**IMMIGRATION CHECKLIST** 

## Moving to Canada through International Experience Canada

Everything you need to know to succeed on your IEC journey.



### What is the IEC Working Holiday Program?

The International Experience Canada (IEC) Working Holiday program provides temporary work permits to eligible youth from 36 participating countries. If you're between the ages of 18-30 or 18-35 (depending on the country) and you're a citizen of one of the countries listed here, you may be eligible!

The IEC Working Holiday program is one of the most popular work permit programs in Canada. The application process is relatively simple and each year tens of thousands of youths from around the work travel to Canada to live, work, and play.

If you're successful through the IEC Working Holiday program, you receive an open work permit. This allows you to work for almost any employer in Canada, plus you're free to move around and change jobs as you'd like.

To help you better understand the process, we created this IEC Working Holiday immigration guide.

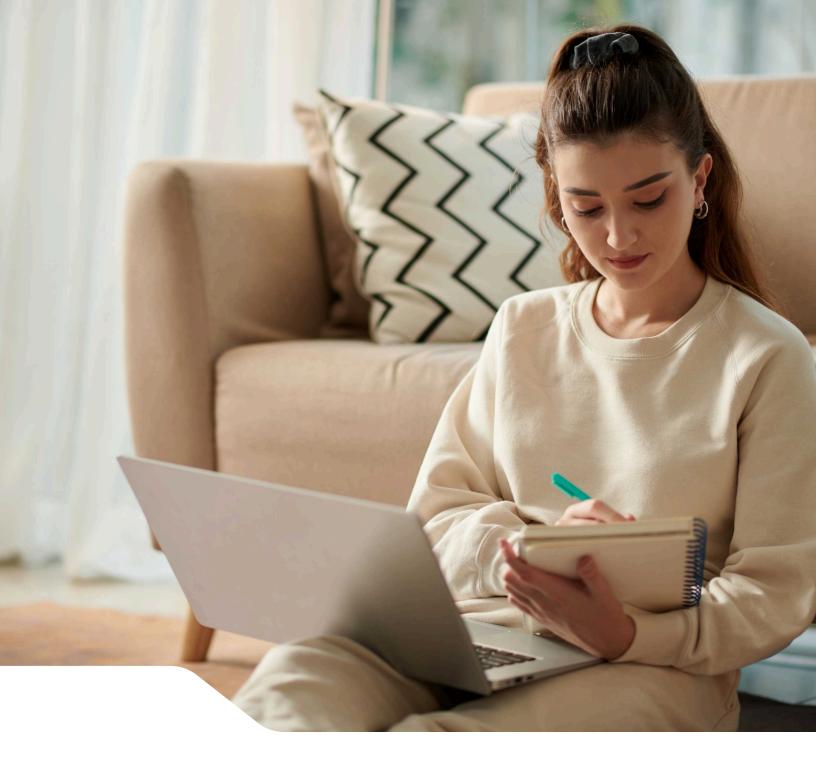
### How to use this guide

To guide you on your journey, we've broken your tasks into different stages corresponding to the steps in your immigration process. If you're at the beginning of your immigration process, you can read through this guide from the beginning. However, if you've already started your immigration, feel free to skip ahead to the tasks corresponding to your current stage.



## **Stages in the IEC Working Holiday process**

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## **Getting Started**

## **Getting Started**

In the first stage, you need to check your eligibility for the IEC Working Holiday program and submit a profile to the IEC pools so that you can be considered for a work permit.

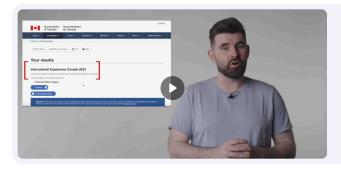
Here are the tasks in Stage #1:

01.A	Find out if you're eligible to apply through the IEC Working Holiday program	Page 6
01.В	Check the residency & discontinuance requirements for your country	Page 8
01.C	Ensure your passport has sufficient remaining validity	Page 10
01.D	Before committing, consider your other options (i.e. other countries, other immigration pathways)	Page 11
01.E	Create & submit your IEC profile	Page 13

#### TASK 01.A

### Find out if you're eligible to apply through the IEC Working Holiday program

Let's find out if you're eligible to apply to the IEC Working Holiday program. This program is designed for youth aged 18-30 or 18-35 from participating countries. If successful, you will receive an open work permit allowing you to work and travel freely in Canada for a period between one and three years (depending on the country).



#### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/0707c3d4-1cc2-c4d0-6a0dd099d33f6f94

There are a few ways to check your eligibility for the IEC Working Holiday program. First, you can look at the list of participating countries to see if your country and age range are on the list. For a more formal assessment, we recommend using IRCC's Come to Canada Tool:

#### Here are the steps:

- 1. Visit the Come to Canada tool, linked here.
- 2. For the question 'What would you like to do in Canada?' select the option 'IEC Travel and Work'
- 3. For the question 'How long are you planning to stay in Canada?' select the option 'Temporarily - more than 6 months'
- 4. After answering all remaining questions, take note of the result. If it says 'You may be eligible to come to Canada under International Experience Canada' BINGO! Take note of the personal reference code you receive at the end of the questionnaire, as you'll need it for the next steps in your journey to Canada (if you already have an IRCC account, you can complete this questionnaire directly from your account and won't need a reference code).

#### TASK 01.A - CONT.

### Find out if you're eligible to apply through the IEC Working Holiday program

#### Not eligible? Don't worry, we can still help!

If the Come to Canada tool returns a result stating 'it seems you are not eligible to come to Canada through International Experience Canada,' you can return to the questionnaire again to find out if you may be eligible for another immigration pathway (consider selecting 'Move there', 'Work', or 'Study' for the question 'What would you like to do in Canada?).

Canada offers a wide range of immigration programs, and we hope you may be eligible for at least one of them. We at Moving2Canada are currently working hard to serve personalized checklists to more people across other immigration programs in the future.

#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

Come to Canada Tool https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/come-canada-tool.html

#### **IEC Participating Countries**

https://moving2canada.com/immigration/iec/international-experience-canada-countries/

#### TASK 01.B

## Check the residency & discontinuance requirements for your country

People from certain IEC-eligible countries should be aware of two potentially important requirements: the residence requirement, and the discontinuance requirement.

While most IEC candidates may apply for their IEC work permit while residing (living) anywhere, candidates from a select few countries need to be residing in their home country when applying. This is known as the residence requirement, and it's important to check if this requirement applies to you.

Also, candidates from some IEC countries may have to consider what is known as the discontinuance requirement. Discontinuance means that if you have recently held an IEC work permit or currently hold one, and you're now pursuing another IEC work permit, you may need to have a gap between these two works permits. If your country has a discontinuance requirement, note that it only applies between one IEC participation and the next IEC participation. If you have finished an IEC participation and then apply for a work permit in another (non-IEC) category, the discontinuation requirement doesn't apply.



#### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/a4ef5f20-51c4-bac4-9fec-e25bb2319cf1

### So, here are the steps to check if either or both requirements apply to people from your country:

#### Visit this IRCC page.

Scroll to the 'View list by country or territory' drop-down menu near the bottom of that page and select your country from the list. Take note of the discontinuance requirement and residence requirements for your country and category.

#### TASK 01.B - CONT.

## Check the residency & discontinuance requirements for your country

If the requirements for your IEC category states 'No specific requirement' for both discontinuance and residence — simply complete this checklist task and continue along your journey.

But, if there is a discontinuance requirement AND you have previously participated in the IEC program (potentially in another category to the one you are now pursuing), take note of the time period that must be completed between the two IEC work permits. Even if you are pursuing your first IEC work permit, it's worth making a mental note of the discontinuance requirement in case you want to participate again in the future.

Also, if there is a residence requirement requiring you to be a resident of your home country at the time of application AND you are not currently resident in your home country, you may have to consider moving home temporarily before applying to move to Canada through IEC.

#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

#### **Check IEC residence and discontinuance requirements**

https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/operational-bulletinsmanuals/temporary-residents/foreign-workers/exemption-codes/international-experience/canadian-interestsreciprocal-employment-international-experience-canada-bilateral-agreementsarrangements.html#discontinuance

#### TASK 01.C

## Ensure your passport has sufficient remaining validity

Your passport must be valid:

- $\cdot$  when you apply to the International Experience Canada (IEC) program; and
- when you enter and depart from Canada.

Your work permit will not be issued for longer than the validity of your passport. Your passport must include a blank page other than the last page.



#### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/5889d1fd-cab9-37a5-f0d6ce451bfeca02

#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

What do I do if I get a new passport after I apply for International Experience Canada?

https://ircc.canada.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=861&top=25

#### TASK 01.D

## Before committing, consider your other options (i.e. other countries, other immigration pathways)

Before you commit to the IEC Working Holiday program, it's worth taking a moment to reflect on your other options.

#### **Other Canadian immigration options**

The IEC Working Holiday program is one of the most efficient means of obtaining a temporary work permit that allows you to work and travel in Canada. However, you may also want to consider other options.

For example, IEC also offers two other streams, the Young Professionals program (if you already have a job lined up) and the International Co-op program (for university students completing internships in Canada).

Beyond IEC, there are also options for studying in Canada and for immigrating to Canada permanently. To better understand all your possible immigration options, take our free Canadian Immigration Quiz.

#### **Other Destination Countries**

Sure, Canada has some great advantages: job opportunities, plenty of room for adventure, and more besides! But is Canada the right destination for your aspirations? See the great resources below to help you decide.



#### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/f8c1a921-53bc-74f6-c1e0-69f95d50b961

#### TASK 01.D - CONT.

## Before committing, consider your other options (i.e. other countries, other immigration pathways)

#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

#### **The Canadian Immigration Quiz**

https://moving2canada.com/immigration/canadaimmigration-quiz/

### International careers abroad: Canada and other options

https://moving2canada.com/work/finding-jobs/ international-careers-abroad/

#### Where to do your working holiday visa: Your options around the world

https://moving2canada.com/immigration/iec/ working-holiday-visa-options/

#### Destinations in Canada: video playlist

https://www.youtube.com/playlist? list=PLbg\_WNj28eXNWrY30jAz5eVBeoYN7LFry

## **Create & submit your IEC profile**

If you want to be invited to apply for the IEC Working Holiday program, first you have to enter the pool. To do this, you need to create & submit a profile on the website for Canada's immigration department, called Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).



#### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/5af3d312a9ac-8683-8bf6-9ebe319a76a0

There are a few ways to check your eligibility for the IEC Working Holiday program. First, you can look at the list of participating countries to see if your country and age range are on the list. For a more formal assessment, we recommend using IRCC's Come to Canada Tool:

#### **Follow these steps:**

- 1. Create or check your IRCC account: Creating an account with IRCC is a necessary step in the IEC process. Get started here.
- 2. Create your IEC Profile: Make sure you've got your passport handy for this. You'll also need to provide information about your identity and your contact information. Create your IEC profile here.
- 3. Submit your profile to the pools: Once you submit your profile to the pool, that you will automatically be entered into the streams you qualify for.

Once you complete this task, you're ready to move onto Stage #2: In the IEC Pool.

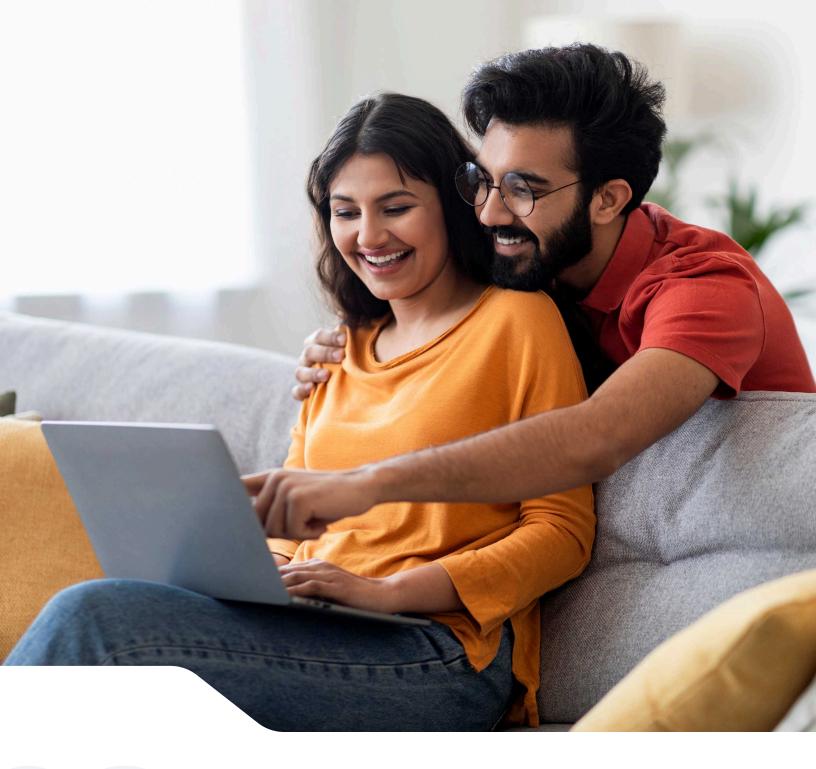
#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

#### Sign in to your IRCC secure account

https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/account.html

#### International Experience Canada: Create a profile

https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/work-canada/iec/become-candidate.html



## In the IEC Pool

## In the IEC Pool

Now that you've submitted your profile to the IEC pools, you have to wait to receive your invitation. Depending on how many people are in the pools and the quotas for your country, this could happen within a few days, a few months, or might require waiting and submitting a profile again in future years.

If you want to stay up to date on the latest IEC invitations, follow our IEC News Hub where we post weekly updates throughout the IEC season. While you wait to receive your invitation, you can begin working on a few tasks.

Here are the tasks in Stage #2:

02.A	Find out which documents are required for your work permit application	Page 16
02.B	Prepare yourself for the Canadian jobs market	Page 17
02.C	Obtain police certificate(s)	Page 18
02.D	Complete a medical exam (if necessary)	Page 19
02.E	Receive & accept your invitation to apply	Page 21

#### TASK 02.A

## Find out which documents are required for your work permit application

Before you can have an adventure in Canada, you'll need to gather some key documents. Different documents are required at different stages of the application process. For example, in 'Stage #3 – After Receiving an Invitation' you'll need to submit a few documents with your application, like police certificates, a copy of your passport, your CV, and more.

If you're successful and move on to 'Stage #4 – After Receiving a POE Letter' you'll need a few more documents for travelling to Canada and activating your work permit. This includes things like proof of financial support (i.e. showing you have at least CAD \$2,500 in finances) and proof of health insurance for the duration of your work permit.

The exact document requirements vary from applicant to applicant, so it's important to be attentive to the forms and requests you receive at each step.

For now, we recommend reading through this article which outlines the various documents you may need for your application. You can also check out our video on the topic:



#### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/4d3ce404-1139-3f82adda-5f08f810ddc9

#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

#### What documents do you need for your IEC work permit application?

https://moving2canada.com/immigration/iec/documents-iec-work-permit-application/

#### TASK 02.B

## Begin preparing for the Canadian jobs market (optional)

It's never too early to start preparing to find a job. Although you're still early in the IEC Working Holiday process, this is a great time to optimize your resume (also called a CV) for Canadian jobs.

The format for a resume (might be different in Canada than in your country. To start building a winning resume that will land you interviews with employers in Canada, download your free Canadian resume template.

It's crucial to communicate your skills and experience in the best possible manner to give your job search a solid platform. Your resume is one of the first impressions you make with a prospective employer, and a strong Canada-style resume will win you interviews and increase your value.

On a Canadian resume, you do not need to include a photo, marital status, religion, or any personal information beyond contact info and relevant experience. This is just one piece of advice — you'll find more expert tips in the resources linked below.

#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

Get your Canadian resume template https://moving2canada.com/account/#/resources

Resume format in Canada https://moving2canada.com/work/finding-jobs/career-resources/resume-format-in-canada/

### TASK 02.C Obtain police certificate(s)

Police certificates are a mandatory requirement for your application. If you fail to submit a required police certificate (or proof that you applied for your police certificate) then your application will be rejected. Lucky for you, we've put together <u>this guide on getting police</u> <u>certificates for IEC.</u>

#### Why plan early?

Getting your police certificate can take a while, depending on the country, or countries, you need to get a certificate from. If you wait until you have been invited to apply in order to apply for your police certificate(s), you risk missing important deadlines and potentially missing the opportunity to live and work in Canada. You can avoid all that stress by simply planning early and applying for your police certificate(s) in advance of being invited to apply. There is no risk in planning this task early, and plenty of reward!

If the certificate is for the country where you're currently living, it must have been issued within the past six months. If it's for any other country, then it must have been issued after the date that you last lived in the country for six consecutive months.



#### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/4e6cc475-6eafccbb-09fd-8950db97a94e

#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

#### International Experience Canada (IEC): Understanding police certificates

https://moving2canada.com/ immigration/iec/iec-policecertificate/

### How to get a police certificate

https://www.canada.ca/en/ immigration-refugeescitizenship/services/application/ medical-police/policecertificates/how.html

#### How to upload your police certificate(s) and other important information

https://www.canada.ca/en/ immigration-refugeescitizenship/services/workcanada/iec/apply-workpermit.html#police

#### TASK 02.D

### **Complete a medical exam (if necessary)**

If you're planning to work in a certain field, or if you've spent time in certain countries, you may need to complete a medical exam as part of your Canadian immigration process. You should submit these results with your work permit application to avoid any potential issues.

#### Examples of such jobs may include:

- workers in the health sciences field,
- · clinical laboratory workers,
- patient attendants in nursing and geriatric homes,
- · medical students admitted to Canada to attend university,
- medical electives and physicians on short-term locums,
- teachers of primary or secondary schools, or other teachers of small children,
- domestics,
- workers who give in-home care to children, the elderly and the disabled,
- day nursery employees, and
- other similar jobs.

If you have lived or travelled for six months or more in any of <u>these listed countries</u> or territories in the year before you come to Canada, you must have a medical exam.



#### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/e07e52fd-b9bd-60db-bfcbcff4801129b0

### TASK 02.D - CONT. Complete a medical exam (if necessary)

#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

Do you need a medical exam for Canadian immigration? https://moving2canada.com/immigration/documents/medical-exam-canadian-immigration/

Medical exams for visitors, students and workers https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/medical-police/medical-exams/ requirements-temporary-residents.html

### I want to work in a job that requires a medical exam, but I already have my work permit. What do I do?

https://ircc.canada.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=844&top=4

### TASK 02.E Receive & accept your invitation to apply

If you are invited from the pool, IRCC will notify you through your account. Once you receive your ITA, you will have 10 days to accept it and start your application or decline the invitation. After the invitation has been accepted, you will then need to apply for a work permit by submitting completed forms, documents (such as police certificates) and payment within 20 days.

Once you submit your invitation, you can move onto Stage #3 – After Receiving an Invitation to Apply! Be careful, in the next stage there are time-sensitive deadlines, so be sure to complete all the steps in the provided time.



#### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/331af0fa-6250-db72-1984c0447225d054

If you decline an invitation, you'll stay in the IEC pool of candidates (as long as you are still eligible) to be considered in future rounds of invitations.

If you choose to decline an invitation, it will not have a negative effect on future invitations.

#### To decline the invitation:

- go to the section called "Continue my profile / application, not yet submitted" in your IRCC account,
- $\cdot\,$  find the application called "Work permit", and
- click "Decline application".

If you do not respond to an invitation, the invitation will expire by the deadline shown in the invitation. If it expires, you'll have to submit a new IEC profile and be accepted into the pool again before you can be considered for future invitations.

### TASK 02.E - CONT. Receive & accept your invitation to apply

☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

Sign in to your IRCC secure account https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/account.html

Working Holiday Visa in Canada https://moving2canada.com/immigration/iec/working-holiday-visa-in-canada/



# After receiving an invitation

## After receiving an invitation

Congratulations! Receiving an invitation to apply is a huge milestone in the IEC process. From the moment you clicked 'Accept' on your Invitation to Apply, you have 20 days to submit a complete application that meets the eligibility requirements for IEC. If your application is complete and meets the eligibility requirements for IEC, then you should receive your Port of Entry Letter (POE Letter) which allows to you travel to Canada and obtain your work permit.

It's important to be meticulous with your application and to ensure that you submit everything within the required timeframe. Immigration officials are very strict in evaluating applications and a refusal could require you to start again from the beginning.

The tasks in this stage will help guide you. Here are the tasks in Stage #3:

03.A	Save at least \$2,500 CAD	Page 25
03.B	Get documents translated (if not in English or French)	Page 26
03.C	Submit your IEC work permit application and pay fees	Page 27
03.D	Submit biometrics (or confirm an exemption)	Page 28
03.E	Provide additional documents, if requested	Page 29
03.F	Research destinations in Canada	Page 30
03.G	Receive your Port of Entry Letter of Introduction (POE Letter)	Page 31

### TASK 03.A Begin saving at least \$2,500 CAD

You do not need to show this money when you submit your work permit application. However, you will need to show it when you travel to Canada to activate your work permit. We include this task at this stage to give you a heads up about this upcoming requirement, so you have time to save the required funds.

The Canadian government wants to ensure that any person participating in the IEC Working Holiday program has the financial resources needed to support their basic needs upon arrival. You must have your proof of financial support when you travel to Canada, as the immigration officer who completes your landing will likely request it. A statement of your bank account issued no more than one week prior to your departure for Canada will suffice.



Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/242c1ec0-a636-9a31-ff54-f8d6a811dc9a

#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

Arriving in Canada on a working holiday https://moving2canada.com/immigration/iec/arriving-in-canada-working-holiday/

#### TASK 03.B

## Get documents translated (if not in English or French)

All documents must be submitted in either English or French. If your document is in another language, then you also must submit an official translation from a certified translator.



#### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/3e4fd06f-2811-a931-f174-674ca9b99f42

#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

What you may need to have translated before moving to Canada, and why <a href="https://moving2canada.com/immigration/documents/documents-translation-canada-immigration/">https://moving2canada.com/immigration/documents/documents-translation-canada-immigration/</a>

#### What language should my supporting documents be in? https://ircc.canada.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?gnum=018&top=4

#### TASK 03.C

## Upload documents, submit your IEC work permit application, and pay fees

Give yourself some time for this step. Uploading your documents to IRCC sometimes causes trouble due to restrictions on file size and file format. For help uploading your documents, check out this video guide:



#### Watch videos:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/9363e458-3c9e-c61d-0d3bfca6e97545dd\_

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/fde09bd1-bb41-ded7-94b0b2fc98c424f0

Once all your documents are uploaded, be sure to double-check everything! Just to be safe. Now, you're ready to submit. A huge moment! Click submit, pay your fees, and congratulate yourself for making it this far.

#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

Sign in to your IRCC secure account https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/account.html

What format and file size do documents have to be in order to be accepted by IRCC? https://moving2canada.com/immigration/documents/format-file-size-documents-canada-immigration-ircc/

How to add documents to your IEC application after submitting https://moving2canada.com/immigration/iec/add-documents-iec-after-submitting/

### TASK 03.D Submit biometrics (or confirm an exemption)

You'll receive a request to complete biometrics (fingerprints and photo) after you've submitted your work permit application. You'll have 30 days to complete your biometrics and upload the receipt.

For details on what biometrics requires, <u>check out our written guide</u> or this video explainer:



#### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/0b97a622-dc73-fea3-7271-411116b47663

#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

#### Find out if you need to give biometrics https://ircc.canada.ca/english/visit/biometrics.asp

#### Biometrics for IEC: what you need to know

https://moving2canada.com/immigration/iec/biometrics-for-iec/

#### **Biometrics Exemptions**

https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/operational-bulletinsmanuals/identity-management/biometrics/exemptions.html

### TASK 03.E Provide additional documents, if requested

Pay attention to your IRCC account after you submit your application, because IRCC may request additional documents. If they request a document, be sure to submit it within the requested timeframe.



#### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/45fbc012-cf68-e598-709ed723ecd6cbe1

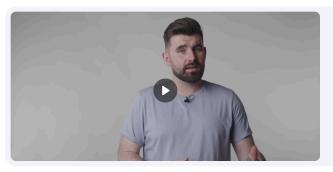
#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

How to add documents to your IEC application after submitting https://moving2canada.com/immigration/iec/add-documents-iec-after-submitting/

### TASK 03.F Research destinations in Canada

Canada is big. Really big. With that big-ness comes a big decision. Where do you want to live? City or country? Skiing or surfing? East or West? Take your time to pick the location that'll make this an adventure to remember.

Thankfully, we've put together tons of guides to help you research different destination. We have a bunch of <u>written guides</u>, plus a series of <u>destination videos</u> that showcase the look and vibe of different locations across the country.



#### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/70436edb-2575-1685-00bbe94b9b8ced9d

It's also important to research the cost of living in your intended destination(s), as the cost of housing and other expenses varies quite a bit in different parts of the country. You can compare costs in different cities using <u>this comparison tool</u> from Numbeo.

#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

Destination Guides https://moving2canada.com/planning/destination-guides/

#### **Destination Videos**

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbq\_WNj28eXNWrY30jAz5eVBeoYN7LFry

#### Numbeo: Compare cost of living between cities

https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/

#### TASK 03.G

### **Receive your Port of Entry Letter of Introduction** (POE Letter)

Congratulations! This letter shows that your work permit application has been approved. 'Port of Entry' refers to the place where you enter Canada (like an airport or a land crossing). You'll give this Letter of Introduction to the border agent at the Port of Entry when you enter Canada.

Once you complete this task, you can move onto Stage #4 – After Receiving a POE Letter!



#### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/f88e37dc-c4c5-3387-349a-4ae12720e51f

It's also important to research the cost of living in your intended destination(s), as the cost of housing and other expenses varies quite a bit in different parts of the country. You can compare costs in different cities using this comparison tool from Numbeo.

#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

Arriving in Canada on a working holiday https://moving2canada.com/immigration/iec/arriving-in-canada-working-holiday/

#### What is a port of entry (POE) letter? https://ircc.canada.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=845&top=15



## After receiving a Port of Entry Letter

## After receiving a Port of Entry Letter

Hoorah! With your Port of Entry Letter of Introduction (POE Letter), you can now travel to Canada, activate your work permit, and begin your IEC adventure. This is a huge step. As you prepare for Canada, there are a few important tasks that will ensure you're able to maximize your experience without any issues.

04.A	Arrange your travel to Canada	Page 34
04.B	Organize temporary accommodation for the first few days	Page 35
04.C	Compare IEC health insurance options using BestQuote	Page 36
04.D	Take out an eligible health insurance policy	Page 37
04.E	Get a Canadian phone plan	Page 38
04.F	Obtain important non-immigration documents	Page 39
04.G	Start applying for jobs in Canada	Page 40
04.H	Wrap up life at home	Page 41
04.1	Pack your belongings	Page 42
04.J	Print and download documents required for landing in Canada	Page 43
04.K	Land in Canada and receive your work permit!	Page 45

#### TASK 04.A

### Arrange your travel to Canada

It's time to start planning your travel to Canada—how exciting! Flights to Canada can be expensive. Planning in advance will help you to find the best flight deals. Check out <u>this guide</u> which will help you find the best deals on flights to Canada.

<u>Find out if you need an eTA or TRV to travel to Canada</u> (and, if so, if Canada's immigration authorities will issue this with your approved application).



#### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/8f8013ca-864c-b8da-903calledeb8144a

#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

#### Get the best deals on flights to Canada

https://moving2canada.com/planning/travelling-to-canada/flights-to-canada/

#### TASK 04.B

## Organize temporary accommodation for the first few days or weeks

It's possible you might have already arranged accommodations before coming to Canada. However, we often recommend finding a temporary place to stay upon arrival. This will give you the time and freedom to explore a longer-term living situation in-person. It's always easier to hunt for a place to live — and <u>avoid rental scams</u> — when you're able to visit the location!

Booking self-catering accommodation — perhaps for a few weeks, or even a month or two — is a practical way to get to know your destination city before committing to a neighbourhood. The major player in this market is Airbnb, but there are also temporary apartment rental companies that provide excellent temporary accommodation for newcomers to Canada.



#### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/e9a6e123-e4d0-bd3a-982ac53f84019f4d

#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

#### Finding accommodation in Canada

https://moving2canada.com/living/accommodation/

#### How to avoid rental scams in Canada

https://moving2canada.com/living/accommodation/identify-rental-scam-in-canada/

#### TASK 04.C

### **Compare IEC health insurance options using BestQuote**

Health insurance is a mandatory entry requirement for IEC participants. Our partner, <u>BestQuote</u>, compares the leading insurance providers to find the best rates. Using BestQuote, you can quickly compare insurance rates from the leading providers to find the best match for you!

<u>Get a free rate comparison from BestQuote.</u>

☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

BestQuote: Get a Free Quote! https://bestquotetravelinsurance.ca/iec-travel-insurance?affiliateID=51

### TASK 04.D

### Take out an eligible health insurance policy

Purchasing the right health insurance is a mandatory requirement for IEC participants.

Getting appropriate IEC health insurance is a crucial step in your pre-arrival journey, but knowing exactly what type of insurance you need and what your options are can be a headache. Our <u>IEC</u> <u>Health Insurance guide</u> will help you understand exactly what IEC health insurance is, and which providers can cover you so you can get on with the fun stuff — living and working in Canada!

For International Experience Canada, you must have health insurance for the entire time you are in Canada. The health insurance must cover medical care, hospitalization, and repatriation.

You may be refused entry if you don't have insurance. If your insurance policy is valid for less time than your expected stay in Canada, you will be issued a work permit that expires at the same time as your insurance. For example, if you're eligible for a 2-year work permit, but your insurance is only valid for 1 year, then you will only be issued a 1-year work permit. If this happens, you will not be able to apply to extend your work permit later.



### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/d4eaedde-e62f-ac1f-a84da8648c0b4de9

### HELPFUL RESOURCES

IEC Health Insurance https://moving2canada.com/immigration/iec/iec-health-insurance/

### What type of insurance do I need for International Experience Canada?

https://ircc.canada.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=939&top=25

### BestQuote: Get a Free Quote for IEC Health Insurance!

https://bestquotetravelinsurance.ca/iec-travel-insurance?affiliateID=51

### TASK 04.E Plan for a Canadian phone plan

Figure out your plans for getting a mobile phone (cell phone) in Canada. Chances are you'll have to modify or cancel your current phone plan to avoid getting charged more than you need to pay. Consult our <u>guide on phone plans in Canada</u>.

Additionally, to use your current mobile phone (cell phone) in Canada, the device must be unlocked. Take the necessary steps so that your phone will work in Canada.



### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/8ad41053-15fd-678cccfd-0006c71a7507

Did you know that you can get a Canadian SIM card before you arrive in Canada? Connect from the moment you turn airplane mode off with hassle-free and affordable plans from our trusted partner, <u>CanadianSIM</u>. Every affordable and flexible plan comes with:

- 1000 international Long-Distance minutes to select countries
- Secure your Canadian phone number in advance
- $\cdot\,$  Free doorstep SIM delivery in selected countries
- · Unlimited calls and texting across Canada
- Experience blazing-fast 5G/4G LTE connectivity
- · Opportunity to build your credit score with post-paid plans

### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

### Getting a Canadian phone: A newcomers' guide

https://moving2canada.com/living/utilities/cell-phone-plan-in-canada/

### **Get Your Canadian SIM**

https://canadiansim.com/moving2canada/post-paid-plans/

### TASK 04.F

# Obtain important non-immigration documents (driving record, tax forms, etc.)

Before you leave for Canada, it's a good idea to gather important documents you might require while in another country. It can be tricky to obtain these documents once you're away, so doing this now can save you some hassle later. Create copies of these documents and store them in a secure digital location which you can access remotely, if needed (or with a trusted friend or family member).

Here are a few examples of documents you might want to access while away:

- Birth certificate
- Identification documents
- Tax forms
- · Driving record (important if you will be applying for a Canadian driver's license)
- Motor Insurance Letter (from your automobile insurer another important one if you want to drive in Canada)
- · References from previous landlords (handy for renting an apartment)
- Records of superannuation / pension contributions, if applicable



### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/17b226a2-044e-0f40-9487bb8763823640

#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

Essential Checklist for Moving to Canada https://moving2canada.com/planning/travelling-to-canada/essential-list/

### TASK 04.G

# Start applying for jobs in Canada

Now that you're approved to come to Canada, it's a great time to proactively begin your job hunt. To begin, make sure you use our resume guide and cover letter guide to ensure your application fits Canadian standards.

Then, follow the steps outlined in <u>this guide to finding work in Canada</u>. It's important to send <u>targeted job applications</u>, personalizing each one to the job you want. Networking can also be a huge advantage in finding work. It might be possible to arrange virtual coffee dates with prospective employers in advance of arriving in Canada, but we also recommend looking into networking opportunities once you've landed.

Working in construction or engineering? Check out our sister company, <u>Outpost Recruitment</u>, which specializes in finding construction jobs for qualified workers.



#### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/2722c9d3-68cb-cbe2-91c6e3c82745105c

Have you seen this role from Young Guns Container Crew? For years, we've partnered with Young Guns Container Crew, who frequently recruit IEC participants to work in locations across Canada, including Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, and Montreal. <u>Check out the opportunity here.</u>

### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

### Finding Jobs in Canada

https:// moving2canada.com/ work/finding-jobs/

#### How To Format Your Resume in Canada

https:// moving2canada.com/ work/finding-jobs/ career-resources/ resume-format-incanada/

# How to write the perfect cover letter for Canada

https:// moving2canada.com/ work/finding-jobs/ career-resources/ write-cover-letter/

# What does a targeted resume look like?

https:// moving2canada.com/ work/finding-jobs/ career-resources/ targeted-jobapplication/

### TASK 04.H

### Wrap up life at home

As you get ready for your adventure in Canada, it's important to wrap up a few loose ends in your current home. This will look a little different for each person, but we recommend considering the following tasks:

- Return borrowed items
- · Organize items to sell or donate
- Give notice to your landlord
- Give notice to your employer
- Plan for any prescription drugs you need (check out this guide)
- · Cancel any subscriptions or memberships
- Change/review your existing health insurance policy (especially since you need to purchase a new health insurance policy for your work permit)
- · Pay any outstanding bills
- Plan for your pets (are you going to bring them to Canada? or leave them with a friend?)

