 ✓ Candidates may be eligible for more than one program
 ✓ The top scoring candidates in the pool are invited in every round
 ✓ Fast processing of permanent residence applications – within 6 months in most cases
Student pathway to permanent residence using Express Entry

- Immigrating permanently to Canada is a multi-step process

1. Apply for a study permit
2. Complete studies in an eligible program
3. Apply for a post-graduation work permit
4. Gain one year Canadian work experience at the NOC 0, A, or B level
5. Pass an approved language test
Express Entry process

**STEP 1**
Create your profile
- Express Entry
- Job Bank
- Registration and self-promotion to employers

**STEP 2**
Express Entry Pool
- Invitation to Apply
- ITA
- Apply for permanent residence online
Submit an Express Entry profile

• Completing an Express Entry profile is free and does not require an immigration representative

• Candidates need to be prepared to answer questions about their skills, work experience, language ability, education and other details

• To get into the pool, candidates need to meet the criteria of at least one of the federal economic immigration programs managed by Express Entry
Canadian Experience Class

Key criteria

• At least 12 months of skilled Canadian work experience (in a NOC 0, A or B job) within the last three years

• Language skills (for NOC 0 and A jobs = CLB 7 in all 4 abilities; for NOC B job = CLB 5 in all 4 abilities)

Notes to remember

✓ The following work experience is excluded from CEC eligibility:
  – work while enrolled in full-time studies in Canada
  – self-employment
  – unauthorized work
Federal Skilled Worker Program

Key criteria:

• At least one year of continuous work experience within the last 10 years (in a NOC 0, A or B job), in Canada or in another country
• Language skills (CLB 7 in all 4 abilities)
• Education (Canadian secondary or post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree, or the foreign equivalent)
• And a score of 67 or higher out of 100 on the Federal Skilled Worker points grid (which assesses six selection factors: language skills, education, work experience, age, arranged employment, adaptability)
Federal Skilled Trades Program

**Key criteria:**

- At least 24 months of work experience in an eligible skilled trade within the last five years
- Meet the job requirements of the skilled trade as set by the NOC (except the requirement related to certification)
- Language skills (CLB 5, speaking and listening; CLB 4, reading and writing)
- Have a valid job offer in the skilled trade for at least one year, or a Canadian certificate of qualification in the skilled trades
- All work experience in this program falls under NOC B
Complete language tests and obtain Educational Credential Assessments (ECAs) before completing an Express Entry profile.

Creating an Express Entry profile is free.

Language tests and ECAs are done by third parties which charge fees.

Keep your profile up to date at all times (e.g. new job offer, new language test results, education completed, changes in family composition, etc.).

Profiles stay in the pool for up to 1 year.

Completing a profile does not guarantee that you will get an invitation to apply; completing an application for permanent residence does not guarantee an applicant will get permanent residence. Applicants still need to meet all eligibility and requirements for admissibility.

Be truthful. Anyone who provides false information could be found inadmissible for misrepresentation and could be barred for five years from applying to come to Canada for any reason.
Candidates are encouraged to register with Job Match after creating an Express Entry profile if they do not already have a valid job offer or provincial/territorial nomination otherwise their profile will expire.

Candidates will need to provide their Express Entry profile number and their Job Seeker Validation Code when they open their Job Match Account.

Job Match will help connect candidates with job opportunities in Canada based on their skills, knowledge and experience.

Candidates should also promote themselves to employers, recruiters, private sector job boards, etc.
Express Entry pool

- When a candidate is accepted into the pool, they are given a Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) score.
- Points are awarded based on profile information.
- Candidates in the pool are ranked top down based on their CRS score.
- Top ranking candidates are invited to apply in every invitation round.

Notes to remember

- Invitation rounds take place regularly.
- Candidates may be eligible for more than one program so they may be invited for a different program than they expected.
- Candidates are eligible for each invitation round while their profile is active in the pool.
- If after 12 months a candidate does not get an invitation to apply (ITA) their profile will expire and they will need to complete and submit a new profile.
Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS)

1. Core factors
   - Age
   - Education
   - Official language proficiency
   - Canadian work experience

2. Spouse or Common-Law Partner factors (if applicable)

3. Skills transferability factors e.g.,
   - Education + strong language skills
   - Education + Canadian work experience
   - Canadian + foreign work experience
   - Foreign work exp. + strong language skills
   - Cert. of qualification + strong language skills

4. Additional points available*
   - P/T nomination
   - Valid job offer
   - Education in Canada above high school
   - French Proficiency
   - Siblings in Canada

*Candidates can only receive a maximum total of 600 additional points.
## Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS)

