



WILD MOUNTAIN  
IMMIGRATION

PERMANENT RESIDENCY

# Express Entry Canada Guide

Canada is a beautiful country that allows skilled migrants from all over the world to settle there permanently. The Express Entry system is the quickest and most popular way for immigrants to obtain permanent residency in Canada.



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# EXPRESS ENTRY OVERVIEW

## What is Express Entry?

Express Entry refers to an online application system by Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to handle and process applications received from applicants across the three programs of Canada's Federal Economic immigration for skilled workers.

Express Entry is the fastest way to shift to Canada permanently. People all around the globe have the opportunity to immigrate to Canada along with their families through the Express Entry selection system. The ease of applying and the quick processing have made Express Entry one of the most popular immigration systems for workers around the globe.

Express Entry is a highly competitive mode of ranking eligible candidates against others to ensure the best federal economic applicants are selected for Canadian permanent residence. The ranking method takes into account factors like – education, work experience, language skills, age, and others.

So, you will have to meet certain eligibility criteria and pass some proficiency tests before being considered for this immigration system. While this may sound like a lot of work, it is worth it! As we said before, the best advantage of Express Entry is that it offers permanent residence to eligible and deserving candidates in as little as 6 months.



## What is the eligibility for Express Entry?

To apply for the Express Entry immigration program, you would need to meet certain eligibility criteria. There are three immigration programs under Express Entry, and each has different requirements. All applicants must have skilled work experience and an intermediate level of proficiency in English/French. In addition, before you submit your application through Express Entry Canada, you are also required to be eligible under one of the below federal immigration programs.

### Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP)

The Federal Skilled Workers Program (FSWP) is a Canadian immigration program that allows professionals and skilled people worldwide to demonstrate their skills and join the Canadian workforce.

The FSWP is Canada's flagship immigration program that enables thousands of deserving candidates to shift to Canada and benefit from the job opportunities available in the country. The program also allows candidates to apply with their spouses and dependent children. One of the best things about the FSW program is its fast processing time.

### Canada Experience Class (CEC)

The Canadian Experience Class (CEC) is an immigration program specifically meant for individuals who have worked in a NOC TEER level 0, 1, 2 or 3 occupation in Canada for at least 12 months. The program allows workers to apply for permanent residence status.

The Canadian Government acknowledges the skills and expertise of these candidates and thus encourages them to be a part of the Canadian workforce. The individuals and their families set their feet in Canada and build a future for themselves.

### Federal Skilled Trades Program (FSTP)

The Federal Skilled Trades Program (FSTP) is a Canadian federal economic immigration program that permits qualified and experienced tradespersons worldwide to be a part of Canada's workforce. Because of the labour shortage in Canada, these tradespersons are in high demand and the Government ensures that the applications for these programs are processed in just a few months.



## How can I apply for Express Entry?

Now that you have a basic idea of what Express Entry is, let's understand how you can successfully apply for the immigration program. To create an Express Entry profile, you would require three essential documents, as discussed in the below paragraphs:



### | Language Skills Test

To be considered for the Express Entry program, every candidate must have proficiency in one of Canada's official languages. To create your profile, you must submit an official score from an approved language test. The IELTS General Training Exam, CELPIP General Exam or PTE Core is suitable for proving English proficiency scores. For proving proficiency in French, TEF or TCF exam scores may be used.

Remember, to be eligible for the Express Entry program, you must maintain a valid language test in your profile and upon submission. Generally, these test scores have a validity of two years.

So make sure to submit your final application for Canadian permanent residency before the expiration of your language test scores. In case your test scores expire before you submit your application, you will need to take the test once again.

### | Educational Credentials Assessment (ECA)

ECA forms a key element in evaluating the Non-Canadian education as per Canadian standards. Though education is a mandatory requisite only for Federal Skilled Worker Program, it is better to have an ECA report for other programs as well to improve the CRS score. Those who have any educational degree completed in Canada do not require an ECA report.

## Passport

A valid passport is vital to submit the Express Entry profile. However, in some situations, an alternative identification document may be accepted, where it is not possible to get a passport. While these three documents are essential for being eligible for the Express Entry program, unfortunately, they do not guarantee that you will receive an Invitation to Apply (ITA).

Generally, there is a limit to the number of permanent resident applications that the Canadian Government accepts each year. Candidates with stronger profiles would always be preferred over candidates who only meet the minimum eligibility criteria.

You will be required to provide additional documents like medical reports, police verification, and identity documents if you receive an Invitation to Apply (ITA) for permanent residence.

## What are the requirements for Express Entry?

To be eligible for Express Entry, as a skilled worker, you need:



## Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP)

- ✿ Score a minimum of 67 points against the selection factors
- ✿ At least 1 year of full-time continuous skilled work experience in the last 10 years
- ✿ Demonstrate proficiency on an approved language test, a minimum Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) 7 in either French or English
- ✿ Minimum High School education equivalent to Canadian standards of education
- ✿ Proof of funds is required unless you are currently authorized to work in Canada and have a valid job offer.



## Canadian Experience Class (CEC)

- ✿ At least 1 year of full-time skilled work experience in the last 3 years for CEC applicants
- ✿ Demonstrate proficiency on an approved language test, a minimum Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) 7 for NOC TEER 0 or 1 occupations and CLB 5 for NOC TEER 2 or 3 occupations either French or English

## Federal Skilled Trades (FST)

- ✿ At least 2 years of work experience in a skilled trade within the last 5 years for FST applicants
- ✿ Demonstrate proficiency on an approved language test, a minimum Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) 5 for speaking and listening and CLB 4 for reading and writing in either French or English
- ✿ Have a valid job offer of full-time employment for a total period of at least 1 year or a certificate of qualification in that skilled trade issued by a Canadian provincial, territorial or federal authority
- ✿ Proof of funds is required unless you are currently authorized to work in Canada and have a valid job offer



## HOW MUCH DOES EXPRESS ENTRY COST?



Express Entry immigration to permanent residency in Canada involves various stages. These require candidates to go through several assessments and checks, collect reports from authorized persons, and such.

Therefore, there are costs associated with these steps. Go through the below tables on cost-related information pertaining to Express Entry immigration to Canada.

Item	Cost	Required/Optional?
Educational Credentials Assessment (ECA)	\$200+	Required for FSW candidates, recommended for CEC & FST candidates who studied outside Canada
English/ French test	\$270+	Required

### Other Items and Costs

Item	Cost	Required/Optional?
Police Clearance Certificate(s)	Depends on the country. \$0 - \$150	Required
Medical Report	\$200+	Required
Representation by a Lawyer or regulated consultant	Fees mostly range from \$2000 to \$5000	Optional



## Other Items and Costs

Item	Cost	Required/Optional?
Processing Fee	\$950	Required
Right to permanent residence fee	\$575	Required
Addition of accompanying spouse /partner	\$950 processing fee, \$575 right of permanent residence fee	Required if applicable
Addition of dependent child(ren)	\$230 per child	Required if applicable
Biometrics	\$85 per person	Required if applicable

## How long does the process take?

Express Entry, as the name suggests, is a way to make faster entry to permanent residence in Canada. Those eligible candidates who receive ITA for permanent residence after entering the pool, complete and submit their application quickly can expect to have the procedure completed in 6 months. Some candidates receive ITA soon after entering the pool, others based on their CRS score and CRS cut-offs in Express Entry draws either receive ITA later or never.

While some candidates might be ready to immigrate to Canada soon after being invited, others may prefer to wait till the end of the 60 days period.

Though IRCC claims to process applications in 6 months, depending on various factors, some application processing might take longer, and some may be completed much before 6 months.



# Points and Eligibility

## What are the Comprehensive Ranking System and CRS scores?

All eligible candidates must create an Express Entry profile, considered an Expression of Interest (EOI). They need to submit the profile to a pool of candidates. The eligible candidates automatically get a score and are ranked among the pool of other candidates.

The ranking procedure for eligible candidates is as per the Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS). Canada uses the Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) to rank and select candidates based on various factors and determine their eligibility to obtain permanent residence through the Express Entry immigration system. Candidates across all 3 federal economic immigration programs are awarded the score.

