

New Pathway to Permanent Residency for Essential Temporary Workers and International Graduates

On April 14, 2021, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada [announced](#) a new pathway to permanent residency for essential temporary workers and international graduates. There are specific options for French-speaking or bilingual essential temporary workers and international graduates who intend to live outside of Quebec.

Background

Essential temporary workers who are living in Canada and who have at least one year of Canadian work experience in a health care setting or other pre-approved essential occupation are eligible under this new immigration program. International students who are living in Canada and who completed an eligible Canadian post-secondary program in a designated learning institution within the last four years (January 2017 or later) are also eligible under this new immigration program.

Applications for the new program will be accepted starting May 6, 2021. Applications will be accepted until November 5, 2021 or until the maximum number of applications are processed (20,000 for temporary health care workers, 30,000 for temporary workers in other essential occupations, 40,000 international graduates). There are no limits on applications for French-speaking applicants, but applications must be submitted between May 6 and November 5, 2021.

It is important to note the following:

- Refugee claimants or people with unsuccessful refugee claims are not eligible
- Applicants can include certain family members on their applications for permanent residence, but everyone (applicants and family members) must meet other Canadian immigration requirements, including medical admissibility requirements
- Applicants must be physically present in Canada at the time their application is submitted and when the application is approved
- Applicants must be employed at the time their application is submitted, and their work must be authorized work (with a work permit or other authorization)
- Applicants do not have to be employed in the same job or occupation in which they completed their one year of qualifying Canadian work experience, or a job or occupation related to their eligible post-secondary program
- Applicants cannot be self-employed, with the exception of medical doctors
- Applicants must maintain valid temporary residence status while the application is in process

Further information and eligibility requirements, including the list of eligible occupations can be found below:

- [Temporary Public Policy: Foreign Nationals with Recent Canadian Work Experience in Essential Occupations](#) (includes health-related and other essential occupations)
- [Temporary Public Policy: Foreign Nationals with a Recent Credential from a Canadian Post-Secondary Institution](#)
- [Temporary Public Policy: French-Speaking Foreign Nationals with Recent Canadian Work Experience in Essential Occupations](#) (includes health-related and other essential occupations)
- [Temporary Public Policy: French-Speaking Foreign Nationals with a Recent Credential from a Canadian Post-Secondary Institution](#)

Application Process

While application forms are not yet available, we recommend that people who are interested in submitting applications start collecting the following information that will likely be required:

- Recent (last two years) language test results that demonstrate that the applicant meets at least benchmark 4 in French or English for each of the four language skill areas (temporary health care workers, temporary essential workers) or at least benchmark 5 in French or English for each of the 4 language skill areas (international graduates)
- Authorized Language Tests in English: CELPIP, IELTS
- Authorized Language Tests in French: TEF Canada, TCF Canada
- Valid passport for applicant (and family members if applicable)
- Birth certificates for dependent children (if applicable)
- Current and previous immigration documents for family members in Canada (if applicable)
- Marriage, divorce, and/or death certificates for current/former spouses (if applicable)

Essential Temporary Workers

We suggest that those applying in the essential temporary worker stream start collecting the following proof:

- Detailed letters of employment for all work included in the application showing at least one year of full-time work experience or equivalent part-time experience (1560 hours) in Canada in an eligible occupation in the three years before the application is submitted:
 - Name of employer
 - Employer address and contact information
 - Name(s) of supervisor(s) and their signature(s)
 - Employment period and positions held
 - Duties and responsibilities of employment
 - Start and end dates (if applicable)
 - Total annual salary plus benefits, number of hours worked per week, number of weeks of worked per year, and any extended periods of leave

- T4 or other evidence demonstrating one year of paid employment in a qualifying occupation;
- Proof of compensation for all work included in application:
 - pay slips, pay cheques or pay statements for the first and last month of each work period
 - bank statements showing salary deposits for the first and last month of each work period
 - income tax documents
- Resume/CV
- Current valid work permit
- Work permits for all employment included in the application

International Graduates

We suggest that those applying in the international graduate stream start collecting the following proof:

- Diploma and/or official transcripts showing completion of an eligible program in Canada after January 2017 and before the application is submitted
- Study permits showing that the applicant was authorized to study in Canada throughout their program
- Current valid work permit
- Proof of current employment (see above *Essential Temporary Workers* section)

If you are living with HIV and have questions about immigration or refugee law, please call [HALCO](#). If you are not living with HIV, you can call your [local community legal clinic](#).