

Applying for the International Experience Canada 2018



Information Leaflet

January 2018

What is the International Experience Canada?

The International Experience Canada or IEC offers the opportunity for **Irish citizens between the ages of 18 to 35 to go to Canada for up to 24 months** to live and work there as part of a working holiday, internship or work placement.

The IEC is split into 3 categories:

- The **International Co-op (Internship)** category
- The **Young Professionals** category
- The **Working Holiday** category

Am I eligible to apply?

To apply, you must be an **Irish citizen** between the ages of **18 and 35** inclusive at the time of your application

You must meet the requirements of the specific category you intend to apply for i.e. International Co-op (Internship), Young Professionals, or Working Holiday

You must also:

- have an **Irish passport valid for your time** in Canada
- purchase **medical and health insurance** before your arrival and provide evidence that it is valid for your time in Canada
- have a **return ticket or enough money to buy one**
- have at least **C\$2,500** (approximately €1,700) and provide a recent bank statement as evidence of this
- provide certain **required documents**

Which category is for me?

- The **Working Holiday** category is for people who want to travel in Canada and work temporarily in Canada during their stay and have **NOT been to Canada before through the Working Holiday or Young Professionals category**. This is for a maximum of **24 months**
- The **Young Professionals** category is for people who have an **offer of employment in Canada** (particularly **graduates** of a post-secondary educational institution in Ireland) and have **NOT been to Canada before through the Working Holiday or Young Professionals category**. This is for a maximum of **24 months**
- The **International Co-op (Internship)** category is for **registered students** at a post-secondary educational institution in Ireland who want to complete a **work placement or internship in Canada** as part of their **academic curriculum** and have **NOT been to Canada before through the International Co-op (Internship) category**. This is for a maximum of **12 months**

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How many visas are available on the IEC?

In 2017 there were **10, 700 work permits** given to Irish candidates.

When can I apply?

2018 applications for all categories opened on 3 November 2017. See <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/iec/index.asp>

How much does it cost to apply?

The IEC participation fee is **C\$150** (approximately €100).

If you are applying for the **Working Holiday category you will have to pay an additional 'Open Work Permit Fee' of C\$100** (approximately €70) when you apply for your work permit online at MyCIC.

If you are applying for the **Young Professionals or International Co-op (Internship) categories**, your **Canadian employer will be required to pay the employer compliance fee of C\$230** when they submit the '*Offer of Employment to a Foreign National Exempt from a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) form*'.

How do I apply?

The IEC application process was completely overhauled in 2016 and no longer works on a first-come first-served basis.

Step 1: Become a Candidate

In order to become a candidate, you should follow the steps outlined here:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/iec/submit-profile.asp>

- **Determine your eligibility** by using the online tool provided
- **Submit your online profile.** You will need to create a MyCIC account to do this but it is free of charge
- If you are deemed eligible and create a profile, you will then be entered into a **pool** consisting of other candidates from your country
- **You may only apply for a work permit if you are issued an invitation.** Invitations will be issued regularly in rounds. You can request to be notified by email when rounds of invitations start and end. See <https://moving2canada.com/when-will-iec-2018-open/>
- **You will only stay in a pool for 12 months after you are entered into it.** If you do not receive an invitation during this time, your profile will expire and you will have to submit a new one

Step 2: Accept your Invitation and Apply for a Work Permit

- If you receive an invitation, you will **get a message to you MyCIC account** and you will then have **10 days to decide if you want to accept or decline**. If you accept the invitation, you will have **20 days from the day you accept it to apply for a work permit**. If the invitation expires, you will have to start the entire process again
- **In order to accept the invitation**, you should go to the section **‘Continue my profile / application, not yet submitted’** in MyCIC, find the application called **‘Work permit’** and then click **‘Start application’**
- You will then be asked to **complete an online form**
- On completion of this, a **personalised document checklist** will be issued to you and you will need to upload requested documents to support your application
- **Pay your fees**
- **Submit completed application**. The system will not allow you to do this until all requested documents have been uploaded
- **If your application is approved**, you will receive a **Port of Entry (POE) letter to your MyCIC account**. This is **not** your work permit. **You must keep this letter and present it to a Canadian Border Service Officer on your arrival** in Canada in order to receive your work permit

You will find more details on this process at the following link:

www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/iec/apply.asp

What documents will I need?

To apply you will need to **scan and submit online** the following **required documentation** for the Working Holiday, Young Professionals, and International Co-op (Internship) categories:

- a copy of your **passport**
- a **digital photo of yourself** (at least 35mm-45mm in size)
- a copy of your **Curriculum Vitae/résumé** – see these useful tips <https://moving2canada.com/resume-format-in-canada/>
- If you are applying for the **Young Professionals category**, you will also need: a copy of your **university degree, diploma and/or certificates**
- a **valid letter of offer or contract** from your prospective employer **for a job classified as a National Occupation Code (NOC) Skill Type Level O, A or B** (see here: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/noc.asp>). The employment offer must also be **within your field of expertise and contribute to your professional development**. This letter must be **on the employer’s headed paper** or be stamped with the company seal or business number. It should also include
 - the employer’s name, title and signature
 - the company name, address and contact details
 - the date on which the offer was drafted
 - the job title of the position offered

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- a description of the job duties and terms of employment including the rate of pay, the hours of work and the start and end date of the employment contract

If you are applying for the **International Co-op (internship)** category, you will also need:

- proof of **your registration at a post-secondary educational institution or in an apprenticeship** in Ireland for the duration of your employment in Canada (e.g. a copy of your student card or a certificate of enrolment)
- a **valid letter of offer or contract from your prospective employer for employment related to your studies**. This letter must be on the employer's letterhead or be stamped with the company seal or business number. It should also include
 - the employer's name, title and signature
 - the company name, address and contact details
 - the date on which the offer was drafted
 - the job title of the position offered
 - a description of the job duties and terms of employment including the rate of pay, the hours of work and the start and end date of the employment contract

More **information on the required documentation** can be found here:

www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/iec/apply.asp

In some cases, **you may also be asked to provide a police certificate** with your work permit application. As it can take several weeks or months to receive a police certificate it is worth applying for this well in advance of your application. Details of how to apply for this are available at: www.garda.ie/Controller.aspx?Page=1548

What do I need to know about employment?

Bring **evidence of your qualifications** and **check that they are recognised** in Canada before you go. You can do this through the website of the Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials at: www.cicic.ca

Try to **budget for periods of unemployment** by having access to enough money to support yourself financially as you may not find a job straightaway

Check the **exchange rate** of the Euro to the Canadian dollar before you go. Try <http://www.xe.com/>.

Some **useful job seeking links** for Canada are:

- www.jobbank.gc.ca
- www.workopolis.com
- www.monster.ca
- www.canadajobs.com
- www.irishjobs.ca

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What do I need to know about accommodation?

Try to **arrange temporary accommodation** before departing for Canada as it may take up to several weeks for you to find somewhere suitable to rent

Accommodation **can be expensive** especially in bigger cities like Toronto and Vancouver. You will commonly be asked for up to **one month's rent in advance** as well as **one month's rent as deposit**.

Accommodation is **often unfurnished** so be aware that this can be an additional expense. The websites [craigslist](#) and [kijiji](#) can be useful for finding furniture

A lease usually begins at the start of each month and is legally binding. Do not sign a lease for longer than you intend to live in the property. A **guide to renting in Canada for newcomers** is available from: <http://www.cmhc.ca/newcomers/en/renting.html>

Some useful **accommodation finding websites** in Canada are:

- www.canadarentalguide.com
- www.hihostels.ca
- www.airbnb.ie/s/Canada
- www.backpackers.ca

Can I go to Canada again on the IEC?

From 2013, if you were **previously in Canada for up to 12 months on a Working Holiday** you **can** apply to **participate in the IEC again** in a **category of your choice**

You **can** also participate in the **Young Professionals** or **Working Holiday** category if you have been to Canada previously for up to 12 months on the **International Co-op (Internship)** category

You **cannot** participate in either the **Young Professionals** and/or the **Working Holiday** categories if you have **previously been to Canada for over 12 to 24 months through either of these** categories

However if you have an employer willing to sponsor you, you could **apply instead for a work permit**. For more information see the official immigration website of the Canadian Government at: www.cic.gc.ca

Where can I get support and advice in Canada?

There are a number of **Irish associations and support groups based in Canada** that can provide you with support, advice and even networking opportunities. Many of these groups also have useful Facebook pages where you can connect with other members of the Irish community in Canada.

- **Irish Canadian Immigration Centre** - Based in Toronto, the Irish Canadian Immigration Centre provides outreach and information on employment, social services and immigration to newly arrived Irish immigrants. Their website also contains many useful links and blogs on life in Canada.
Website: www.irishcanadianimmigrationcentre.org Email: cmurphy@irishcdn.org
- **Irish Association of Toronto** - This association acts as a meeting point and support outlet for Irish immigrants in the Toronto area.
Website: www.torontoirishassociation.com
- **Ireland Canada Centre of Commerce Calgary** - This association provides access to business opportunities and Irish related networking events.
Website: www.iccccal.com
- **St Patrick's Society of Montreal** - This organisation provides assistance and advocates on behalf of Irish immigrants in the Montreal area.
Website: www.spsmtl.com Email: office@spsmtl.com
- **Irish Living in Montreal** - Irish Living in Montreal provide the Irish community in Montreal with the opportunity to connect via their Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/groups/23468920395/
- **Irish Women's Network of BC** - The Irish Women's Network of BC provides women of Irish descent in British Columbia with support and networking opportunities as well as providing information and networking seminars for newcomers.
Website: www.irishwomenbc.net Email: irishwomensnetwork@gmail.com
- **Irish in Vancouver**
The Irish in Vancouver Facebook page and website supports and connects all Irish in the Lower Mainland with a particular focus on new arrivals, and provides information and networking opportunities with members of the community.
Website: www.irishinvancouver.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/irishinvancouver
- **Moving2Canada**
The Moving 2 Canada website contains practical information on living and working in Canada, including city specific information on accommodation finding and employment. Go to www.moving2canada.com

- **Your local regional GAA Club**

Clubs can be found in Alberta, British Columbia, Quebec, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador. The website for the GAA in Canada is <http://www.gaa.ie/my-gaa/world-gaa/our-clubs/canada/>

The Irish Embassy or local Consulate in your area can also assist with consular services including replacing lost or stolen passports. Details for the Embassy of Ireland to Canada are as follows:

Embassy of Ireland,
Suite 1105 (11th Floor)
130 Albert Street
Ottawa
Ontario K1P 5G4
Tel: +1 613 233 6281
Fax: +1 613 233 5835
Website: www.embassyofireland.ca

For details of local Irish Consulates see: www.dfa.ie/embassies/irish-embassies-abroad/north-and-central-america/canada/

Useful tips

- **Do your research before you go**
- **Be prepared** – have all your documents ready (including a Canadian style résumé) for when the application process opens
- **Organise temporary accommodation** – it can take time to find rented accommodation so try to arrange somewhere temporary to stay on arrival e.g. [Airbnb](https://www.airbnb.com/) or hostel accommodation
- **Do bring more than the minimum amount of savings** – the initial costs of setting yourself up in Canada can be expensive
- **Look for work as soon as you arrive if you are on the Working Holiday** – securing a ‘survival’ job on arrival will give you time to look for a job you really want
- **Take a look at www.mindhowyoudo.ie** which contains practical advice from recent Irish emigrants about coping with emigration

Where can I get more information?

- Official information on International Experience Canada (IEC) is available at www.cic.gc.ca/IEC-EIC/
- Answers to **Frequently Asked Questions** can be found at www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/results-by-topic.asp?t=25
- Information on **other visa options** can be found at the official immigration website of the Canadian Government at: www.cic.gc.ca
- See **our website** www.migrantproject.ie or find us on **Twitter** ([@irishmigrants](https://twitter.com/irishmigrants)) and **Facebook** (www.facebook.com/CrosscareMigrantProject). You can also **contact us directly** by emailing migrantproject@crosscare.ie or calling + 353 (0) 1 873 2844

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Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Disclaimer: This leaflet contains guidelines only. Crosscare Migrant Project has made every effort to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate; however, policies and legislation can change at any time. All information should be clarified with the relevant government department or authority before any decision is made.

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