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

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

Eligibility to apply for the Canadian Experience Class (Express Entry)

The Canadian Experience Class is for skilled workers who have Canadian work experience and want to become permanent residents.

On this page:

- [Minimum requirements](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Language ability](#)
- [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

You must

- meet the required language levels needed for your job for each language ability
 - writing
 - reading
 - listening
 - speaking
- have at least 1 year of skilled work experience in Canada, in the last 3 years before you apply—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 work at more than 1 job:** 30 hours/week for 12 months at more than 1 job = 1 year full time (1,560 hours)
- have gained your work experience by working in Canada while under temporary resident status with authorization to work

How we calculate 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.

You're **not eligible** for the Canadian Experience Class if

- you're a refugee claimant in Canada
- you're working without authorization
- your work experience was gained without temporary resident status in Canada

According to the Canadian National Occupational Classification (NOC), skilled work experience means work experienced gained in TEER 0, 1, 2, or 3 job categories. Your work experience can be in 1 or more of these categories.

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.

Self-employment and student work experience

Self-employment and work experience gained while you were a full-time student (even if you were on a co-op work term) **doesn't count** toward the minimum requirements for this program.

Exemption for physicians

We introduced a temporary public policy for foreign national physicians who

- were invited to apply for permanent residence through Express Entry on or after April 25, 2023, and submitted an application
- have work experience in providing publicly funded medical services in Canada (such as fee-for-service work) **and**

- aren't eligible because they're self-employed

We now count this work experience as Canadian work experience. When you create your Express Entry profile, to make it possible for your work experience to count as Canadian work experience, **do not** check the "Self-employed work" checkbox under **Work experience in Canada**.

Education

There is no education requirement for the Canadian Experience Class.

If you want to improve your rank in the Express Entry pool **for immigration purposes**, 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 foreign credential, and
 - 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 language level of:
 - Canadian Language Benchmark 7 for TEER 0 or TEER 1 jobs **or**
 - Canadian Language Benchmark 5 for TEER 2 or TEER 3 jobs
- take approved language tests for:
 - writing
 - reading
 - listening
 - speaking
- describe the test results in your Express Entry profile

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

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

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