### Core human capital factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Single 500</th>
<th>Spouse 460</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Official Language</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Official Language</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian work experience</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Spouse factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>40</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Official Language</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian work experience</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Skill transferability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Max Points</th>
</tr>
</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualification cert (with OL)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional points

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

### Total: 1200 points max
CRS – additional points
Provincial/Territorial (P/T) nomination (600)

- A total of 600 points are awarded to candidates with a P/T nomination

Notes to remember

✓ Participating provinces and territories can nominate foreign nationals under their Express Entry Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) streams
✓ PNP criteria and streams are different across the country; check individual P/T websites to learn more
✓ All candidates nominated via an Express Entry PNP stream must meet the minimum entry criteria for Express Entry including meeting the criteria for one of the three federal economic programs
CRS – additional points

Valid job offers (200 or 50)

• A total of 200 points are awarded to candidates with a valid job offer in a NOC 00 occupation
• A total of 50 points are awarded to candidates with a valid job offer in a NOC 0, A or B occupation
• A job offer must be for a minimum of one year once an applicant receives permanent residence.

Notes to remember

✓ Job offers must also be non-seasonal, at the NOC 0, A or B level and supported by a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) unless one is not needed
✓ Candidates who don’t have a valid job offer can still get points for Canadian work experience
CRS – additional points
Education completed in Canada (15 or 30)

• A total of 15 points are awarded for a one- or two-year diploma or certificate
• A total of 30 points are awarded for a degree, diploma or certificate of three years or longer, or for a Master’s, entry-to-practice professional degree*, or doctoral degree of at least one academic year

Notes to remember

✓ To get these points, a candidate must have completed their studies at a designated learning institution in Canada
✓ Each educational program completed in Canada needs to be entered separately into the Express Entry profile.

*Entry-to-practice professional degree for an occupation listed in the National Occupational Classification matrix at Skill level A for which licensing by a provincial regulatory body is required. Eligible occupations: medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, optometry, law, chiropractic medicine, or pharmacy.
CRS - Points for two official languages

• Candidates can get more CRS points if they have proficiency in both of Canada's official languages (English and French), and submit the results of an approved language test for both English and French.

• Do you speak French? Visit canada.ca/francoimmigration to learn about Francophone life across Canada
CRS – additional points
Proficiency in French (15 or 30)

15 points for French test results at NCL 7 in all four abilities (listening, speaking, reading, writing)

30 points for French test results of NCL 7 in all four abilities + English test results at CLB 5 or higher
15 points for having at least one sibling* who is a Canadian permanent resident or citizen, is residing in Canada, and is aged at least 18 years old

*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
Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA)

• All job offers in Express Entry require an LMIA except those which meet the criteria for an LMIA exemption

• To be exempt from needing an LMIA, candidates must:
  – Hold a work permit issued under a temporary LMIA exemption such as an international agreement, intra-company transferees, significant benefit to Canada (R204(a) or (c), or R205);
  – Have already been working full time (or equivalent) for an employer specified on the work permit for a period of at least one year; and
  – Hold a valid qualifying future job offer of at least one year from the same employer.

☑️ Employers who can’t find a Canadian or permanent resident for a position may offer a qualifying job to a foreign national

☑️ There is no fee for employers to apply for LMIAAs related to permanent residence
Invitation to apply (ITA)

• ITAs are issued to the **highest scoring candidates** in the pool in each round
• Candidates could be among the top scoring if they:
  – Have a high level of skills, education, language and work experience;
  – Are nominated by a province or territory under an Express Entry stream;
  – Have a valid job offer; or
  – Have studied in Canada
Timing for invitation rounds

• Invitation rounds take place regularly
• Rounds are based on the Government’s annual levels plan for immigration to Canada and IRCC’s ability to process applications
• IRCC publishes special instructions for each invitation round including:
  – date and time of the round
  – number of candidates that receive an ITA
  – CRS score of the lowest ranked candidate invited in that particular round
• Results of each round are posted on the Government of Canada website in the days following the round

  www.cic.gc.ca/english/express-entry/rounds.asp
Invitation Rounds

- Roughly every 2-3 weeks
- Size of rounds based on annual immigration levels and IRCC’s ability to process
- Results for each round are published
  - date and time of round
  - number of candidates invited to apply for immigration
  - CRS score of the lowest ranked candidate invited in that round

www.cic.gc.ca/english/express-entry/rounds.asp

Most recent round:

October 4th, 2017
2,801 candidates invited to apply
(60,960 so far this year)
Lowest ranked candidate scored 438
Top country of residence: Canada
After receiving an invitation to apply...

