



DESJARDINS
LAWYERS

CANADA EXPRESS ENTRY ELIGIBILITY GUIDE FOR ENTREPRENEURS



How to Add 250
CRS Points to
Your Express Entry
Application



Why Was this Guide Written?

The Express Entry is the fastest and most popular way for people to immigrate to Canada, but strict requirements make it a challenging option for the unprepared. This immigration pathway offers a prime opportunity for individuals wanting to obtain their Canadian Permanent Residency (PR via the Express Entry stream, even though they may not qualify for this option.

This guide was written to help entrepreneurs and business people better understand the Express Entry system's fundamentals and build a more robust profile that will help them be eligible and invited to apply for PR.



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ABOUT THE EXPRESS ENTRY

WHAT IS THE EXPRESS ENTRY

The Express Entry is a Federal immigrant application system that manages applications from skilled workers looking to obtain PR for Canada. It ranks applicants based on their work experience, education, language proficiency, age and other factors to assess and score their profile. The Canadian Federal Government has their ranking system in place to ensure that only the most qualified individuals who can contribute to the needs of the Canadian economy are eligible.

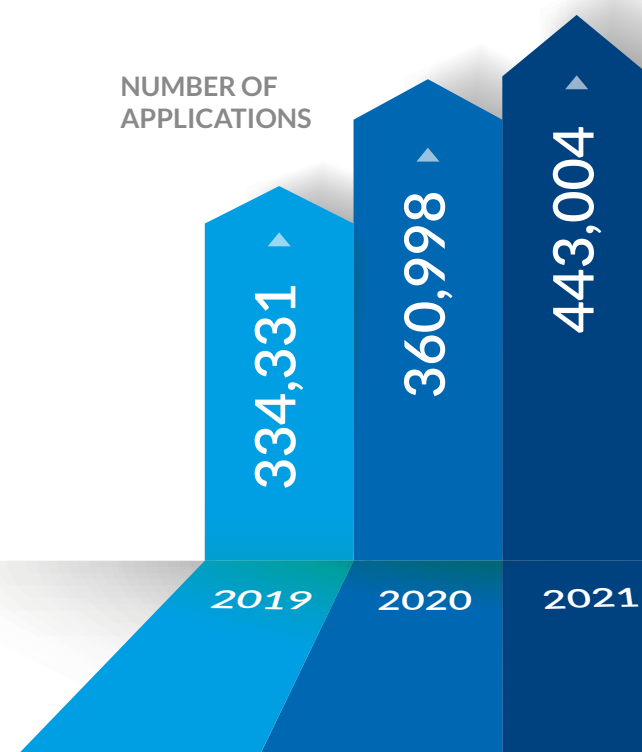
The number of both total applicant profiles submitted via the Express Entry system and those deemed eligible has increased substantially over the last few years, indicating the sheer popularity of the program.

Out of 443,004 applicants, 326,257 were considered eligible profiles in 2021. From the 326,257 eligible profiles, 14,431 invitations were issued in 2021, an increase of 6% from the 107,350 invitations issued in 2020. However it still represents a little over 4% of all the eligible candidates in EE pool.

WHY THE EXPRESS ENTRY?

The Express Entry is a highly desirable pathway due to the relatively speedy process, considering other immigration categories. It is the key benefit for the vast majority of applicants as it is currently the fastest way for individuals to obtain PR in Canada (12 months on average). Compared to many immigration programs that could take years to complete, this considerable advantage makes it not only the most popular venue for immigration to Canada, but also, the country's most highly competitive program.

NUMBER OF
APPLICATIONS





GIVEN THAT ONLY 25% OF APPLICANTS RECEIVED AN INVITATION FOR PR, IT IS CRITICAL FOR THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE EXPRESS ENTRY TO MAKE THEIR PROFILE AS STRONG AS POSSIBLE. THIS ALL GOES TO SHOW HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO BE ELIGIBLE AND BE INVITED TO APPLY FOR PR. THE EXPRESS ENTRY SYSTEM IS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE, AND MUST BE TREATED AS SUCH.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS FOR APPLICATION?

1. At a high level, here are the steps that you should expect when applying for the Express Entry. You will need to determine if you're eligible for the Express Entry based on the subcategory. Under the federal skilled worker sub-category, you would need to pre-qualify in order to become eligible to create an EE profile.