The Immigrants, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) conducts Express Entry Draws usually every two weeks, and those with high CRS scores stand better chances of obtaining an Invitation to Apply (ITA) for permanent residence. People across the world interested in settling in Canada apply via these methods.

## How much does Express Entry cost?

Candidates in the pool are ranked on the Comprehensive Ranking System and assigned a score out of 1200 points.

**CRS Score = Core/Human Capital Factors + Skill Transferability Factors + Spouse Factors + Additional Factors**

The points available are different based on various factors for single (without a spouse or common-law partner) candidates and candidates with a spouse or common-law partner. In Canadian Express Entry for permanent residence, the scores calculated using the Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) are known as Express Entry points.

**The CRS uses the below parameters for calculating the applicant scores:**

- ✿ Age
- ✿ Education qualification
- ✿ English or French language proficiency
- ✿ Connections /Relatives in Canada
- ✿ Foreign skilled work experience
- ✿ Canadian skilled work experience
- ✿ Factors related to Spouse or Common-law partner
- ✿ Connections /Relatives in Canada

### | For single candidates

- ✿ Core/Human Capital factors (Age, Level of education, Language ability, Canadian work experience) - **Maximum of 500 points**
- ✿ Skill transferability factors - **Maximum of 100 points**
- ✿ Additional factors (Provincial nomination, Valid job offer, a sibling in Canada, French language ability, Canadian studies) - **Maximum of 600 points**



## For candidates with a spouse or common-law partner

- ✿ Core/ Human Capital factors for Principal applicant: **Maximum of 460 points**
- ✿ Core/ Human Capital factors for Spouse or Common-Law Partner - **Maximum of 40 points**
- ✿ Skill transferability factors - **Maximum of 100 points**
- ✿ Additional factors - **Maximum of 600 points**
- ✿ Check out the [Express Entry Points Calculator](#) to assess your position.

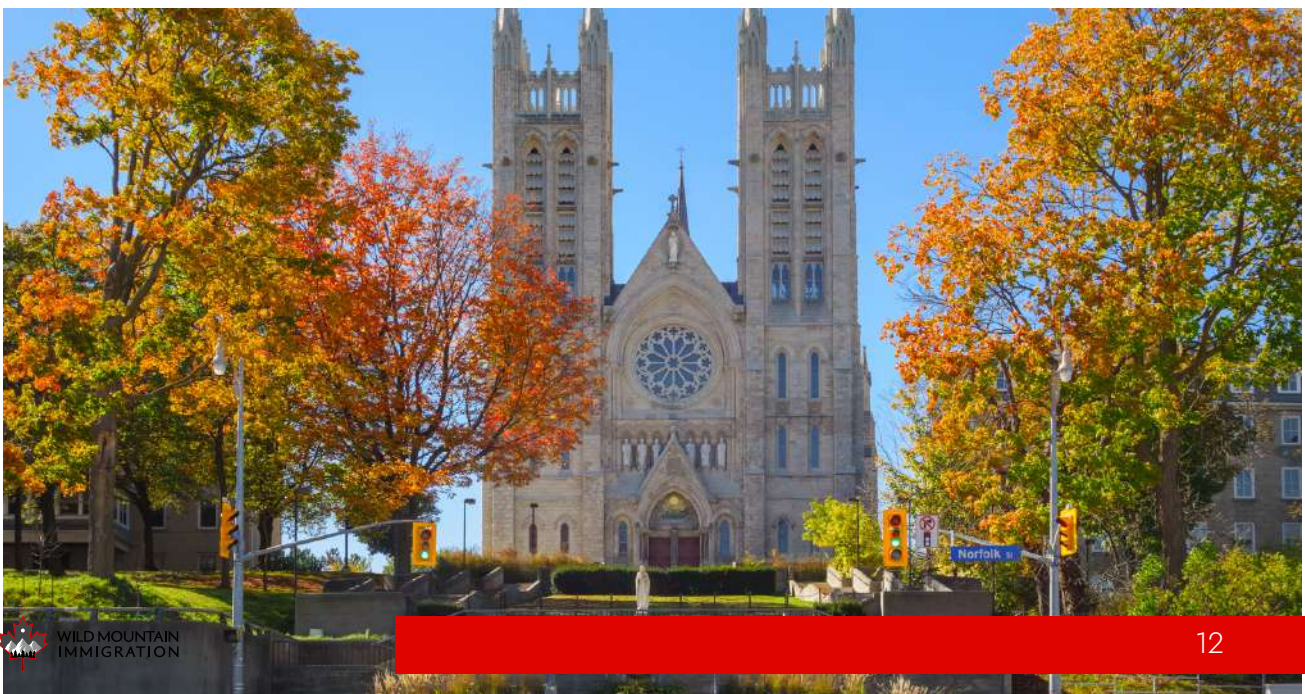
## What are CRS score cut-offs?

Once you are a part of the Express Entry pool, you receive a CRS score. This is regardless of whether you are from Candidate Experience Class, Federal Skilled Workers, or Federal Skilled Trades programs. CRS score indicates the rank of a candidate with respect to other candidates in the pool, besides acting as a key parameter when IRCC conducts an Express Entry draw.

The CRS cut-offs are not decided in advance, however, their values from previous draws help get an idea of who stands a chance of qualifying for permanent residence. There are no hard and fast CRS cut-offs that would guarantee your Express Entry immigration to Canada, the scores are only suggestive of the earlier draws.

## How can I increase my CRS score?

If you think that your CRS score is quite low and you may miss out on your chance of receiving an ITA for Express Entry, you can increase your CRS score through the following methods:



## | Work experience

Your work experience plays a major role in boosting your CRS score. A high level of skilled work experience means a better CRS score, which can increase your chances of receiving an ITA.

In addition, there's a National Occupational Classification (NOC) matrix to which Express Entry assigns the candidates. Ensure that you record your experience against the appropriate NOC code.

This is very crucial as in case you receive an Invitation to Apply, you should justify that your occupation is relevant and you haven't misrepresented your experience.



## | Valid job offer

Your work experience plays a major role in boosting your CRS score. A high level of skilled work experience means a better CRS score, which can increase your chances of receiving an ITA.

Having a job offer from a Canadian employer can also do wonders for your CRS score! It would increase your CRS score by 50 to 200 extra points depending on the NOC code. So, try to reach out to some Canadian workplaces or employers and apply for jobs you are interested in.

In this regard, you may take the help of the Canada job bank, social networking sites, and various job boards.

In addition, there's a National Occupational Classification (NOC) matrix to which Express Entry assigns the candidates. Ensure that you record your experience against the appropriate NOC code.

This is very crucial as in case you receive an Invitation to Apply, you should justify that your occupation is relevant and you haven't misrepresented your experience.



## Study in Canada

If you are interested in furthering your education, then studying in Canada can be an excellent investment. Even though some might argue that studying abroad requires a huge investment, it could be beneficial in the long run. It will give 2 major benefits. Firstly, Canada has some of the best colleges and universities globally. So, you will get the opportunity to acquire higher education from top-class universities. And secondly, you will get some major points to increase your CRS score. Even a short program like a 1-year post-graduate certificate program can add many points to your CRS score.

## Apply with spouse/common-law partner

This parameter may not be applicable to all candidates. However, those whose spouse or common-law partner will be accompanying them can make huge points. First, if your spouse or partner retakes a language test or gets the Educational Credentials Assessments (ECA) for a post-secondary degree, they could increase your CRS score. Second, suppose you and your spouse or partner are strong applicants individually. In that case, it is a smart idea for each one of you to submit your profiles in the Express Entry by listing the other as accompanying. That would buy you both good points.

## Nomination from a province

Having a provincial nomination can also give a major boost to your CRS score. Several provinces have an operating program aligned with the Express Entry immigration system.

You can check the eligibility criteria for some of these provincial nomination programs and apply to those suitable for you. If you can receive a nomination from any province, it can add a whopping 600 additional points to your CRS score!





## Is there a minimum score needed?

“What should be my minimum CRS score to be eligible for Express Entry?”