• Candidates have 90 days to complete and submit an application for permanent residence
• IRCC then determines if the application has all required forms, documents and fees
• If your application is complete, IRCC will verify all eligibility and admissibility criteria
• IRCC processes complete applications in six months or less, 80% of the time
For more information

English: [Canada.ca/ExpressEntry](https://canada.ca/ExpressEntry)
French: [Canada.ca/EntreeExpress](https://canada.ca/EntreeExpress)

English: [CitCanada](https://CitCanada)
French: [CitImmCanFR](https://CitImmCanFR)

English: [@CitImmCanada](https://@CitImmCanada)
French: [@CitImmCanFR](https://@CitImmCanFR)

[Canada](https://Canada)
Work Experience - international students

- International students who are eligible to work off-campus can continue to work off-campus until they get a notification of completion of studies from their institution.
- Once international students have received notification that they have completed their studies they can continue to work in Canada only if they have applied for a work permit (e.g., Post Graduation Work Permit Program).
- Students must stop working if their work permit application is refused.
- Former international students who have not applied for a work permit (e.g., Post Graduation Work Permit Program or under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program), are not authorized to work in Canada.
Post Graduation Work Permit (PGWP)

• The Post-Graduation Work Permit Program (PGWPP) allows students who have graduated from a participating Canadian post-secondary institution to gain valuable Canadian work experience

• Skilled Canadian work experience gained through the PGWPP helps graduates qualify for permanent residence in Canada through Express Entry

• Employers seeking to employ open work permit holders are exempt from the requirement to first obtain a positive Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) from Service Canada
Important Notes About the PGWP

• You may be eligible if you are completing a study program in Canada of at least 8 months (full-time) and your study permit is valid

• Apply within 90 days of receiving written notification of completion of studies

• PGWP is an open work permit – validity length depends on length of the program of study completed in Canada

• You can only apply for PGWP once

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration of study program (determined by DLI)</th>
<th>Duration of PGWP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>at least 8 months but less than 2 years</td>
<td>same as study program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 years or longer</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transition from off-campus work to PGWP:
Students who have completed their program of study may work while they are waiting for a decision on their PGWP application, as long as they were a full-time student enrolled in a post-secondary academic, vocational or professional training program at a DLI, their study permit is still valid, and they did not exceed the allowable hours of work.
PGWP Eligibility

• You must meet the following requirements:
  • **valid** study permit when applying
  • **continuously** studied **full time in Canada**
    o You may be ineligible if you dropped courses during a session
    o part-time study during final session of study program is OK
    o Scheduled breaks (summer, reading week) are OK
  • **completed** and **passed** the program of study
  • apply **within 90 days of receiving written confirmation** from the educational institution indicating that you are eligible to obtain a degree, diploma or certificate

• Distance learning programs (from outside or inside Canada) are not eligible for the PGWPP

• You can leave Canada prior to seeking or starting employment in Canada – you may need to apply for a visa to be able to return to Canada
Can My Spouse Work in Canada?

Your spouse may be eligible for an open work permit if you are:

- a foreign student at a public post-secondary school
- a skilled worker in an occupation under the National Occupational Classification (NOC) skill type 0, A or B approved to work in Canada six months or longer (e.g. on a Post-Graduate Work Permit)

Your spouse needs to submit these documents with his/her work permit application:

- a letter from your current employer confirms you work there in a NOC 0, A or B occupation, or
- a copy of your employment offer or contract, and
- a copy of your recent pay slips

Your spouse’s permit will not be valid longer than your permit

Your spouse also needs to meet the general eligibility requirements for a work permit
So you’ve got a year of skilled work experience ...

- How do I know if I’m eligible for permanent immigration to Canada?
- Which program is right for me?
Come to Canada Tool:

www.cic.gc.ca/ctc-vac/cometocanada

Do you want to come to Canada, or extend your stay?

Find out what immigration programs you can apply for, and how to submit an online or paper application.

Start

Important: This information is for reference only and no immigration decision will be made based on your answers. If you choose to apply, your application will be considered by an immigration officer in accordance with the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, without regard to any outcome you attain through this questionnaire. Read full notice.
What if I’m Not Eligible for Express Entry?

BC PNP – Skills Immigration
Includes options for candidates who do not meet EE entry requirements

www.welcomebc.ca/Immigrate-to-B-C/BC-PNP-Skills-Immigration
Useful Links

Study in Canada [www.cic.gc.ca/english/study](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study)

Work in Canada [www.cic.gc.ca/english/work](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/work)

Immigrate to Canada [www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate)

Express Entry [www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled)

Program Delivery Instructions (*guidelines used by IRCC staff*):

Temporary residents (study permits, work permits, etc)

Economic classes (FSW, FST, CEC, etc)

Help Centre [www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre)