

# PATHWAYS FROM INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TO PERMANENT RESIDENT

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Presentation for the University of Victoria

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# TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**We acknowledge and respect the ləkʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.**

- ▶ Today we will discuss different pathways to immigration in Canada for international students.
- ▶ Please note that all information in today's workshop is legal information and **not legal advice**.
- ▶ For legal advice about your specific situation, please consult a lawyer or consultant who can assess your specific circumstances and review your documentation.

## TODAY'S LEGAL INFORMATION SESSION

1

**Complete your program at an eligible post-secondary institution** (public college or university, or private institution that is authorized to grant degrees by the province.)

2

Once program is completed, apply for an open **Post-Graduation Work Permit** (PGWP), which will typically be valid for 1-3 years depending on your program length.

3

Use that time to obtain **qualifying work experience in Canada**, which you can use as the basis for **a permanent residence application**.

TYPICAL INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PATHWAY

# COMMON PROBLEMS WITH PGWP APPLICATIONS

- ▶ Gaps in “full-time” academic studies (e.g., approved leaves from studies).
- ▶ Transcript submitted doesn’t properly show completion of studies and/or completion of studies letter is incomplete.
- ▶ Failure to pay proper fees.
- ▶ Didn’t apply within time limit.

When can you begin working full-time after completing your studies?

1. You were enrolled in full-time studies at a designated learning institution in a program of 6 months or more;
2. You completed your program leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate; and
3. You applied for a work permit (e.g. a PGWP) prior to the expiry of your study permit.

WORKING WHILE AWAITING YOUR PGWP

# DOES WORK FROM YOUR STUDIES COUNT TOWARDS PERMANENT RESIDENCY?

- ▶ Under Express Entry, you are not given credit for Canadian work experience while you were enrolled as a full-time student
- ▶ BC PNP *may* consider internships/co-ops as part of the “directly-related work experience” requirement for BC PNP Skilled Worker Program/Express Entry BC PNP Skilled Worker
- ▶ Remember: Rules and restrictions on work while holding a study permit

## ECONOMIC

- Express Entry
- Provincial Nomination
- Regional Programs
- Entrepreneurs
- Pilot Programs

## FAMILY

- Spouses
- Children
- Parents
- Adoptees
- Other

## HUMANITARIAN

- Humanitarian & Compassionate
- Refugee Claimants

PERMANENT RESIDENCY

- ▶ Many different pathways—programs open and close.
- ▶ Not possible to review details of every program today.
- ▶ Typically targets “high skilled” workers inside and outside of Canada.
- ▶ Usually programs are points-based, and look at ability of candidate to economically contribute and settle in Canada.
- ▶ Most common programs are Express Entry and Provincial Nomination.
- ▶ Occasionally there are programs that include some “low skilled” job codes.

## ECONOMIC IMMIGRATION PATHWAYS

# RELEVANT FACTORS IN ECONOMIC IMMIGRATION STREAMS

- ▶ Work experience in Canada and / or outside of Canada
- ▶ Arranged employment or qualifying job offer in Canada
- ▶ Language ability in English and / or French
- ▶ Level of education
- ▶ “Adaptability factors” (family in Canada, available funds, spouse’s education and language ability, etc.)
- ▶ Where you plan to live
- ▶ Skill level for work experience and job offer
- ▶ Age

- ▶ Four streams:
  1. Federal Skilled Worker
  2. Canadian Experience Class
  3. Federal Skilled Trades
  4. Provincial Nominees \*
- ▶ Points-based, competitive program
- ▶ For applicants with high-skilled work experience (NOC 0, A, B)
- ▶ Free to register, profiles expire after 1 year if not selected
- ▶ Usually ~6 month processing once filed

# EXPRESS ENTRY



- ▶ Provinces and territories can run their own “mini” immigration programs.
- ▶ Will issue a “nomination certificate”, which can then be used to apply for PR and often a work permit as well.
- ▶ Each province has different programs with different requirements.
- ▶ Target certain demographics based on province’s needs (skilled workers, international graduates, entrepreneurs, settlement in certain regions, etc.).
- ▶ Usually requires a qualifying job offer in the province, and an intention to settle permanently there.
- ▶ With a nomination certificate, can add to an Express Entry profile, or apply for PR without Express Entry (paper-based application process).

## PROVINCIAL NOMINATION PROGRAMS

## Skills Immigration

- Skilled Workers
- Healthcare Professionals
- International Graduates
- International Post-Graduates
- Entry Level & Semi-Skilled
- Tech Pilot

## Entrepreneur Immigration

- Base Category
- Regional Pilot

# BC PROVINCIAL NOMINATION PROGRAM

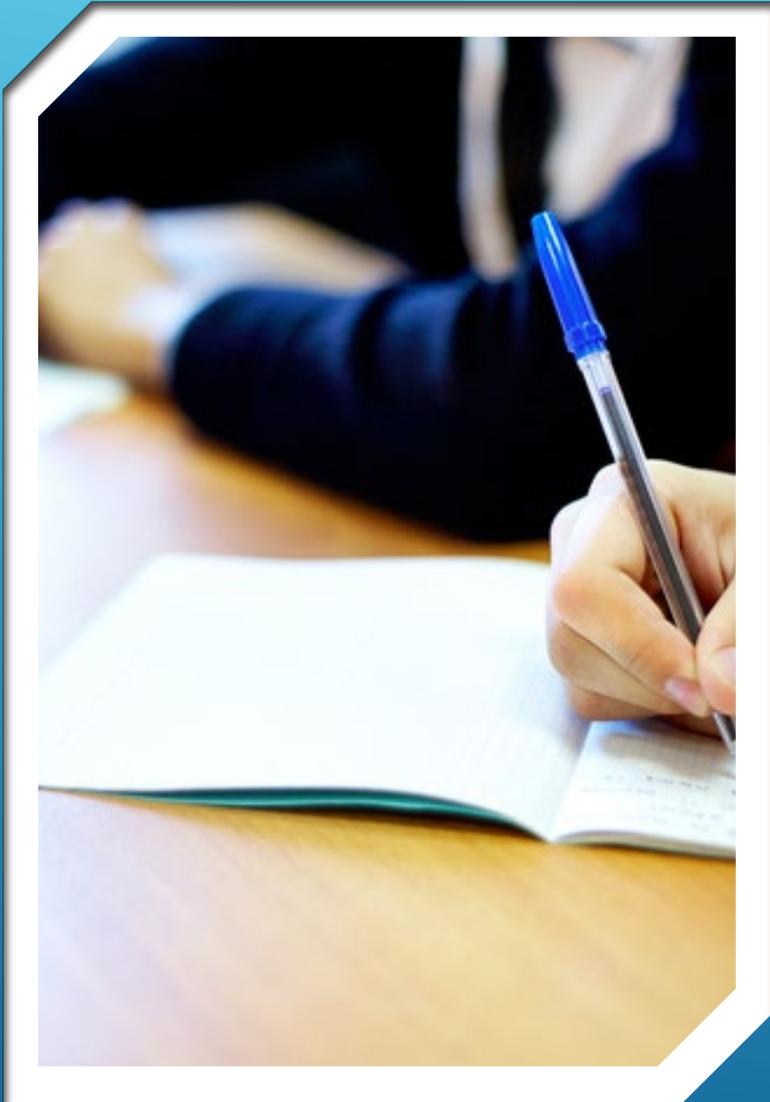
# SNAPSHOT OF OTHER ECONOMIC PR OPTIONS

- ▶ Atlantic Immigration Pilot Program
  - ▶ High-Skilled Program
  - ▶ Intermediate Skilled Program
  - ▶ International Graduate Program
- ▶ Start-Up Visa Program
- ▶ Self-Employed in Cultural Activities or Athletics
- ▶ Caregiver PR programs
- ▶ Agri-Food Pilot Program
- ▶ Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot Program
- ▶ Quebec immigration programs (skilled workers, investors, etc.)

NOC 0	Management Jobs
NOC A	Professional Jobs <i>(usually require university education)</i>
NOC B	Technical Jobs and Skilled Trades <i>(usually require college education or apprenticeship training)</i>
NOC C	Semi-skilled jobs <i>(usually require secondary school or vocational training)</i>
NOC D	Entry level jobs <i>(on-the-job training)</i>

- ▶ NOC codes are used to classify jobs by occupational area and skill level.
- ▶ Work experience requirement for most PR programs is for “high skilled” NOC codes.
- ▶ Duties listed under the NOC must match your actual work experience. Job title is less important.

## NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION (NOC) SYSTEM



- ▶ Language tests are used to determine the language ability of applicants applying for PR.
- ▶ Test scores are equated to Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB).
- ▶ Economic immigration streams typically require an approved language test:
  - ▶ English: CELPIP General
  - ▶ English: IELTS General Training
  - ▶ French: TCF Canada
  - ▶ French: TEF Canada
- ▶ Expiry dates for language test results depending on the program (usually valid for 2 years).

## LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

# EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Many programs require Education Credential Assessments (ECAs) for education completed outside of Canada if that is your highest level of education.
- ▶ Points awarded depend on equivalency to Canadian education.
- ▶ Education completed in Canada at qualifying institutions often counts for additional points.

- ▶ Review your contracts before you sign – work as a contractor or temporary gigs may not always qualify for immigration programs.
- ▶ Be transparent with your employers and gauge their ability to assist and support you early on.
- ▶ Keep adequate and accurate records and copies of all important documents.
- ▶ Be strategic about what categories to apply for and how it may impact your ability to work/stay in Canada.
- ▶ Think about skill level of job and look into NOC codes early – high skilled jobs give you more options to immigrate.

## TIPS & THINGS TO REMEMBER



QUESTIONS

