

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO GETTING YOUR CANADIAN VISA



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Overview

Canada's geographic diversity attracts millions of visitors every year. In 2017 and 2018, the number of visitors to the country exceeded 20 million.

Canada welcomes over 35 million visitors, students and workers. These temporary residents need a Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), to legally enter and live in the country.

Even as Canada's immigration policies evolve, it welcomes over 250,000 of immigrants annually. The introduction of the Express Entry system in 2015 paved the way for a more streamlined application process for immigrants. The country has made known its commitment to admit 1 million permanent residents between 2017 and 2020.

Visa exempt countries

Passport holders of the countries and territories listed below can visit Canada without obtaining a visa, for a period of up to six months. They need an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA), which is electronically linked to their passport, to board their flight to Canada, but don't require one if driving from the United States, or arriving by bus, train or boat, including a cruise ship.

An eTA is valid for up to five years or until the passport expires, whichever comes sooner. It does not guarantee that you will be allowed into the country – you will need to show your passport and other documents, such as a U.S. Green Card, to border service officers.

Andorra

Australia

Bahamas

Barbados

Brunei

Chile

Hong Kong

Iceland

Israel

Japan

Liechtenstein

Mexico

Monaco

New Zealand

Norway

Papua New Guinea

Samoa

San Marino

Singapore

Solomon Islands

South Korea

Switzerland

Taiwan

United Arab Emirates

United States

Vatican City

All European Union citizens



Types of Canadian Visas

Tourist Visa

A tourist visa or visitor visa allows you to enter Canada for purposes of tourism and leisure, for a short duration, usually less than six months.

Super Visa

A super visa allows parents or grandparents of Canadian citizens or Canadian Permanent Residents to visit their kids or grandkids for a longer period of time than a visitor visa. It has a validity of two years.

Diplomatic and Official Visa

Using this visa, officials and diplomats from foreign countries can enter Canada for official purposes and duties.

Business Visa

This visa is intended for individuals traveling to Canada for business purposes, as individuals or a group of business people

Courtesy Visa

This visa is reserved for individuals who aren't eligible for a Diplomatic or Official Visa but whose ranks and positions are considered to be of importance. Examples include diplomats visiting Canada for tourism and members of trade missions.

Student Visa

A student visa is given to individuals who

have successfully applied to a university in Canada, and will join a program with a duration of more than six months. For less than six months of study in Canada, the foreign national must apply for a visitor visa.

Facilitation Visa

Facilitation visas are intended for individuals holding dual nationalities, who don't have a Canadian passport but have the passport of another nationality.

Temporary Work Visa

A temporary work visa is for individuals who have a job offer in Canada and will be working for six months. The applicant must have a valid job offer from an employer in Canada.

Temporary Residence Permit

This permit is intended for individuals who need to visit Canada for different purposes, and who are otherwise cannot qualify for a TRV. This permit is approved only for the specific duration of time the applicant needs to be in Canada.

Working Holiday Visa

The Working Holiday Visa is available to young individuals from 30 countries who wish to travel or work in Canada. Successful applicants are chosen randomly from a pool of applicants.

Permanent Visas

Immigrant Investor Program

Intended for individuals who invest in the Canadian economy and have a net worth of at least CAD\$800,000. They are required to invest at least CAD\$400,000, and the government returns this amount to them after five years, without any interest.

Start-up Visa Program

Intended for individuals with a net worth of at least CAD\$300,000 who will contribute to the economy. They must commit to owning and managing at least 1/3rd of a Canadian business, and also create and maintain employment within three years of residing in the country.

Self-employed Persons

Intended for individuals who possess skills in business, culture, athletics or farming, and are willing to start their own business in Canada. They are required to demonstrate their specific skills and how they will finance their business.

Quebec-Selected Skilled Worker Program

If you can qualify to work in one of the occupations required in Quebec and are fluent in French, then you can apply under this program to reside in and work permanently in the province.

Family-Sponsorship

This visa permits the spouses and dependent children of Canadian citizens or Permanent Residents to permanently immigrate to Canada.

Live-in Caregiver

Intended for caregivers who are eligible to care for elderly, disabled persons or children living in private homes in Canada.