#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

### **Essential Checklist for Moving to Canada**

https://moving2canada.com/planning/travelling-to-canada/essential-list/

### How to get your prescriptions as a newcomer to Canada

https://moving2canada.com/living/healthcare/prescriptions-canada-newcomers/

### Bring your pet to Canada

https://moving2canada.com/planning/travelling-to-canada/bringing-your-pet-to-canada/

# Pack your belongings

If you can, it's best to start packing early. Last-minute packing for a year-long trip to another country is a recipe for a stressful departure! Plus, if you're travelling by plane, you'll get hammered with expensive fees for extra bags and oversized luggage. Find out how to pack your belongings for the trip to Canada with <u>our guide</u>.



### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/d10befad-e613a3ca-8903-678c283e47b2

Protip: Consider purchasing a North American plug adaptor, if you have any items you'll want to charge upon arrival.

If you need to ship bulky items to Canada, get up to six free quotes from reputable shipping companies <u>here</u>.

#### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

Arriving in Canada on a working holiday https://moving2canada.com/immigration/iec/arriving-in-canada-working-holiday/

Essential Checklist for Moving to Canada https://moving2canada.com/planning/travelling-to-canada/essential-list/

How do I dress for winter in Canada? https://moving2canada.com/living/winter/how-do-i-dress-for-winter-in-canada/

### TASK 04.J

# Print and download documents required for landing in Canada

### **Must-haves**

### **Proof of funds**

Print banking records showing that you have the CAD \$2,500 required for working holiday applicants. This could be requested when you enter Canada.

### Proof of health insurance policy

Make sure you print proof of your health insurance policy (if you don't have this yet, get on it! Head over here for recommended options).

You'll likely be asked to show this proof when you meet a border agent at the Port of Entry.

### Other recommended items

Immigration officers know a lot about Canada's immigration laws, but sometimes they don't know everything about the IEC program. In case the officer makes an error, it's a good idea to have printed copies of these two Government of Canada web pages to show them:

- <u>This page</u> states that your Letter of Introduction is valid for 12 months (or possibly less, if you had a medical), which should prevent an officer from terminating your work permit on the letter's expiry date (this has happened before).
- <u>This page</u> states how long an IEC work permit should be for each participating country, assuming all other conditions are met (make sure to print the portion for your country of citizenship).



### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/75b3d9d7-75c7-6551e1a4-26e839ec15e8

### TASK 04.J - CONT.

# Print and download documents required for landing in Canada

☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

Arriving in Canada on a working holiday https://moving2canada.com/immigration/iec/arriving-in-canada-working-holiday/

Prepare for arrival – International Experience Canada https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/work-canada/iec/prepare-arrival.html

### TASK 04.K Land in Canada and receive your work permit!

### Bon voyage!

We wish you safe and easy travel and an efficient time at the Port of Entry.



Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/545a3190-72e8-5deee7dc-7a35abcb6cc5

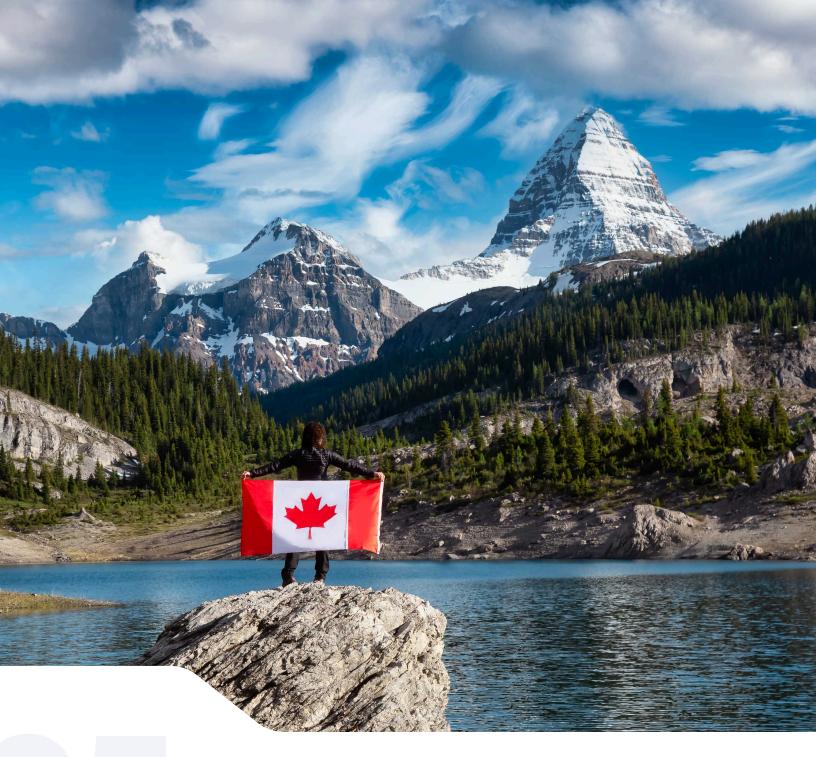
If all goes well at the Port of Entry, you'll be given your work permit and let into Canada. This means you can move onto Stage #5 – After Activating Your Work Permit in Canada. Let the adventure begin!

☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

Arriving in Canada on a working holiday https://moving2canada.com/immigration/iec/arriving-in-canada-working-holiday/

Five common mistakes made by IEC Working Holiday applicants https://moving2canada.com/immigration/iec/mistakes-made-by-iec-working-holiday-applicants/

Prepare for arrival – International Experience Canada https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/work-canada/iec/prepare-arrival.html



# After activating your work permit in Canada

# After activating your work permit in Canada

You've done it—you're in Canada! Time to enjoy your adventure. We've identified a few key tasks to help you maximize your journey in Canada. From a few tasks for your first week, to a few immigration reminders, these tasks are important to ensuring the success of your Working Holiday.

