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Work permit

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How to apply



In Canada work permit applicants: new rules about applying at a port of entry

Most foreign nationals **already in Canada** can no longer apply for a work permit at a port of entry. You must apply online for

- your initial work permit
- your work permit extension

If you're outside of Canada, you may still be eligible to apply for a work permit when you arrive at a port of entry.

If you're in Canada and leave as a worker on maintained status, you'll lose your ability to work when you return. This means you can't work until your application is approved.

How to apply

You need to apply online for a work permit. Answer a few questions to find out how to apply.

Where are you applying from?

- ☐ Outside Canada
- ☒ Inside Canada
- ☐ At a port of entry

*** Do any of these situations describe you? (required)**

You can apply from inside Canada if one of these applies:

- You have a valid study or work permit.
- Your spouse, common-law partner or parent has a valid study or work permit.
- You're eligible for a post-graduation work permit and your study permit is still valid.
- You or your spouse, common-law partner or parent has a temporary resident permit that is valid for 6 months or more.
- You're in Canada and waiting on a decision on an application for permanent residence for the
 - spouse and common-law partner in Canada class OR overseas family class
 - temporary resident permit holder class
- You made or will make a claim for refugee protection.
- You've been recognized as a Convention refugee or protected person by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada.
- You're allowed to work in Canada without a work permit, but you need a work permit to work in a different job (this does not apply to business visitors).
- You're a trader, investor, intra-company transferee or professional under the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA).

☒ Yes

☐ No

Apply online from inside Canada

Step 1: Make sure you have what you need

To apply online, you'll need:

- a scanner or camera to create electronic copies of your documents, and
- a valid credit or debit card

▼ If you have problems applying online

You can submit a paper application if either

- you can't apply online because of a disability
- there's a problem with the online application
 - In some cases, you may be able to apply online if you follow special instructions.

What to do if you have problems applying online

Step 2: Read the instruction guide

Even if you apply online, you should read the instruction guide **before** you complete your application. The guide will explain how to complete each field on the form.



Venezuelan passport holders

You may need to complete extra steps when you fill out your application.

Priority processing for work permit applicants

We're prioritizing the applications of people who **perform or support essential services**.

When you fill out the work permit application form

To get priority processing, follow these steps:

1. Get the National Occupational Classification (NOC) **number** your employer entered on the
 - offer of employment **or**
 - labour market impact assessment (LMIA)
2. Enter that number in the **Job title** box.
 - This is box 4 in the **Details of intended work in Canada** section.
 - **You must enter only the number.**

Eligible occupations that perform or support essential services

▼ Agriculture and agri-food occupations

NOC 2021 codes

- Butchers – retail and wholesale (NOC 63201)
- Meat cutters and fishmongers – retail and wholesale (NOC 65202)
- Agricultural service contractors and farm supervisors (NOC 82030)
- Livestock labourers (NOC 85100)

- Specialized livestock workers and farm machinery operators (NOC 84120)
- Harvesting labourers (NOC 85101)
- Nursery and greenhouse labourers (NOC 85103)
- Fish and seafood plant workers (NOC 94142)
- Labourers in food and beverage processing (NOC 95106)
- Labourers in fish and seafood processing (NOC 95107)
- Industrial butchers and meat cutters, poultry preparers and related workers (NOC 94141)

▼ Health-care occupations

NOC 2021 codes

- Nursing coordinators and supervisors (NOC 31300)
- Registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses (NOC 31301)
- Specialists in clinical and laboratory medicine (NOC 31100)
- Specialists in surgery (NOC 31101)
- Police investigators and other investigative occupations (NOC 41310)
- General practitioners and family physicians (NOC 31102)
- Nurse practitioners (NOC 31302)
- Physician assistants, midwives and allied health professionals (NOC 31303)

- Respiratory therapists, clinical perfusionists and cardiopulmonary technologists (NOC 32103)
- Other professional occupations in health diagnosing and treating (NOC 31209)
- Pharmacists (NOC 31120)
- Medical laboratory technologists (NOC 32120)
- Medical laboratory assistants and related technical occupations (NOC 33101)
- Medical radiation technologists (NOC 32121)
- Cardiology technologists and electrophysiological diagnostic technologists (NOC 32123)
- Licensed practical nurses (NOC 32101)
- Paramedical occupations (NOC 32102)
- Nurse aides, orderlies and patient service associates (NOC 33102)
- Home child care providers (LMIA-required in-Canada applicants) (NOC 44100)
- Home support workers, caregivers and related occupations (LMIA-required in-Canada applicants) (NOC 44101)

Step 3: Prepare your answers for the online tool

Before you can upload your forms, you must answer some questions. We use your answers to create a personalized document checklist for you.

Step 4: Know the fees you have to pay

In most cases, your fees will include processing fees for you and anyone you include on your application

We'll ask you to pay your fees at the end of your application.

Fees for open work permits

If you're applying for an open work permit, make sure you pay all applicable fees:

- work permit fee (\$155)
- open work permit holder fee (\$100)

Biometrics fee

You may need to give your biometrics for this permit. If you need to give biometrics, pay the biometrics fee **when you apply**. The fee covers the cost of collecting fingerprints and a digital photo.

[Find out if you need to give your biometrics.](#)

Extend the validity of your biometrics

We can't issue a visa or permit longer than **10 years from the last date you gave your biometrics**. If you want a visa or permit for a longer period of time, you can choose to give your biometrics again when you apply, even if they're still valid.

Follow these steps when you apply for your visa or permit:

1. Pay the biometrics fee when you apply.
2. Wait for your biometric instruction letter (BIL). **You must use the BIL that was issued for this application.**
3. Book an appointment and visit an official biometric collection location to give your biometrics again.

Step 5: Create your online account or sign in

You need an account to apply online. You can use your account to:

- pay your fees
- submit your application
- check your status

Create an account or sign in

After you apply ➔

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