This is one of the most common questions asked by people willing to receive permanent residency in Canada through Express Entry. Well, to answer this, there is no minimum CRS score to receive an invitation to apply for Canadian Permanent Residence through Express Entry as it varies across draws. However, candidates must keep trying to increase their CRS scores to rank higher than others in the pool and improve their chances of receiving the invitation.

## Is there any difference between Express Entry eligibility points and CRS scores?

While for Federal Skilled Trades Program and Canadian Experience Class Programs, there are no separate Express Entry eligibility points, the candidates in Federal Skilled Workers Program have to secure at least 67 points out of 100 in the Federal Skilled Workers Selection Grid. If they obtain this, they can enter the Express Entry pool. Once any candidate, regardless of the 3 programs, enters the pool, they receive a CRS score.

Canada uses CRS scores to rank the candidates against each other in the pool. The Express Entry draws are conducted every two weeks where the candidates with higher CRS scores receive an invitation to apply (ITA) for Canadian Permanent Residency.



# Express Entry profile

## What is an Express Entry profile?

Express Entry profile is an online form submitted by eligible applicants who include their personal details, work experience, language (English/French) skills, education, and connections in Canada. Based on these inputs, the system ranks the profiles in the Express Entry pool and determines to whom to send out the invitations.

## How to create an Express Entry profile?

In order to create an Express Entry profile, you need to follow the below-mentioned steps:

### Step 1

Begin the process by creating an IRCC secure account.

### Step 2

Next, you need to fill out a questionnaire to determine if you are eligible for the Express Entry program. If you are found eligible for the program, move on to the next step.

### Step 3

Fill out an online information form mentioning your correct information, including your age, level of education, language skills, and work experience.



**Based on these details, the Express Entry system would finalize your Comprehensive Ranking System score and the program you can apply for.**



## Why is the ECA report important?

An Educational Credentials Assessment (ECA) report is required to verify that your non-Canadian degree, certificate, or diploma is authentic and equivalent to a Canadian one. You must include your ECA reference number in the Express Entry profile.

## Is it mandatory to add an ECA report to Express Entry Profile?

The educational Credentials Assessment (ECA) report is not a mandatory requisite for FST and CEC Express Entry applicants. However, it is good to have the ECA report added to the Express Entry profile as it greatly increases the scores. If you have a postgraduate degree, do get an ECA report tagged to your profile to enhance your scores!

## What is a valid job offer?

Most people in Canada believe that certain work permits or the IEC Working Holiday Visas from their current employer are a job offer. However, this is not true! At least, not entirely! IRCC defines a valid job offer differently, and only the offers satisfying these criteria will receive CRS points. A valid job offer includes the following:

- 🍁 The job must be full-time and non-seasonal
- 🍁 For at least one year after a permanent resident visa is issued
- 🍁 A job offer at TEER level 0, 1, 2 or 3 in accordance with the National Occupational Classification (NOC) system
- 🍁 Supported by a positive Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) or exempt from it

In case you are claiming points for a job offer in your Express Entry profile, you need to provide a copy of a written job offer describing your duties, position, salary, and employment terms and conditions.

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## Is a job offer required for Express Entry?

Having a valid job offer from a Canadian employer can help you increase your CRS score and improve your chances of receiving an Invitation to Apply (ITA). However, it is not mandatory to have a job offer to apply for Express Entry. If you are in either of the FSW or FST programs, you may need one in case you don't have enough money to support your family in Canada.

As we said, under Express Entry, a valid job offer helps you earn additional points on the Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) and boosts your CRS score.

- ❖ The job must be full-time and non-seasonal
- ❖ For at least one year after a permanent resident visa is issued
- ❖ A job offer at TEER level 0, 1, 2 or 3 in accordance with the National Occupational Classification (NOC) system
- ❖ Supported by a positive Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) or exempt from it

In case you are claiming points for a job offer in your Express Entry profile, you need to provide a copy of a written job offer describing your duties, position, salary, and employment terms and conditions.

# How to check the status of the Express Entry profile?

Checking the status of your Express Entry profile is a pretty quick and straightforward process. You can check the status of your Express Entry profile by following these three steps:

## Step 1

Log into your IRCC account and click on the 'View Applications Submitted' option.

