

Canada - Official Application Processing Times

Last updated on 26th June 2010

Please note: These processing times are provided as an indication only and are subject to change at any time without prior notice. Please contact your assigned Migration Consultant for details.

Skilled Workers

Skilled workers are people selected as permanent residents based on their ability to become economically established in Canada. Federal skilled worker applications are assessed for eligibility according to the Following criteria;-

For your application to be eligible for processing, you must:

- include the results of your official language proficiency test, **AND**
- have a valid offer of “arranged employment”, **OR**
- have one year of continuous full-time paid work experience in at least one of the occupations listed below.

If you meet the above minimum requirements, your application will be processed according to the six selection factors in the skilled worker points grid: - your education, your abilities in English and/or French (Canada’s two official languages), your work experience, your age, whether you have arranged employment in Canada, and your adaptability. You must also show that you have enough money to support yourself and your dependants after you arrive in Canada.

Note: At present the pass mark for Skilled Worker applicants is 67 points, and for Business migrant is 35 points

If you are applying under one of the 29 eligible occupations (see below), as of June 26, 2010, a maximum of 20,000 Federal Skilled Worker applications will be considered for processing in the following 12 months. Within the 20,000 cap, a maximum of 1,000 Federal Skilled Worker applications per eligible occupation will be considered for processing each year. These limits do not apply to applications with an offer of arranged employment.

New federal skilled worker applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria outlined above will not be processed and the application fee will be refunded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

The high-demand occupations (listed by their National Occupation Categories) are:

0631 Restaurant and Food Service Managers	3233 Licensed Practical Nurses
0811 Primary Production Managers (Except Agriculture)	4151 Psychologists
1122 Professional Occupations in Business Services to Management	4152 Social Workers
1233 Insurance Adjusters and Claims Examiners	6241 Chefs
2121 Biologists and Related Scientists	6242 Cooks
2151 Architects	7215 Contractors and Supervisors, Carpentry Trades
3111 Specialist Physicians	7216 Contractors and Supervisors, Mechanic Trades
3112 General Practitioners and Family Physicians	7241 Electricians (Except Industrial & Power System)
3113 Dentists	7242 Industrial Electricians
3131 Pharmacists	7251 Plumbers
3142 Physiotherapists	7265 Welders & Related Machine Operators
3152 Registered Nurses	7312 Heavy-Duty Equipment Mechanics
3215 Medical Radiation Technologists	7371 Crane Operators
3222 Dental Hygienists & Dental Therapists	7372 Drillers & Blasters - Surface Mining, Quarrying & Construction
	8222 Supervisors, Oil and Gas Drilling and Service

NOTE: the occupations above are all Skill Type 0 (managerial occupations) or Skill Level A (professional occupations) or B (technical occupations and skilled trades) on the Canadian NOC list.

Average Processing Times – Outside Canada

For applicants resident in:	Germany, Netherlands or Belgium	United Kingdom
Canadian Visa Office:	Berlin	London
Skilled Migration	10 months (16 for Quebec)	8 months (10 for Quebec)
Business Migration (Entrepreneur)	26 - 35 Months (N/A for Quebec)	39 - 52 Months (N/A for Quebec)
Business Migration (Investor)	25 - 29 months (N/A for Quebec)	17 - 25 months (8 - 57 for Quebec)
Spouse and Partners Migration	16 months	8 months
Parents and Grandparents Migration	22 months	15 months
Temporary (student)	93% processed in 28 days or less	40% processed in 28 days or less
Temporary (work permit)	92% processed in 28 days or less	74% processed in 28 days or less

For applicants resident in:	Poland	Australia or New Zealand
Canadian Visa Office:	Warsaw	Sydney
Skilled Migration	8 months (6 for Quebec)	6 months (17 for Quebec)
Business Migration (Entrepreneur)	N/A	N/A
Business Migration (Investor)	N/A	N/A
Spouse and Partners Migration	6 Months	9 Months
Parents and Grandparents Migration	16 Months	24 Months
Temporary (student)	79% processed in 28 days or less	83% processed in 28 days or less
Temporary (work permit)	74% processed in 28 days or less	87% processed in 28 days or less

Average Processing Times – In Canada

For permanent residence applicants resident in Canada (for temporary lawful resident only) applying under Skilled Migration, Business migration, Spouse Migration or Parent Migration, applications should first be sent to the Centralized Intake Office in Sydney, Nova Scotia. Following their acceptance, applications are processed at the Canadian Consulate in Buffalo, USA.

Average Visas Processing Times	Buffalo
Skilled Migration	8 months (9 months for Quebec)
Business Migration (Entrepreneur)	25 – 66 months (N/A for Quebec)
Business Migration (Investor)	14 – 35 months (6 – 19 months for Quebec)
Spouse and Partners Migration	10 months
Parents and Grandparents Migration	18 months
Temporary (student)	62% processed in 28 days or less
Temporary (work permit)	75% processed in 28 days or less

Notes:

- 1) Processing times based on 80% of applicants receiving their visas in the time – except for Business Migration where range is given for 30% to 80% of applicants.
- 2) Skilled Migration times apply as long as applicants have satisfied 1 or the above 3 criteria.
- 3) Parents & Grandparents times do not include sponsorship processing time.
- 4) If shown N/A – an office has finalised less than 10 cases in the last year.
- 5) Times for temporary work permits do not include the time required to obtain a labour market opinion from Service Canada).

For all applicants from a country of residence or visa category that is not specified above, please contact your Migration Consultant for assistance.