

Canada Visa Screening Requirements - Detailed Overview

This document summarises visa screening requirements for Canada (Temporary Resident Visas, Study Permits, Work Permits, and Permanent Residence applications), using official IRCC guidance.

Canada places emphasis on admissibility (including criminality and health), proof of funds, and purpose of travel.

Primary Identity & Application Forms

Valid passport, completed application forms specific to visa type (e.g., study permit application packages include IMM forms).

Proof of payment for application fees and biometrics fee where applicable.

Health & Medical Examination

Permanent residents and some temporary residents must undergo a medical exam performed by an IRCC-approved panel physician. Requirements vary by visa type.

Medical exams are designed to assess public health risk and may be requested during application processing.

Police Certificates & Background Screening

Applicants are often required to provide police certificates from countries where they have lived for a certain period. Certificates must be translated into English or French if necessary.

Background checks assess criminal admissibility and prior immigration history.

Biometrics & VACs

Biometric data (fingerprints and photo) collection is required for most visa applicants and is performed at Visa Application Centers (VACs).

Proof of Funds & Purpose

Students: proof of tuition payment or Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC) where applicable, and letter of acceptance.

Workers: employment offer letters, LMIA or employer compliance documents where needed, and evidence of salary/payment.

Common Reasons for Refusal & Tips

Insufficient funds, missing police certificates or medical exams, inconsistent documentation, and not meeting the specific eligibility criteria are common refusal reasons.

Follow IRCC checklists closely and provide certified translations for non-English/French documents.

Practical Checklist (What to Include)

Passport, completed application forms, photos, police certificates, medical exam (when required), proof of funds, acceptance letters or job offers, biometrics receipt.

Sources

IRCC - Medical exam requirements and police certificates: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/medical-police.html>

IRCC - Study permit application guide:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada.html>