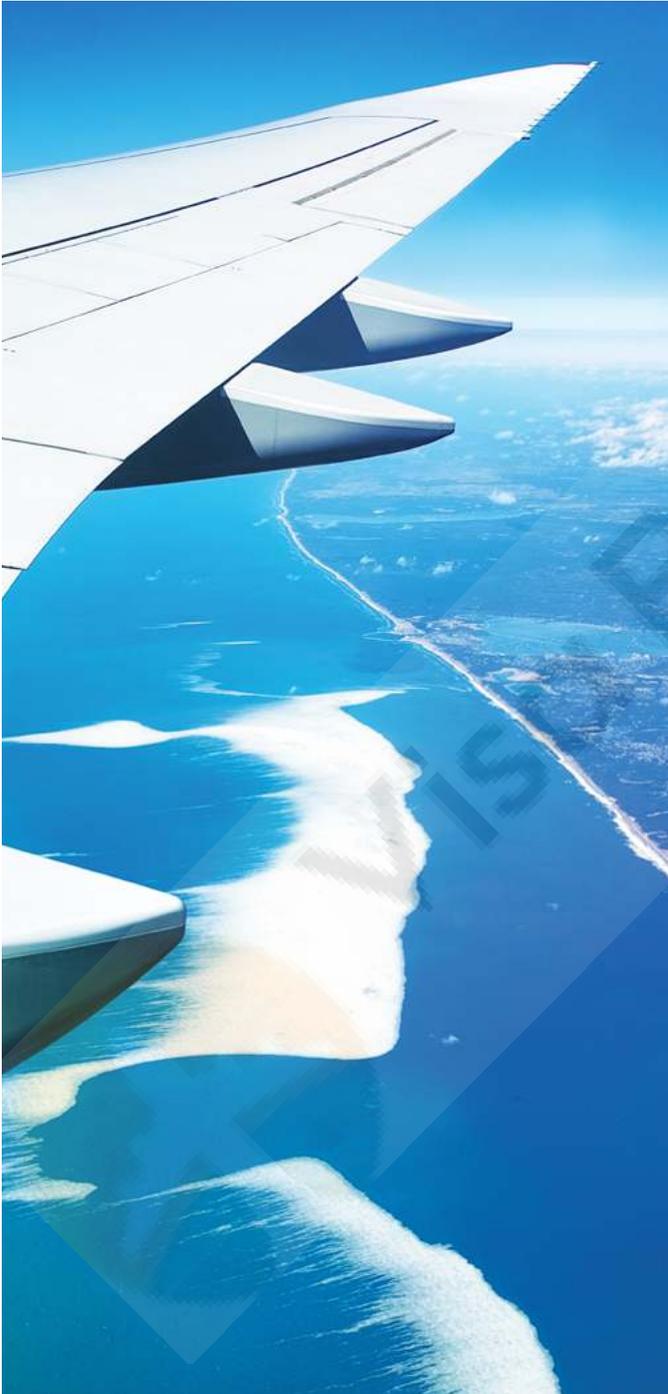
Express Entry Visas

Express Entry is an online immigration application system that invites skilled immigrants to apply for permanent residence in Canada.

Components of the program:

- *Federal Skilled Trades Program* for qualified tradespeople in occupations such as carpenters, welders, plumbers, crane operators, machinists, and so on.
- *Federal Skilled Worker Program* for individuals in professions required in Canada.
- *Provincial Nomination Program* for semi or low-skilled individuals who can, through their work, make a contribution to Canada's economy.
- *Canada Experience Class* is given to individuals who have a temporary student or worker visa, and wish to become permanent residents. Eligible individuals either have a Canadian education or work experience, and are assimilated into Canadian society.

Canadian Visa Statistics



At the end of 2017, there were 492,533 international students in Canada. From 2014 through 2018, total foreign enrolment in Canada grew by more than 73%, making it the fastest-growing study destination over that 5-year period.

At 129,592, the highest number of immigrants to Canada arrive from Asia and the Pacific. They also make up the highest number of family and work categories of immigrant visas.

The highest number of refugees accepted into Canada are from Africa and the Middle East.

In the first quarter of 2018, visitor visa refusal rates to Canada topped 30%. Although applicants' countries of citizenship and residence factor into the decision to grant or refuse a visitor visa, applicants from countries with higher refusal rates should be more careful to avoid the common reasons for visa denial.

Sources:

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