

# Welcome to Canada



## FOREIGN CREDENTIAL RECOGNITION



If you're thinking about immigrating, working or studying in Canada you may need to get your professional or educational credentials assessed. In Canada, some occupations are regulated and vary by province. This means you will need a special licence or certificate before you can work in regulated jobs.

Credentials can refer to a *diploma*, *degree* or *certificate* you received for completing a program of study or training at an educational or training institution.

Credentials obtained outside of Canada may not be recognized by Canadian regulators, education organizations or employers. Even if you have had your credentials assessed for immigration, you may need to get them assessed again for licensing purposes or to study in Canada. This process is to verify that the education, skills and job experience obtained in another country are equal to the standards established for Canadian professionals.

## IMMIGRATING

If you completed your education outside Canada, you may need to obtain an Education Credential Assessment (ECA) report **for immigration purposes**. ECA reports determine if your credentials are valid and equal to credentials that are completed in Canada. They are used to award immigration selection points or to determine your eligibility for a specific program. You can obtain your ECA from an organization or professional body that has been designated by IRCC. Your ECA report may help when you're looking for a job, but it doesn't guarantee that you'll get a job in your field or that you'll get a license to practice in a regulated profession.

## WORKING

In Canada, some jobs are regulated, which means you will need a special licence or certificate before you can work in those jobs. Licenses or certificates for regulated jobs can vary by province or territory, so it is important to understand what the required steps are in the province or territory you intend to settle in.

If you want to work in a regulated occupation in Canada, **begin the process to have your credentials recognized as early as possible** before you arrive in Canada. To get help, visit [About pre-arrival services - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/education-credential-assessment.html)

Examples of regulated jobs include: Doctor | Accountant | Electrician | Nurse | Engineer | Teacher



**Before you apply to jobs in Canada**, you should check if your profession is regulated by using the [Foreign Credential Recognition in Canada Tool](#).

It provides you with the following information:

- whether your profession is a regulated occupation
- the regulatory body
- what type of alternative jobs exist in your field while waiting for your credential review
- if there are available jobs
- what the general pay range is, and more.

The process of having your credentials recognized to enter a regulated profession in Canada can take months or even years, depending on your field of work, and could come with associated costs. You may also have to work in another field while you wait to find out if your credentials are recognized.



Before you can work in a regulated profession, you must complete a number of steps to get your foreign education or employment credentials recognized. You can expect that:

- In many cases, you can have your education credentials assessed and begin applying for a licence or certificate **before** you arrive in Canada. This process is typically different from the educational assessment you may have undertaken for immigration purposes. Each Canadian province and territory has their own regulatory organizations that assess credentials and give licences to people who meet their occupational standards. The requirements can be different across Canada.
- The process for obtaining a licence or certificate from an appropriate regulatory organization to work in a regulated occupation could involve submitting certain documents and paying a fee.
- The regulatory organization may ask you to get additional training or Canadian work experience in your profession.
- A language test specific to your profession may also be required.

Check with the regulatory body for your profession in the province or territory you plan to live in to find out if your credentials need to be assessed. They can tell you which credential assessment agency you should use. You can find out how to contact the regulatory body for your profession using the [Foreign Credential Recognition in Canada Tool](#).

If you have a licence to work in a province or territory, it may not be accepted in a different province or territory in Canada, even within the same type of profession.

## STUDYING

If you plan to study in Canada, you'll need to have your education credentials assessed. Contact the post-secondary school you want to go to in Canada to find out what kind of assessment they need to accept your education credentials. Then, if needed, contact the assessment agency recommended by the school you want to attend.

## MORE INFORMATION



For more information about foreign credential recognition, visit [canada.ca/credentials](https://canada.ca/credentials).



To find newcomer settlement services in your area, visit [canada.ca/find-newcomer-services](https://canada.ca/find-newcomer-services).

