

International PhD students or graduates: Want to stay in Canada permanently? Find out how



If you are pursuing a PhD at a provincially or territorially recognized degree-granting institution in Canada (or recently graduated from a Canadian PhD program), you may be eligible to apply for permanent residence under the Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP), Canada's flagship economic immigration program. This special eligibility stream is capped at 1,000 new applications per year.

Step 1: Meet the eligibility requirements for the PhD stream

Who is eligible to apply?

1) International students who:

- are enrolled in a PhD program at a Canadian institution;
- have completed at least two years of study toward a PhD;
- are in good academic standing at the time of application (according to a written letter from their university—see “How to apply” for more details); and
- have not received an award requiring them to return to their home country to apply their knowledge and skills.

2) Graduates of a PhD program from a Canadian institution who:

- graduated no more than 12 months before the date Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) receives their application; and
- did not receive an award that required them to return to their home country to apply their knowledge and skills (or did, but have met the terms of the award).

Step 2: Meet the Federal Skilled Worker Program requirements

Like any other FSWP applicant, you must have:

- at least one year of continuous, paid full-time (or part-time equivalent) work experience in a managerial, professional or technical occupation within the last 10 years (skill type 0, or skill level A or B in the 2011 version of the National Occupational Classification—see hrsdc.gc.ca/noc);

- a minimum of Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) 7 in English or French in all four language skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing); and
- either a Canadian educational credential or a foreign educational credential (with its corresponding educational credential assessment from a CIC-designated organization).

To be successful, you will need a score of 67 points or higher on the FSWP selection grid. See cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/apply-factors.asp for more information on the six selection factors.

All FSWP applicants must show that they have the minimum funds required to support themselves and their families. The amount of money you need is set by the size of your family. For more information, please see cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/funds.asp. Applicants must also be found admissible to Canada.

How to apply:

You are strongly encouraged to make sure you meet all the above requirements before submitting your application. For more detailed information and to get a FSWP application kit, visit cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled.

Note that applicants currently enrolled in a Canadian PhD program must also include a letter of attestation to show that they are in good academic standing. The letter must be an original, printed on institutional letterhead with an official stamp or seal, and signed by the Dean of Graduate Studies or his/her designate. A template can be found at cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/guides/pdf/PhD_Attestation_EN.pdf.