Here are the tasks in Stage #5:

05.A	Apply for your Social Insurance Number (SIN)	Page 48
05.B	Open a Canadian bank account	Page 49
05.C	Find longer-term accommodations	Page 50
05.D	Land a job in Canada	Page 51
05.E	Install internet service	Page 52
05.F	Get your social life started!	Page 53
05.G	Identify options to stay in Canada after your work permit (if desired)	Page 54
05.H	File your Canadian tax return	Page 55

# Apply for your Social Insurance Number (SIN)

To work legally in Canada, you must have a Social Insurance Number (SIN). Apply as soon as you arrive to avoid delays in beginning work and getting paid.

We've put together this <u>handy guide that tells you everything you need to know</u> to get your Social Insurance Number (SIN).



### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/8f5e8a6ba70d-0685-86ae-1d9e76bcabdd

### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

### **Getting your Social Insurance Number (SIN)**

https://moving2canada.com/planning/travelling-to-canada/social-insurance-number-sin-canada/

### Documents you need to apply for your Social Insurance Number

https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/sin/apply.html

### TASK 05.B Open a Canadian bank account

If you want to get paid, you're going to need a Canadian bank account. Use <u>this guide to find a</u> <u>bank</u> early on so that you can manage your finances.



### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/ dcf75c7a-948a-6c93-333a-320fe6569041

### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

How to choose the best bank in Canada for you <a href="https://moving2canada.com/living/finances/best-bank-in-canada/">https://moving2canada.com/living/finances/best-bank-in-canada/</a>

### TASK 05.C Find longer-term accommodations

Everyone needs a place to live! Take time and plan in advance to make sure you find accommodation that makes you happy. Use <u>this guide to finding accommodations</u> in Canada and <u>learn how to avoid rental scams</u>!



### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/75b3b7a3-4646-3f9e-ac3ba3fabca13930

### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

Finding accommodation in Canada https://moving2canada.com/living/accommodation/

### House sharing in Canada

https://moving2canada.com/news-and-features/features/living/accommodation/house-sharing-in-canada/

### Avoiding rental scams in Canada

https://moving2canada.com/living/accommodation/identify-rental-scam-in-canada/

# Land a job in Canada

Most IEC participants only <u>find a job</u> after they've arrived in Canada. If that's you — check out these tips to land your first job in Canada:

- 1. Networking is key Check out our top tips on networking in Canada
- 2. <u>Set up informational interviews</u> Low pressure conversations to learn about your career options
- 3. <u>Send targeted job applications</u> Personalize each resume and cover letter for the position to which you're applying
- 4. <u>Prepare for your job interview</u> It's obvious to employers those who have prepared and those who haven't

And, don't lose hope! Applying for jobs can be tough – persevere and something will come through eventually. You've got this!

### ☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

Finding a job in Canada https://moving2canada.com/work/finding-jobs/

### **Build Your Career by Networking in Canada**

https://moving2canada.com/work/finding-jobs/career-resources/networking-in-canada/

### **The Informational Interview**

https://moving2canada.com/work/finding-jobs/career-resources/informational-interview/

### What does a targeted resume look like?

https://moving2canada.com/work/finding-jobs/career-resources/targeted-job-application/

### Things you could be asked in a job interview

https://moving2canada.com/work/finding-jobs/career-resources/job-interview-questions/

### TASK 05.E Install internet service

Make sure you're set up with wireless internet capabilities, so you can post about your adventures online. And apply for jobs, we suppose. Here's <u>our guide</u> on finding quality internet at affordable prices.

☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

Canada internet plans and service providers: A guide <u>https://moving2canada.com/living/utilities/internet-service-providers-in-canada-a-guide/</u>

### TASK 05.F

### **Get your social life started!**

Joining a club is one of the <u>best ways to meet people</u>. Whether you're into sports, music, hiking, or books, connect with a local group to create some lasting friendships during your stay in Canada.

☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

How to make new friends in Canada https://moving2canada.com/news-and-features/features/living/make-new-friends-in-canada/

**10 ways to kick-start your life and career in Canada** https://moving2canada.com/work/finding-jobs/get-ahead-in-canada/

### TASK 05.G

# Identify options to stay in Canada after your work permit (if desired)

If you're enjoying your time in Canada, why not stay a little longer? There are options for staying past the expiry date on your work permit. But – it's important to plan ahead, as longer-term immigration programs can require months (or even years) to be processed.

Check out our guide on your options to stay in Canada beyond your IEC work permit.

☐ HELPFUL RESOURCES

How to stay in Canada after your IEC Working Holiday https://moving2canada.com/immigration/iec/stay-in-canada-after-iec-working-holiday/

### TASK 05.H

# File your Canadian tax return

Have you heard of Tax Season in Canada? Well, yes. It's a thing! Every year, between February and the end of April, workers in Canada need to file their tax returns for the last year.

Although it's an important step to figure out if you're eligible for a tax refund, it's usually a time residents don't feel too excited about. For many, it feels like a chore, and it might be particularly stressful if it's your first time filing your tax return.

The good news is that you don't have to tackle this alone. You can work with tax experts from TurboTax who can guide you every step of the way. And the other good news is that as a member of the Moving2Canada community, you can get up to 20% off their online products.

For more details on how tax returns work, you can read our dedicated article or watch this video:



#### Watch video:

https://iframe.dacast.com/vod/984c9358-b6c2-8b4bb751-33747ff9d9d1/5d195e6d-99eb-f135-1730ed96072474d2

### HELPFUL RESOURCES

Canadian tax return: preparing and submitting your taxes <a href="https://moving2canada.com/living/finances/tax/canadian-tax-return/">https://moving2canada.com/living/finances/tax/canadian-tax-return/</a>

#### Maximize your tax return

https://www.dpbolvw.net/click-101048880-17001408



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