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Immigration



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The immigration module provides information for physicians relocating to Ontario who do not have Canadian citizenship or Permanent Residency status and require authorization from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to live and work in Canada. Authorization from IRCC is required to finalize the certificate of registration from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) and before starting to practise.

In this module you will find information about:

- **Temporary Foreign Worker Program work permits.**
- **Federal Skilled Worker Program for permanent residence.**
- **Family Class sponsorship for permanent residence.**



The content in the Physician Relocation Guide is based on HFO MRA expertise in the areas of physician licensing and certification, immigration and recruitment. HFO MRA is not responsible for the policies outlined in these modules, and policies may change without notice. While HFO MRA strives to keep information as up to date as possible, please contact/visit the responsible organization's website to verify policies and check for updates.



Work Permit – Temporary Foreign Worker Program

What are the requirements to apply for a work permit under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program?

Physicians must obtain the following before applying for a temporary work permit under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program:

- ✓ An approved job offer from an organization that has obtained a positive Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) from Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)/Service Canada for the position.
- ✓ A letter confirming approval for a certificate of registration from the CPSO.
- ✓ Completion of an IRCC **medical examination**.
- ✓ Other IRCC **general eligibility requirements** are met.

What is a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA)?

A LMIA is a document an employer may need to hire a foreign worker. A positive LMIA demonstrates a need to hire a foreign worker when there is no Canadian citizen or permanent resident available to do the job.

Are practice opportunities open to foreign applicants?

Foreign physicians may apply to practice opportunities in Ontario. They should include information about their status in Canada in their application. The organization will then assess their ability to apply for an LMIA.

How is a work permit application made?

IRCC offers paper applications as well as online applications. The first step is to determine which application route can be used and where the application can be made. If a visa is required for entry into Canada, the application must be made from outside of Canada and cannot be made at the port of entry.

Visit IRCC's [Apply for a Work Permit](#) page for more information.

Note: An **eTA** (Electronic Travel Visa) is required to enter Canada by air (excluding US citizens).

Is it possible to apply for a work permit at the border/port of entry?

It may be possible to apply for a work permit upon entry to Canada if a visa is not required and the physician has all required documentation.

The following documents/information are required to make an application at the border:

- ✓ Completed Medical Examination
- ✓ Valid Passport(s) (including family members if applicable)
- ✓ Copy of positive LMIA
- ✓ College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) decision letter/email confirming approval for registration
- ✓ Signed letter of employment
- ✓ Copy of CV
- ✓ Copy of current medical license
- ✓ Employer reference letters
- ✓ An **eTA** (Electronic Travel Visa) is required to enter Canada by air (excluding US citizens)

Visit IRCC's website for more information about **applying at the border**.

How long does it take to obtain a Work Permit?

Physicians who apply and receive approval at the border will have their work permit issued upon entry.

Processing times for applications made outside of Canada will depend on the visa office in the country where the application is being made. Visit IRCC's website to **check application processing times**.

Can a spouse or common law partner apply for a Work Permit?

A spouse or common law partner of an LMIA-supported physician may be eligible for a work permit. Typically, they can apply for an open work permit allowing them to work for any employer.

- If your spouse or common law partner works in health care or education, he or she will also need to undergo a medical examination and meet other IRCC **general eligibility requirements**.

Visit the IRCC website for more information. **Can my spouse or common law partner work in Canada?**

Do children require a study permit to attend school?

Children who are under the age of 18 do not require a study permit if they are accompanying a parent who is permitted to work in Canada.

Can a temporary work permit be renewed?

A temporary work permit enables a physician to work in Ontario for a specified time period or until permanent residency can be obtained under an alternate IRCC program.



Permanent Residency – Federal Skilled Worker Program

What are the eligibility requirements to apply as a Federal Skilled Worker (FSW)?

The **Federal Skilled Worker Program's** six selection factors are:

- Language skills in English and/or French
- Education
- Work experience
- Age
- A valid job offer
- Adaptability

Visit the **Determine your eligibility** page on the IRCC website for more detailed information.

What is the application process to apply as a Federal Skilled Worker?

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) uses an online process called **Express Entry** to select skilled immigrants. Candidates are assessed according to a ranking system that considers: language proficiency, education, Canadian work experience, and other factors. All candidates in the Express Entry pool are assigned a score according to their skills, education, and experience. Candidates with a job offer/positive LMIA will be given additional points. Candidates can use IRCC's **online questionnaire** to determine their eligibility.

Once eligibility has been determined, two steps are involved in the Express Entry selection process. Before you start, you will need:

- A **language test** recognized by IRCC
- Educational Credential Assessment (ECA)** report from the Medical Council of Canada

Step 1: Create an online profile and an expression of interest to join the Express Entry candidate pool.

Visit the IRCC website for information about building and creating an Express Entry **profile**.

Step 2: Wait for an Invitation to Apply (ITA).

The highest ranking candidates in the Express Entry pool will be extended an Invitation to Apply through a "draw". If an ITA is extended, the candidate will have 60 days to submit a completed application for permanent residency.

Note: Completing an online profile or being accepted into the Express Entry candidate pool does not guarantee that an Invitation to Apply for permanent residency will be received.

What is an ECA Report?

The ECA report is issued by the Medical Council of Canada's (MCC) credentials verification repository, found at physiciansapply.ca and provides verification of a medical degree only.

What is the processing time for an ECA Report?

On average, the processing time for an ECA report is anywhere from 75 to 100 days.

Why is an English Language Test required if the candidate is from an English speaking country?

IRCC assesses all candidates using the same standards no matter the language of origin. All Express Entry profiles require an acceptable language test.





Permanent Residency – Family Class (sponsoring a family member)

Which family members can be sponsored?

A Canadian citizen or permanent residents may be eligible to sponsor their spouse (married, common-law or conjugal partner) as well as their children for permanent residency under Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's (IRCC's) **Family sponsorship class**.

What steps are involved in sponsoring my spouse and/or children?

Sponsoring a spouse and/or children involves two applications that are submitted together:

Part 1: Application by the Canadian citizen or permanent resident requesting approval to become a sponsor.

Part 2: Permanent resident application for foreign citizen(s).

Once the sponsorship application is approved, the permanent resident application is sent by the Case Processing Centre to the respective visa processing office.

Important information about sponsorship including how to apply, the forms and supporting documentation requirements are available in the **Sponsorship of a spouse, common-law partner or dependent child living outside Canada guide**.

Information for Sponsors: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/sponsor/spouse-apply-how.asp>

Application processing times: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/times/index.asp>

