

International Experience Canada (IEC): An Overview

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We cannot advise on obtaining work permits.

International Experience Canada (IEC) provides young individuals the opportunity to travel and work in Canada. IEC is available in countries and territories that have a bilateral youth mobility agreement with Canada. For additional reference, please find attached an Appendix that highlights some of the IEC requirements as well as a factsheet on the program from Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada ("IRCC").

Please note that as part of your application, you will need to obtain police background checks, an immigration medical exam, provide evidence of savings of \$2500 (i.e. bank account statement) and proof of travel insurance. The application also requires an IEC participation fee of CAD\$150 and an open work permit fee of CAD \$100. Please refer to IRCC's website for a complete explanation of eligibility for the program:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/iec/eligibility.asp>

Please ensure to apply under the **WORKING HOLIDAY** category, which does not require an Employer Compliance Fee or an offer of employment number.

The IEC program is a multistep process, and depending on the popularity of the program for your country, it is based on a lottery. Applicants must submit a profile into a pool of candidates. From the pool of candidates, individuals will be periodically selected and be sent an Invitation To Apply ("ITA"). It is only after receiving an ITA that an individual may submit an application for a work permit to IRCC.

Step 1: COME TO CANADA WIZARD

Please note that the availability of the IEC - Working Holiday program varies based on nationality and residency, and is constantly changing. Please regularly check the information IRCC publishes online relating to invitations for the IEC program to ensure you have the most up to date information: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/iec/selections.asp>

The first step to obtaining a work permit under this category is to complete the Come to Canada questionnaire (click "Check your eligibility" at this link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/come-canada-tool.html>), which includes the following series of questions:

1. What would you like to do in Canada? – **IEC Travel and Work**
2. How long are you planning on staying in Canada? – **Answer as applicable, generally the answer is temporarily- less than 6 months. Do not input permanently.**
3. What is the country of your passport? – **Input relevant country**
4. What is your current country of residence? – **Input relevant country** (Do not select Canada even if you are in Canada)
5. Do you have a family member who is a Canadian citizen/permanent resident? – **Answer as applicable**
6. What is your date of birth? – **Answer as applicable**
7. Do you have a letter from one of these organizations? – Generally the answer is **NO**
8. What is your country of permanent residence? – **Answer as applicable.** For example, if you are an Australian citizen living in Mexico, indicate Australia
9. Do you plan to do a work placement or internship in Canada as part of your studies? – **Answer as applicable but if this is part of your studies, please indicate YES**
10. Do you have a signed offer letter, contract of employment, or internship agreement with an employer in Canada? – **Answer is NO (even though you may have been offered an internship position)**
11. Are you registered at a college or university in your country of citizenship? – **Answer as applicable but if this is part of your studies, please indicate YES**

Following the submission, results indicating eligibility to apply under IEC in the Working Holiday should be issued via a **personal reference code**, which will be required to create a profile via MyCIC. When making your application, please ensure to choose the **WORKING HOLIDAY** category.

Registration is required for a MyCIC account at the link provided in Step 3 of the Congratulations You're Eligible page. <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/e-services/mycic.asp>

Step 2: MyCIC

MyCIC requires that an applicant select a username and password as well as set up a series of security questions for his/her account, in order to retrieve login details. Following this, the applicant will need to input his/her full name, confirm that he/she is over 16 years old, and provide an email address.

Next, the applicant will need to set up another series of security questions which will be required each time he/she logs in. The steps to create an application are as follows:

1. Under "What would you like to do today?" select **International Experience Canada**.
2. On the next screen, enter your **personal reference code that was** generated in the Come To Canada questionnaire.
3. Set up profile

Set up of profile:

1. Enter the requested biographical details under "Personal Details"
2. Enter contact information under "Contact Information"
3. Answer YES to the question about wishing to be entered into the pool of candidates for this category under "Application Details"
4. The section for "Work and Education Details" should be pre-populated.

Once all of the above fields have been completed, please select "Continue" and follow the prompts to submit application.

Shortly after submitting an application, the applicant should receive a message confirming that he/she been added to the pool of candidates to receive an ITA. After receiving your ITA, an applicant will then complete an application for a Canadian work permit.

Countries of eligibility for the International Experience Canada (IEC) program - Working Holiday category are currently as follows:

1. Australia	2. Austria*	3. Belgium*	4. Chile
5. Costa Rica	6. Croatia	7. Czech Republic	8. Denmark
9. Estonia	10. France	11. Germany	12. Greece
13. Hong Kong SAR*	14. Ireland	15. Italy	16. Japan*
17. South Korea*	18. Latvia	19. Lithuania	20. Mexico** Currently NOT accepting applications for Mexico
21. Netherlands*	22. New Zealand	23. Norway	24. Poland
25. Portugal	26. San Marino	27. Slovakia	28. Slovenia
29. Spain	30. Sweden*	31. Republic of China (Taiwan)	32. Ukraine
33. United Kingdom*		* Must be 18 – 30 years old. ** Must be 18 – 29 years old.	For all other listed countries, applicants must be between 18-35 years old.

Appendix

IEC Program requirements

Generally, you must:

- be a citizen of a country that has an agreement with Canada (as noted above),
- have a valid passport from that country — please note your work permit in Canada will not be longer than the validity of your passport,
- be between the ages of 18 and 29, 30 or 35, depending on your country of citizenship (as noted above),
- have the equivalent of CAN\$2,500 to help cover your expenses in Canada,
- be able to take out health insurance for the duration of your stay—you may have to present evidence of this insurance to apply and when you enter Canada,
- be admissible to Canada and provide police certificates from countries you have lived in,
- have, prior to departure, a round-trip ticket or demonstrate that you will have the financial resources to purchase a departure ticket at the end of your authorized stay in Canada,
- not be accompanied by dependents, and
- pay the fees and be prepared to complete biometrics (photos and fingerprints at a VAC office outside of Canada when requested)

There are also specific requirements that differ depending on your country of citizenship. Please refer to the detailed information on IRCC's website to assess the requirements for your country of citizenship:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/iec/eligibility.asp?country>.

Please note that most countries require a permanent address in your country of nationality to be inputted into your work permit application.

Make sure to select your country of citizenship from the drop-down list under "Where are you from?" at the bottom of the webpage and to select the "Working Holiday" category to confirm the specific requirements for each country.