This program has minimum requirements for:

- skilled work experience
- language ability
- education

If you meet all the minimum requirements, you will be assessed based on six factors:

- age
- education
- work experience

- whether you have a valid job offer
- English and/or French language skills
- adaptability (how well you're likely to settle here)

You must pre-qualify on a 100-point grid used to assess eligibility for the Federal Skilled Worker Program. You earn points for how well you do in each of the 6 factors.

The current pass mark is 67 points. If you reach 67 points, then you can create your EE profile and obtain a CRS score.

If you are below 67 points grid, then you need to check other categories, such as Canadian Experience Class, which does not have such pre-requisite and you qualify based on 2 factors:

- Language proficiency in one of official languages - English or French;
- Qualified Canadian Experience

2. If your profile is duly vetted, it will be retained in a pool for 12 months along with those of other candidates that meet the CRS score.

3. The candidates with the highest rankings will receive an Invitation To Apply (ITA) for PR.





ELIGIBILITY FOR THE EXPRESS ENTRY

WHAT IS THE MINIMUM CRS SCORE REQUIRED?

The Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) score is the Express Entry's grading. The CRS score changes frequently. Based on past Express Entry draws, the minimums were averaging between 440 to 480 points out of 1,200. However, as a rule of thumb, keep in mind that hitting the minimum score only means you are eligible for the program.

The higher your CRS score is, the better your chances are to be included in the rounds of invitations to apply for PR. Remember that roughly only 25% of Express Entry applicants receive these invitations, and it can be safely assumed that a majority of these individuals obtained a high CRS score. Your goal should be to achieve the highest score possible to improve your chances of getting your invitation to apply for the Canadian PR.

To find out your score
you can use the CRS assessment

CLICK HERE

*IF YOU ATTAIN AT LEAST 440
POINTS UNDER CURRENT CRS
SCORE, THEN YOU ARE ELIGIBLE
TO SUBMIT YOUR PROFILE FOR
THE EXPRESS ENTRY.*

To find out if you have the minimum
score required, you can check the
CRS score of the lowest-ranked
candidate invited from the last round

CLICK HERE



WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE THE MINIMUM CRS SCORE REQUIRED?

Common misconceptions about the way the CRS score is calculated can surprise many business people for not achieving the minimum score. In many cases, even entrepreneurs with a high level of education and intermediary English or French proficiency do not meet the minimum requirements. The reason is that they do not have professional work experience in Canada.

The Federal Government considers the latter a crucial component for determining candidate eligibility, as it demonstrates the individual's familiarity with working in Canada and their commitment and ability to contribute to the Canadian economy. More

work experience in general, and in Canada specifically, will provide you a higher CRS score.

One great way to gain work experience in Canada is by applying for one of the 2 business immigration programs that can potentially increase your score up to 250 additional points by starting and running your own business in Canada. The two programs are the Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA), and one of the LMIA exempt categories within the International Mobility Program, such as Intra-Company Transferee (ICT) .





OPTIONS TO BOOST YOUR EXPRESS ENTRY SCORE

HOW WILL THE WORK EXPERIENCE ACQUIRED IN THE CAPACITY OF BUSINESS OWNER / MANAGER WITHIN INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY PROGRAM C-11 MAY HELP?

As mentioned, the Express Entry system favours those who have work experience in Canada. You can gain this work experience as a business owner by creating your own employment in Canada. It will allow you to accumulate managerial experience (on an executive position level) within Canada.

Managerial roles provide a stronger profile for the Express Entry system, as they demonstrate a candidate's ability to start and run their own business in Canada.

Entrepreneurial-minded individuals who possess executive work experience are considered high value candidates compared to their counterparts who lack the same and will be allocated more points towards their CRS score. After 1 year of working in Canada, with no regional restrictions, you can potentially get an additional 250 points to figure in your profile submission for the Express Entry.

OPTION #1: ABOUT THE C-11

Basically, it's a work permit that allows you to work in Canada by establishing your own new business.

