

International Experience Canada (IEC): An Overview – Recognized Organization Partner

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Recognized Organizations (RO) run youth mobility programs that allow **IEC Eligible Citizens plus US Citizens**, who are between **18 – 35 years old**, to apply through an RO for acceptance to the International Experience Canada (IEC) program.

You can participate in the IEC program using an RO even if you have participated the maximum number of times allowed for your country of citizenship without an RO. For example, if you are a citizen of New Zealand who has obtained the allowable one participation under the Working Holiday Program, you are still eligible to participate again with an RO acceptance.

There are two ROs that can be used –

1. SWAP Working Holidays - <https://swap.ca/collections/canada>
 - a. Service fee is \$1400
 - b. Add your name to the SWAP waitlist for a nomination while waiting for the 2024 quota to be opened at <https://swap.ca/products/canada-ro-nomination-why> and scroll to the bottom of the page to “How to Apply”
2. GO International - <https://gointernational.ca/programs/canada-working-holiday-program-sponsored/>
 - a. Service fee is \$3399
 - b. Sign up for GO International's newsletter to find out when it is accepting applicants at <https://gointernational.ca/newsletter/>

All applications to ROs require proof of savings of \$2500 (bank account statement), travel medical insurance, and a criminal record check.

The IEC is a multistep process. **Once accepted by an RO**, applicants must submit an online profile into a pool of candidates with Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (“IRCC”). 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. However, it is our understanding that having an approval from an RO should provide for an ITA from IRCC fairly soon after the applicant sets up their online profile.

COME TO CANADA WIZARD

Once you have received your RO letter, the next step to obtaining a work permit under this category is to complete the **Come to Canada** questionnaire: <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 or more than 6 months (do NOT select permanently)**
3. What is the country of your passport? – **Answer as applicable**
4. What is your current country of residence? – **Answer as applicable** (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 proving one of these organizations will help you plan your trip or find work in Canada? – **YES**
8. Select the name of the organization helping you plan your trip or find work in Canada. – **SWAP Working Holidays or GO International as applicable**
9. What is your country of permanent residence – **Answer as applicable. For example, if you are an Australian citizen living in Mexico, indicate Australia**
10. Do you plan to do a work placement or internship as part of your studies - **Answer as applicable, generally the answer is no**

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11. Do you have a signed letter of offer, contract of employment or internship agreement from an employer in Canada – **no (only answer yes if this internship is part of your studies)**
12. Are you registered at a college or university in your country of citizenship? **Answer as applicable, generally the answer is no**

Click Continue – the system will provide you with a **Personal Reference Number** – please copy this **Personal Reference Number as you will need for the next step**. Click on “Register to get a Key” under Step 3.

Step 2: Register to set up MyCIC (GCKey)

MyCIC GCKey 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. Click “Continue to GC Key” and “Sign Up” to set up an account.

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 and click “Continue”.
2. On the next screen, enter personal reference code 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 information requested under “Contact Details”
3. Answer **YES** to the question about wishing to be entered into the pool of candidates for this category under “Application Details”
4. “Name of the organization helping you plan your trip or find work in Canada” should be pre-populated with “SWAP Working Holidays”
5. “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. The work permit application requires an IEC participation fee of CAD\$172. This is in addition to any fees paid to the RO for their program. If you need to give biometrics, an additional \$85 will be required at the time you pay your IEC participation fee.