

In a Skilled Trade and Coming to Canada



In Canada, trades are divided into two main categories:

- **Compulsory**
- **Optional**

These terms vary from province to province across Canada (designated, regulated etc.). Depending on which province you plan on settling in, your trade may be considered compulsory or optional and it is important that you find out which category you fit.

Compulsory Certification Trades

To work in a compulsory certification trade, a person must either hold a recognized trade certificate or be a registered apprentice in the trade. An employer wishing to hire persons to work in the trade must hire only certified journeypersons in that trade or apprentices registered in the trade and working under the supervision of a certified journeyperson. Compulsory certification trades usually involve work where public and worker safety needs to be closely monitored.

If your trade falls under the ‘**compulsory, designated, or regulated**’ category then you must get trade certification.

To help speed up this process before coming to Canada: Each province has different rules around this, but in general you can *start* the application process whilst still in Ireland, and then sit the exam when you arrive in Canada. Once again, depending on the provincial standards, your experience, and trade the application process *may* be halted until you arrive in Canada.

Each Province/Territory has its own Provincial and Territorial Apprenticeship and Certification Authorities:

Red Seal

In Canada, trades training and certification are the responsibility of the provinces and territories (known as jurisdictions). The Interprovincial Standards Red Seal Program was established to help harmonize training and certification requirements across Canada. Over the years, the Red Seal has become the national standard of excellence for skilled trades in Canada. The Interprovincial Standards Red Seal Program was established to create national standards for certain trades that are common to most jurisdictions. Trades approved for Red Seal status are called “**designated Red Seal trades.**” The Red Seal Program and the designation of trades as Red Seal is the responsibility of the Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship (CCDA). A trade may not have Red Seal status in each jurisdiction due to jurisdictional legislative differences in terms of the scope or definition of the trade. Red Seal designation is available to trades and occupations regardless of whether their workforces are unionized, non-unionized, or both.

<http://www.red-seal.ca/resources/r.2g.3st.2r@-eng.jsp>