## Step 2

Now, simply navigate to the 'Express Entry Profile Status'

## Step 3

Click on the 'View Your Profile' option. You will now be able to check your Express Entry profile status.

## How long is the validity of the Express Entry profile?

An Express Entry profile is valid for 12 months. If you have not received an ITA within this time, you can submit another Express Entry profile.



# Permanent residence application

## What is the invitation to apply (ITA)?

An Invitation to Apply (ITA) for permanent residency is sent to those who have ranked the highest out of the eligible candidates within the pool.

## What should I do if I receive an Invitation to Apply?

If you receive an Invitation to Apply or ITA, make sure you complete the application and apply within 60 days of receipt of the invitation. If you miss the deadline, you will not be sent another invitation to apply, unless you create another profile and are then issued another ITA.

## What are the stages in the overall procedure of completing the Canadian PR application?

Applying for permanent residence in Canada through the Express Entry immigration program can be confusing if you do not have the right information. When applying for the Express Entry program, it is essential to follow the right steps so that you do not miss your chance of receiving an ITA.

If you want to apply to the Express Entry program but do not know how or where to get started, we have got you covered! Below paragraphs discuss the procedure involved in applying for permanent residence in Canada through Express Entry immigration:





## **| Create an Express Entry profile**

When creating an Express Entry profile, the online system will determine your eligibility across all 3 programs.

Candidates ranked higher on the CRS scoring system have greater chances of receiving an Express Entry Invitation to Apply (ITA). The candidate's CRS score serves as an indicator of determining the candidate's probability of being economically established in Canada. The rank is based on candidates' work experience, education, language skills, and also whether they have received job offers or provincial nominations in Canada.

## **| Receive an invitation to apply**

The IRCC conducts Express Entry draws every two weeks. These involve sending invitations to apply (ITA) to candidates based on their CRS scores. These candidates can apply for permanent residency in Canada.

The only downside of this process is that if a candidate does not receive an ITA within 12 months, their Express Entry profile will expire. In such a case, they will have to go through the entire process once again to create and submit a new profile.

## **| Submit your application**

Finally, if you receive ITA, you will have 60 days to apply. Essentially, you must furnish all the required personal information and supporting documents. The good news is that applications can be submitted online.

After submitting the completed application, you must wait for the final decision. Most of the Express Entry applications are processed in 6 months or so. If your application gets approved, you will get a notification authorizing you to activate your permanent resident status in Canada.



## How much money do I need to prove?

All applicants in Federal Skilled Workers and Federal Skilled Trades programs must justify that they are financially self-sufficient to support themselves and their families during settlement in Canada. The applicants with a valid job offer from a Canadian employer are exempted from this.

Family members	Family members funds required (CAD)
1	\$13,757
2	\$17,127
3	\$21,055
4	\$25,564
5	\$28,994
6	\$32,700
7	\$36,407
For each additional family member	\$3,706

## How can I prove settlement funds?

To showcase Express Entry proof of funds, applicants must submit letters from financial institutions or banks that keep their money. The letters must be printed on the respective institution's letterhead and contain their contact details, the name of the applicant, any outstanding loans, credit card debts, and the applicant's account details (account no., date of opening, current balance, the average balance of past months).



# Express Entry draws

## What is an Express Entry draw?

Based on the CRS cut-off scores, the candidates who submitted the Express Entry profile in the pool receive an invitation from Express Entry draws. These are conducted every 2 weeks when Canada sends out the invitations to the eligible candidates. These candidates may then apply for Canadian permanent residency.

## When are Express Entry draws conducted?

Generally, the Express Entry draws are conducted once every 2 weeks. However, there is no fixed rule tied to this.





# PNP via Express Entry

## What is a Provincial Nomination Program?

Canada has various provinces. As mentioned in the above paragraphs, if you receive a nomination from a province, you earn 600 points as a part of the CRS score. This is an excellent way to gain permanent residence in Canada.

## How does it affect my Express Entry profile?

If you are nominated to the Provincial Nominee Program, it boosts your Express Entry CRS score by adding 600 points. This highly improves your possibility of securing a Canadian Permanent Residence.