

Express Entry – Fast facts

- From January 1, 2015, Canada's department of Citizenship & Immigration introduced a new Express Entry system for the electronic management of the Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP), the Federal Skilled Trades Class (FSTC) and the Canadian Experience Class (CEC).
- Under this system, if you are planning to immigrate to Canada through any of these programs, you cannot file an immigration application directly to Citizenship & Immigration Canada. You must first receive an Invitation to Apply.
- The Express Entry system involves 2 main steps. The first is for you to submit an online Express Entry profile to Citizenship & Immigration Canada. Prior to creating this online profile, you should confirm that you meet the requirements of the program you are seeking to immigrate under.
- If you meet program requirements, you will be able to create an Express Entry profile and you will be entered into the Express Entry pool. Once in the pool, you may promote yourself to employers, recruiters and through job boards. In some cases, you must also register with the Job Bank of the Canadian Department of Employment and Social Development.
- In the Express Entry pool, you will be assessed and assigned a score according to a skill based ranking system – the Comprehensive Ranking System. You will be ranked against other candidates on core human capital and skills transferability.
- Candidates with a valid job offer or a provincial or territorial nomination will receive additional points and are likely to quickly receive an Invitation to Apply (ITA). However it is not mandatory that you have a job offer or provincial nomination for selection for an ITA.
- Candidates with the highest scores will be selected through a draw. It is anticipated that draws will be made regularly and consistently - possibly every 2 weeks. If you are selected through a draw, you will receive an ITA for permanent residence in Canada.
- Initially the majority of invitations are expected to be to candidates who rank high on core human capital and skills transferability. This is because Citizenship & Immigration Canada does not anticipate that many people at the initial stage will have arranged job offers or provincial nomination.
- If you receive an ITA, step 2 of the Express Entry system will require you to submit an online application for permanent residence within 60 days of receipt of the ITA. Citizenship & Immigration Canada has indicated that no extensions will be granted, so candidates should be prepared to submit an application within the time frame indicated.
- On receipt of your application, Citizenship & Immigration Canada will verify your eligibility and admissibility and take a final decision on your application. The target is that 80% of applications will be processed within 6 months.
- Receipt of an ITA does not guarantee that you will be approved for permanent residence in Canada. You must still meet the eligibility and admissibility requirements of Citizenship & Immigration Canada.

Important facts

- Express Entry is not a new immigration program. It is simply a new system to manage applications.
- There is no eligible occupations list and there is no annual cap on the number of candidates that can be entered into the Express Entry pool. This creates opportunity for a larger number of candidates to enter the pool.
- However, Express Entry does not change the requirements of the 3 economic immigration programs. Candidates must still meet the eligibility criteria for their class of application.
- There is no government fee payable to enter the Express Entry pool.
- Entry in the pool does not guarantee that a candidate will receive an ITA.
- Candidates can remain in the pool for up to 1 year, and should consider options to increase their ranking once in the pool.
- In creating their profiles, candidates should be extremely careful to enter correct and accurate information, and should update their profiles when their information changes.
- Candidates who provide wrong or misleading information in their Express Entry profile may receive a 5 year ban from immigrating to Canada.

To learn more or to retain our services, please **book a consultation** with our Mrs. Abiola Anyakwo, Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant.