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# Work permit

Most foreign nationals need a work permit to work in Canada.

[Answer a few questions](#) if you're not sure if you need a work permit or which one you should get.

There are 2 types of work permits.

## ▼ Employer-specific work permit

An **employer-specific work permit** lets you work in Canada according to the conditions on your work permit, such as

- the name of the specific employer you can work for
- how long you can work
- the location where you can work (if applicable)

Before you apply for an employer-specific work permit, your employer must give you

- a copy of your employment contract
- 1 of the following:
  - a copy of a labour market impact assessment (LMIA)
  - an offer of employment number (for LMIA-exempt workers)
    - To get this number, your employer must use the Employer Portal.

## If your employer doesn't need to use the Employer Portal

If your employer does not need to use the Employer Portal to submit an offer of employment, they must give you a copy of the employment contract.

### ▼ Open work permit

An **open work permit** lets you work for any employer in Canada, except for one that

- is listed as ineligible on the list of employers who have failed to comply with the conditions, or
- regularly offers striptease, erotic dance, escort services or erotic massages
  - You can only get an open work permit in specific situations.

Some jobs require a medical exam. If you don't want medical conditions on your open work permit, you can get a medical exam from a panel physician.

## If you want to bring your family with you

Your spouse or common-law partner and dependent children may be able to work, study or live with you while you work in Canada.

Bringing your family to Canada with you



### **Fees**

From \$155



### **Processing times**

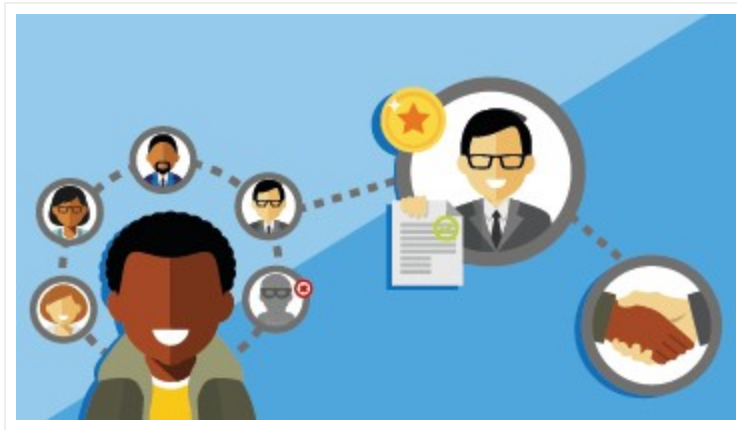
Varies by country.

# Sections

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Requirements you need to meet to get a work permit
- How to apply.  
Get the forms you need and apply for a work permit
- After you apply.  
Biometrics, processing, and documents before you arrive
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What you should know before you arrive in Canada for work
- When you start working  
Conditions, documents and rights for foreign workers in Canada

Next: Who can apply ➔

# Features



## **Check if your representative is authorized**

If you're using a paid representative, find out if they're licensed to represent you or give advice.

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