

CANADA – VISA / TEMPORARY RESIDENT (VISITOR) GUIDELINES (FULL TEXT)

Purpose

Guidance for applying for a Temporary Resident Visa (Visitor Visa) to Canada, covering who must apply, eligibility, documentation and procedural steps for visa officers and applicants.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicant must have a **valid travel document** (passport) and must be admissible to Canada.
- Applicant must **satisfy the visa officer** that they will leave Canada at the end of their authorized stay.
- Applicant must **have sufficient funds** to support themselves and any dependents during the visit (unless sponsored).
- Applicant must **have no criminal inadmissibility** issues and meet health requirements as applicable.
- Applicant must demonstrate ties to their home country (employment, family, property, studies) to establish intention to return.

Documents Typically Required

- Completed application forms and instruction guide (Instruction Guide – Guide 5256 for visitor visa).
- Valid passport, photographs per specification, and application fees.
- Proof of funds (bank statements, sponsor letters).
- Travel itinerary, invitation letters, and any documents establishing purpose of visit.
- Police certificates or medical exam if requested.

Notes and Special Cases

- Processing may vary by visa office; applicants applying on paper should consult instruction guides specific to their country.
- Biometric collection may be required.
- Electronic travel authorization rules and exemptions apply for certain nationalities; always check up-to-date IRCC pages.

Key official guidance (source)

IRCC: Guide 5256 – Applying for a visitor visa (Temporary Resident Visa)