



# THE EXPRESS ENTRY SYSTEM TO SUPPORT FRANCOPHONE IMMIGRATION OUTSIDE QUEBEC

## Recruiting and retaining skilled labour abroad

The Express Entry system came into effect on January 1, 2015. This online system makes it possible to process quickly, in less than six months, permanent residence applications from skilled workers, outside Quebec, wishing to take part in the country's economy. Francophone and bilingual immigrants are favoured by the Express Entry system. Our RDÉE Canada National Network can help you recruit French-speaking or bilingual candidates from around the world to ensure the long-term growth of your Canadian company.

## The Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS)

The CRS is a points-based system, which awards up to a maximum of 1,200 points, that is used to evaluate skilled immigrants in the Express Entry pool based on their skills, studies, language skills, professional experience and other factors. Candidates who fill out an Express Entry profile are scored by the CRS. If their CRS mark exceeds the minimum score during the Express Entry round of invitations, the candidate is then invited by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to submit a permanent residence application. Rounds of invitation take place twice a month on average throughout the year. The Express Entry profile created is valid for 12 months.

Since May 31, 2023, a new category-based selection system has been added to the regular draws. The Minister establishes the categories based on specific economic objectives. The candidates must meet the minimum Express Entry criteria and specific requirements. For the 2023-24 period, the chosen categories include candidates with French language skills, minimum mark of 7 on the NCLC <sup>2</sup> or work experience of at least 6 continuous months of full-time work in the past 3 years in the following fields: health, science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), trades, transportation, agriculture, and agri-food.

## Express Entry economic immigration programs

THREE FEDERAL PROGRAMS			PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL PROGRAM
Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP)	Federal Skilled Trades Program (FSTP)	Canadian Experience Class (CEC)	Provincial Nominee Program - PNP
This program is intended for skilled workers with foreign work experience.	This program is intended for skilled workers in one of the skilled trades listed.	This program is intended for skilled workers who have Canadian work experience.	This program is intended for workers who have the skills, education and work experience required to contribute to the economy of a specific province or territory.
<b>Step 1 – Selection factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Work experience</li> <li>Valid job offer (if such is the case)</li> <li>Language skills</li> <li>Adaptability</li> </ul> <b>Pass mark: 67/100 points</b>	<b>Express Entry pool</b> <b>Minimum requirements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Skilled work experience</b> At least 2 years of full-time work experience or equal amount in part-time work in a skilled trade in the past 5 years with NOC at TEER level 2 or 3 <sup>1</sup> in the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major Group 72: technical trades and transportation officers and controllers, excluding Sub-Major Group 726</li> <li>Major Group 73: general trades</li> <li>Major Group 82: supervisors in natural resources, agriculture, and related production</li> <li>Major Group 83: occupations in natural resources and related production</li> <li>Major Group 92: processing, manufacturing, and utilities supervisors</li> <li>Major Group 93: central control and process operators and aircraft assembly and inspectors, excluding Sub-Major Group 932</li> <li>Minor Group 6320: cooks, butchers, and bakers</li> <li>Unit Group 62200: chefs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Express Entry pool</b> <b>Minimum requirements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Skilled work experience</b> NOC at TEER level 0, 1, 2 or 3 <sup>1</sup>, at least 1 year of skilled work experience full-time, even discontinuous or equal amount in part-time work Work experience acquired legally in Canada Self-employment and student work experience does not count</li> <li><b>Language skills</b> For writing, reading, listening and speaking Minimum mark of 7 on the NCLC <sup>2</sup> for NOC at TEER level 0 or 1 <sup>1</sup> Minimum mark of 5 on the NCLC <sup>2</sup> for NOC at TEER level 2 or 3 <sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<b>Provincial immigration streams</b> Each province or territory establishes its own immigration streams with eligibility criteria that vary from one province and territory to the next based on the local economic needs and targets they seek to achieve As for the Express Entry, provinces generally target students, skilled workers and workers in a skilled trade Depending on the provinces or territories, the candidate shall have a job offer or professional experience of at least one year, corresponding to TEER level 0, 1, 2 or 3 of the NOC <sup>1</sup> . We invite you to visit the Internet sites of each province or territory to find out more about their requirements

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Education</b> Diploma from a secondary institution. An ECA <sup>3</sup> is needed for education abroad</li> <li>• <b>Proof of funds</b><sup>4</sup> <u>Required</u>, with some exceptions</li> <li>• <b>Admissibility to Canada</b> Medical examination <sup>5</sup>, police certificate, biometrics</li> </ul>	<p>Meet the job requirements for this skilled trade Volunteer work or unpaid internships don't count</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Valid offer of full-time employment</b> for a total period of at least 1 year or a certificate of qualification issued by a Canadian provincial, territorial or federal authority</li> <li>• <b>Language skills</b> Minimum score of 5 on the NCLC <sup>2</sup> for speaking and listening and a mark of 4 for reading and writing</li> <li>• <b>Education</b> No education requirement but you can improve your rank by obtaining points if you have at least a diploma from a secondary institution. For a foreign education, an ECA <sup>3</sup> is required</li> <li>• <b>Proof of funds</b> <sup>4</sup> <u>Required</u>, with some exceptions</li> <li>• <b>Admissibility to Canada</b> Medical examination <sup>5</sup>, police certificate, biometrics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Education</b> No education requirement but you can improve your rank by obtaining points if you have at least a diploma from a secondary institution. For a foreign education, an ECA <sup>3</sup> is required</li> <li>• <b>Proof of funds</b> Not required</li> <li>• <b>Admissibility to Canada</b> Medical examination <sup>5</sup>, police certificate, biometrics</li> </ul>	<p>A candidate who has obtained a designation from a province or a territory shall submit their residence application to IRCC :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Express Entry process Some provincial immigration streams come under the Express Entry. Candidates must not only comply with the eligibility requirements of the province or territory but also with the minimum requirements of Express Entry</li> <li>• Process other than Express Entry Other streams do not come under the Express Entry which involves longer processing times</li> </ul> <p>All Candidates must be admissible to Canada (Medical examination <sup>5</sup>, police certificate, biometrics)</p> <p>A candidate from a province must reside in the province or territory that nominated them</p>
<p>In order to increase Francophone immigration outside Quebec and achieve a target of 4.4% by 2023, the federal government has taken measures to favour the selection of French-speaking candidate :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Additional points are awarded in the Express Entry system to candidates with strong French-language skills</b> (even if French is their second language)</li> </ul> <p>If the candidate has scored a level 7 or over on the NCLC <sup>2</sup> in French in the four French-language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing), they can obtain:</p> <p>25 additional points if they obtain a level 4 or less on the CLB <sup>2</sup> in English (or if they did not take a test in English)</p> <p>50 additional points if they obtain a level 5 or over on the CLB <sup>2</sup> in English on the four skills</p> <p>These points are in addition to those already awarded for the mastery of the official languages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Possibility of points awarded for a valid offer of a job of at least one year after the permanent resident visa is issued</b></li> </ul> <p>As per the Francophone Mobility stream, a job offer made to a French-speaking temporary foreign worker is exempt from the Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA). See our sheet on the Francophone Mobility stream.</p>			<p>Provinces and territories such as Ontario, New Brunswick, the Northwest Territories, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador and Saskatchewan target Franco-phone candidates under the PNP</p> <p>Nomination from a province or territory awards an <b>additional 600 points under the CRS</b> for a candidate in the Express Entry system and ensures that they will receive an invitation to apply for permanent residence</p>

<sup>1</sup> National Occupational Classification (NOC) of 2021. Since November 16, 2022, the 2021 version of the NOC has been in effect, featuring the TEER (Training, Education, Experience, Responsibilities) category with six levels (0,1,2,3,4,5)

<sup>2</sup> Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens (NCLC), for the results of approved French language tests and Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) for the results of English language tests: Test valid for two years from the date of the test result

<sup>3</sup> Educational Credential Assessment (ECA) for designated organization immigration purposes – Assessment valid for five years from the date of the assessment

<sup>4</sup> Proof of funds to settle in Canada and meet the needs of the main applicant and their family. [See the IRCC site](#)

<sup>5</sup> Immigration Medical Exam (IME) performed by a designated physician – Exam valid for 12 months from the date of the results