



# WORK PERMIT FAQ

[September 2019]

Most Irish (ages 18-35) obtain work permits which authorize them to work in Canada through the International Experience Canada Program (IEC). Other work permit streams are listed in this guide. You may also be eligible for [permanent residency](#).

How do I get an IEC Work Permit?

See [here](#)

I am applying for the IEC Young Professionals Program and I am being asked for my Offer of Employment file number – what is this?

Your employer will provide this to you, as they need to file details about your Offer of Employment with IRCC.

How do I extend my IEC work permit?

IEC work permits cannot be extended. However, you may be eligible to participate in another IEC category. For example, if you have had the Working Holiday, you may still be eligible for the International Co-op.

NB: If you have had the WH, you are not eligible for the YP and vice versa. Please see the IEC website for details.

Note that you may be able to participate again using an IRCC recognized organization. See [here](#)

My partner has an IEC work permit. Am I entitled to a work permit?

The spouse or common-law partner of an IEC participant is not eligible to obtain an open work permit by virtue of the participant's IEC application. However, the spouse or common-law partner can apply for an open work permit if the IEC candidate is approved to work in Canada for 6 months or longer and is working in a job at skill level 0, A or B in the [National Occupational Classification \(NOC\)](#). Once the IEC permit holder starts working in Canada in a **SKILLED** occupation they are then considered to be a Skilled Worker and their spouses/partner can apply for an open work permit based on this status.

See [here](#)

How do I get this open permit?

See our guide on Work Permits for Spouses of Skilled Workers [here](#)

What is a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) and how do I get one?

See our LMIA guide [here](#)

I am on an LMIA. Do I have to pay EI?

Yes: even though you may not be able to claim these benefits. Your employment is deemed insurable and therefore EI must be deducted. You may request a ruling from the [Canada Revenue Agency](#).

How do I extend my LMIA or LMIA-exempt work permit?

See IRCC info [here](#).

Note that an LMIA itself cannot be extended; your employer will need to apply for a new LMIA for you. LMIA's are issued by Employment and Social Development Canada ([ESDC](#)) and are not issued by IRCC.

I have applied for PR through Express Entry. How do I get a BOWP (Bridging Open Work Permit)?

IRCC has indicated as of November 13, 2015 that,

“if an applicant is eligible to apply for a BOWP (i.e. currently working in Canada on a work permit due to expire within 4 months), s/he may submit an application for an open work permit to CPC-Vegreville upon submission of an electronic application for permanent residence (eAPR) in Express Entry. **The Acknowledgment of receipt Application for permanent residence letter, which is automatically issued to applicants in their MyCIC account, must be submitted along with the BOWP application to support the above claim.** Before a BOWP can be issued, the applicant's eAPR must first pass the completeness check in accordance with section 10 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations. Officers at CPC-Vegreville will check our processing system to ensure that the eAPR is complete before issuing a BOWP. If an eAPR is found to be incomplete, the application will be rejected and the applicant is no longer eligible for a BOWP. In these cases, the application for a BOWP will be refused.”

See [here](#)

Applicants must submit an *Application to Change Conditions, Extend my Stay or Remain in Canada as a Worker* form [IMM 5710 \(PDF, 460.55 KB\)](#) indicating that they are applying for an open work permit.

Work permit applications are processed as per information provided by the foreign national. The response to “What type of work permit are you applying for?” must be “Open work permit” to meet the eligibility requirements. Officers will ensure the applicants meet the eligibility requirements, regardless of whether an employer's name is mentioned.

Note as well that when answering the third question on the first page of the application form “I am applying for one or more of the following”, make sure you check off: “Apply for a work permit with the same employer”, as this will ensure that your application gets processed in the right office.

If you decide to send in your bridging open work permit application by post, then make sure you send it to the right address.

Do take note of the processing times though, as these fluctuate. Paper applications usually take twice as long to process as online applications.

### Very Important

A **\$100 fee** now applies to open work permit applications **in addition** to the standard government processing **fee of \$155**. This must be paid before you submit your application and included with the application. Make sure you check off ‘Open Work Permit Fee’ as well as the regular work permit fee when you complete your profile, so that your total is \$255 when you pay at the end of the online submission.

## What other work permits might I consider?

### Intra-company Transferee

Available to executive, senior managerial or specialized knowledge workers being transferred to Canada from Ireland by a related corporate entity (e.g. parent, subsidiary, affiliate). Applicant must have been employed by the related corporate entity abroad for a continuous period of at least one year out of the last three years in a similar position, and must be employed by the related entity at the time of applying for the work permit. Initial work permits under this category can be issued for up to three years but the first one is usually for one or two years. Specialized knowledge workers can extend their work permit and can stay for a maximum of five years, whereby executives and senior managers can extend so that they stay for a maximum of seven years.

See [here](#)

### International Mobility Program: CETA

- Key personnel: including intra-corporate (company) transferees, investors, and business visitors for investment purposes
- Contractual service suppliers and independent professionals
- Short-term business visitors

See [here](#)

### Global Skills Strategy

A niche program. Your potential employer will need to work with you on this. See [here](#). Work permit exemptions exist in some cases, such as those for highly-skilled workers and researchers. See the link above.

### Are you studying in Canada?

Find out how to work off campus as an international student [here](#).

### Post Graduate Work Permit

Available to a graduating student who has studied full-time in Canada at a [Designated Learning Institution](#) and has completed a program of study that lasted at least 8 months. This is a one-time work permit which cannot be extended. Note the extra \$100 open work permit fee (on top of the regular \$155 fee) also applies here.

See [here](#)

### Post-Doctoral Fellowships

Must be arranged directly through the Education Institute in question. The work permit can **usually** be applied for at the airport (you must check with the university and IRCC to confirm— it may be necessary to apply from your home-country) with the following documents in hand: original signed university contract and/or letter of offer from University, updated curriculum vitae, proof of educational qualifications: original or certified copy of terminal degree, valid passport, \$155 CDN per work permit requested. **Please confirm all document requirements with IRCC.**

**NB:** Under IRCC requirements, Canadian universities must submit an Offer of Employment to A Foreign National Exempt from a Labour Market Impact Assessment form, and pay a \$230 compliance fee for every foreign national invited. Be sure that your employer has done this and ask for proof to carry to the border. We cannot advise your employer. **In all cases follow IRCC's instructions.**

### C10 Significant Benefit

The foreign national's proposed benefit must be significant, meaning it must be important or notable. Officers will rely heavily on the testimony of credible, trustworthy, and distinguished experts in the foreign national's field and any objective evidence. The foreign national's past record is a good indicator of their level of achievement. Thus, the foreign national's past track record in their field should be strong and distinguished. It would be helpful to show that the foreign national can immediately be recognized as a leader in their field.

See [here](#)

### Reciprocity

There are formally-recognized reciprocal programs (such as the International Experience Canada program). Note that this provision also allows for admission of workers in other cases where reciprocity is demonstrated by the Canadian employer (or specific program administrator).

See [here](#)

## International Mobility Program: USMCA (previously NAFTA)

See [here](#).

This guide is by no means exhaustive. There may be other fits for you. Please consult IRCC's website.

Please note IRCC rules and regulations can be updated at any time. Be sure to clear your cookies and cache to get the most up-to-date documents and checklists as you complete your application.

This guide cannot be relied upon from a legal perspective. I/CAN provides information—[not advice](#). This information is gleaned from IRCC's website. Before proceeding, verify all information with Immigration Lawyers or Consultants.