Based on your Business Management background, we will assess your options and determine the best suitable scenario amongst the following:

1. Start your own business (we will assist you in developing your business idea);
2. Become a majority shareholder of an active Canadian Company (we will share with you existing business opportunities);

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR C-11:

- Have completed at least a High School degree.
- Have at least an intermediate Language level in French or English (at least 5 on a scale of 10).
- Start your own business or be a majority shareholder of an eligible Canadian business;
- You will have to create a viable business and gradually invest in it.
- Have a particular business background or skills that will boost the business' viability in Canada;
- Shows that you have taken clear steps to launch your business in Canada, for example:
 - i) show the financial ability to launch the business and pay expenditures;
 - ii) rent a space and have a staffing plan.
 - iii) obtain a Canadian business number.
 - iv) show signed ownership documents or agreements.
- Demonstrate that your business will generate significant economic benefits for Canadians. Indicators of "significant benefit" include:
 - i) General economic stimulus, such as job creation, development in a regional or remote setting or expansion of export markets for Canadian products and services.
 - ii) Advancement of the Canadian industry, such as technological development, product or service innovation or differentiation or opportunities for improving the skills of Canadians.



OPTION #2: ABOUT THE INTRA-COMPANY TRANSFEREES (ICT)

Intra-Company Transferees (ICT) is a work permit category of business immigration designed for foreign entrepreneurs wanting to open a branch, parent company, affiliate, or subsidiary in Canada. Employers wanting to transfer an employee to start a new operation or work at an existing one in Canada are the ideal candidates for ICT.

The ICT program is best suited for entrepreneurs who have a medium-sized business. It is a competitive case - from the government's perspective - as it shows that you have an established business and can apply your business practices in Canada and create jobs for the labour market.

Multinational companies are great examples of businesses that work well with the program. Companies that do not have current operations in Canada can start a new one and have a designated employee manage the business once there. For the purpose of the Express Entry, you would send yourself to be the designated employee in order to gain the work experience in Canada.



BASIC ICT REQUIREMENTS

- You must have an intermediate level in French or English of CBL 7 or higher.
- You must have a University degree.
- You need to Invest a minimum of \$75,000 into the Canadian business to demonstrate that you can cover business expenses for at least the first year of operation

ICT PROCESS

In order to apply for this program, you need to have worked continuously in your company for at least 1 year (full-time) in the past 3 years in one of the following 3 positions:

- Executive level - primarily running the day-to-day management of the company, or a significant component thereof, and receiving only general (if any) supervision from higher-level executives.
- Senior Manager (functional level) - individuals who may not supervise other employees, but work at a senior level and are essential in achieving the company's goals.
- Specialized knowledge level - employees who have access to critical skills and expertise in the company's processes and procedures (which an outsider - regardless of their abilities - would not know). These individuals have proprietary knowledge about their

company's product or service, and are essentially considered subject matter experts in their field. Their contribution to their company should be significant, which would justify their employer's decision to send them to work in Canada on their behalf.

Under the Senior and Executive managerial capacities mentioned above under senior management occupations, you will be able to secure an offer of employment granting 200 points to the CRS score, and 50 points under the functional managers and specialized knowledge capacities. The IRCC will determine whether an individual is a Senior Manager by evaluating their job duties and experience, as well as the structure of the business.

You will be able to claim your points after working 1 year in Canada with the expectations of the ICT program. The entire process along with the application of the Express Entry can take approximately 28 months to complete.





WHY YOU SHOULD APPLY FOR WORK PERMIT BY CREATING YOUR OWN EMPLOYMENT

Entrepreneurs interested in the Express Entry immigration to Canada need to take advantage of the International Mobility Options such as ICT programs sooner rather than later. The pool of applicants is growing each day; this increasing competition makes it difficult for candidates to set themselves apart.

If you want to ensure you receive an invitation for PR, you need to build a reputable profile, which most importantly means acquiring as many CRS points as possible. Whichever program you choose, LMIA and ICT can accelerate your Express Entry process by boosting your score up by 250 points.

If you are an entrepreneur with an innovative business idea in a competitive industry and don't wish to undergo the lengthy procedural aspects of Canada's popular Express Entry programs, the Start-Up Visa is a notable alternative. This federal business immigration program allows qualified candidates to obtain PR much faster than OWNER/OPERATOR LMIA and ICT (12 to 16 months vs. 28 to 32 months), and its unique structure to start an innovative business anywhere in Canada (except for Quebec) is a great choice for many entrepreneurial professionals.

Learn more about the Start-Up Visa

CLICK HERE



Looking To Add Up To 250 Points To Your Express Entry Profile?

The Desjardins Lawyer team is ready to help
you apply for the OWNER/OPERATOR LMIA
or ICT business immigration program.

[CHECK MY ELIGIBILITY FOR
OWNER/OPERATOR LMIA](#)

[CHECK MY ELIGIBILITY FOR ICT](#)