



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

[Canada.ca](#) › [Immigration and citizenship](#) › [Immigrate to Canada](#)

› [Immigrate through Express Entry](#) › [Eligibility for Express Entry programs](#)

# Eligibility to apply as a Federal Skilled Worker (Express Entry)

This program is for skilled workers with foreign work experience who want to immigrate to Canada permanently.

## On this page:

- [Minimum requirements](#)
  - [Skilled work experience](#)
  - [Language ability](#)
  - [Education](#)
- [Selection factors](#)
- [Proof of funds](#)
- [Admissibility](#)
- [Where you can live in Canada](#)
- [Next steps](#)

This is 1 of the 3 federal programs managed through Express Entry, our online application system for skilled workers.

[Choose another program.](#)

# Minimum requirements

This program has minimum requirements for:

- skilled work experience
- language ability
- education

You must meet all the minimum requirements to be eligible.

If you meet **all** the minimum requirements, we'll assess your application based on additional selection factors.

## Skilled work experience

Skilled work experience means that you've worked in 1 of these National Occupational Classification (NOC) TEER categories:

- TEER 0
- TEER 1
- TEER 2
- TEER 3

You must show that while working in your primary occupation, you performed the duties set out in the **lead statement** of the occupational description in the NOC. This includes **all** the essential duties and most of the main duties listed.

Your skilled work experience must be

- in the same type of job (have the same NOC) as the job you want to use for your immigration application (called your primary occupation)
- within the last 10 years
- paid work (have been paid wages or earned commission—volunteer work or unpaid internships don't count)

- at least **1 year of continuous work** or 1,560 hours total (30 hours per week)—you can meet this in a few different ways:
  - **full-time at 1 job:** 30 hours/week for 12 months = 1 year full-time (1,560 hours)
  - **equal amount in part-time work:** for example 15 hours/week for 24 months = 1 year full time (1,560 hours)
    - You can work as many part-time jobs as you need to meet this requirement
  - **full-time at more than 1 job:** 30 hours/week for 12 months at more than 1 job = 1 year full time (1,560 hours)

## Part-time work experience

Your skilled work experience must be paid work including paid wages or earned commission. We don't count volunteer work or unpaid internships.

For part-time work, you can work more or less than 15 hours/week as long as it adds up to 1,560 hours. You can work more than 1 part-time job to get the hours you need to apply.

We **don't** count any hours you work above 30 hours/week.

## Student work experience

Work experience gained while you were studying may count towards your **minimum requirements** if the work:

- was paid by wages or commissions
- was continuous (no gaps in employment), and
- meets all the other requirements of the Program

## Language ability

You must:

- take approved language tests in English or French for:
  - writing
  - reading
  - listening
  - speaking
- get a minimum score of Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) 7 in all 4 abilities
- enter the test results in your Express Entry profile

Your language tests are valid for 2 years after the date of the test result. They must be valid on the day you apply for permanent residence.

## Education

If you went to school in Canada, you must have a certificate, diploma or degree from a Canadian:

- secondary institution (high school) or
- post-secondary institution

If you have foreign education, you must have:

- a completed credential, and
- an Educational Credential Assessment (ECA) **for immigration purposes** from a designated organization showing that your education is equal to a completed certificate, diploma or degree from a Canadian:
  - secondary institution (high school) or
  - post-secondary institution

## Selection factors

If you meet **all** the minimum requirements, we'll assess your eligibility for the Federal Skilled Worker Program based on:

- age
- education
- work experience
- whether you have a valid job offer
- English or French language skills
- adaptability (how well you're likely to settle here)

Based on how well you do in each of the 6 factors, we'll assign you an overall score out of 100.

The current pass mark is **67 points**.

- Review how the selection factor points are calculated for federal skilled workers

**These points are different from the points we use to rank your profile in the Express Entry pool.**

### How we use selection factor points

We use selection factor points to assess **if you're eligible for the Federal Skilled Worker Program**.

Once you're in the Express Entry pool, we use a different system to rank your profile. We select the highest-ranking candidates from the pool and invite them to apply for permanent residence.

## Proof of funds

You must show that you have enough money for you and your family to settle in Canada, unless you

- are currently able to legally work in Canada

- have a valid job offer from an employer in Canada

## Admissibility

You must be admissible to Canada.

## Where you can live in Canada

You must plan to live outside the province of Quebec. The province of Quebec selects its own skilled workers. If you plan on living in Quebec, see Quebec-selected skilled workers for more information.

When you fill out your profile, we'll ask you where you plan to live in Canada. You don't have to settle in that province or territory.



If you're a Provincial Nominee, you **must** settle in the province or territory that nominated you.

## Next steps

- get your documents ready
- submit your profile

**Date modified:**

2023-05-26