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# Eligibility to apply for the Federal Skilled Trades Program (Express Entry)

The Federal Skilled Trades Program is for skilled workers who want to become permanent residents based on being qualified in a skilled trade.

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

[Choose another program.](#)

# Minimum requirements

To be eligible, you must

- meet the required language levels for each language ability
  - writing
  - reading
  - listening
  - speaking
- have at least **2 years** of full-time work experience (or an equal amount of part-time work experience) in a skilled trade **within the 5 years** before you apply
  - your work experience must be for paid work (paid wages or earned commission—volunteer work or unpaid internships don't count)
- meet the job requirements for that skilled trade as set out in the National Occupational Classification, except for needing a certificate of qualification
- have a
  - valid job offer of full-time employment for a total period of at least 1 year or
  - certificate of qualification in that skilled trade issued by a Canadian provincial, territorial or federal authority.

## Skilled work experience

Skilled trades for the Federal Skilled Trades Program are organized under these groups of the National Occupational Classification (NOC):

- Major Group 72, technical trades and transportation officers and controllers

- excluding Sub-Major Group 726, transportation officers and controllers
- Major Group 73, general trades
- Major Group 82, supervisors in natural resources, agriculture and related production
- Major Group 83, occupations in natural resources and related production
- Major Group 92, processing, manufacturing and utilities supervisors, and utilities operators and controllers
- Major Group 93, central control and process operators and aircraft assembly assemblers and inspectors, excluding Sub-Major Group 932, aircraft assemblers and aircraft assembly inspectors
- Minor Group 6320, cooks, butchers and bakers
- Unit Group 62200, chefs

You must show that 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.

If you don't show that your experience meets the description in the NOC, we'll refuse your application.

Find the NOC code, title and for your job.

The work experience only counts **after** you qualified to independently practice the occupation.

## Education

There is no education requirement for the Federal Skilled Trades Program. But, if you want to improve your rank in the Express Entry pool, there are 2 ways you can do this.

- If you went to school in Canada, you can get points for a certificate, diploma or degree from a Canadian:
  - secondary institution (high school) or
  - post-secondary institution
- or**
- If you have foreign education, you can get points for a completed educational credential, if you have an Educational Credential Assessment (ECA) report **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

## Language ability

You must

- meet the minimum score of Canadian Language Benchmark 5 for speaking and listening, and Canadian Language Benchmark 4 for reading and writing
- take approved language tests for
  - writing
  - reading
  - listening
  - speaking
- 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.

# 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 and
- 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.

# Get assessed by the province or territory

You'll likely have to go to the province or territory to be assessed for your trade. You may also need an employer in Canada to give you experience and training.

To learn more about getting assessed, you should go to the website of the body that governs trades for the province/territory where you would like to live and work. The process is different, depending on where you want to go.

Each website has more details about certificates of qualification to work in that province or territory in a specific skilled trade, and what you have to do to get one.

- [Alberta](#)
- [British Columbia](#)
- [Manitoba](#)
- [New Brunswick](#)
- [Newfoundland and Labrador](#)
- [Northwest Territories](#)
- [Nova Scotia](#)
- [Nunavut](#)
- [Ontario](#)
- [Prince Edward Island](#)
- [Saskatchewan](#)
- [Yukon](#)

If your trade is not regulated by a province or territory, it may be federally regulated (for example, airplane mechanic). You can find out who regulates your trade by visiting the website of the [Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials](#).

## Next steps

- [get your documents ready](#)
- [submit your profile](#)

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