

# How to start/prepare

ABRAR KHAN · SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2017

A list of steps what to do and prepare to start applying for Express Entry under the Federal Skilled Worker or Canadian Experience Class streams. Notice that the blue text represents clickable links.

1. Determine your eligibility by doing [this CIC quiz](#).
2. Get your language test(s) done. You must get at least CLB 7 in each of the four sections for the Federal Skilled Worker (FSW), Provincial Nomination Program (PNP) or Canadian Experience Class (CEC) streams, but getting CLB 10 gives you maximum points for language. You can do tests for English, French, or both. How does CLB match back to the language tests? See [these tables](#).
3. Get your qualifications assessed by doing an [Education Credential Assessment](#) .
4. Determine the code that best applies to you on the [National Occupation Classification \(NOC\) list](#). The occupation must be NOC O, A, or B for FSW or CEC.
5. When you have those in hand you [create your Express Entry profile](#) and [register for the Job Bank](#). You'll be given points based on your age, education, number of years work experience, and language skills. See [details of the points system](#) and a [points calculator](#). You'll be in a [pool](#) with thousands of other applicants. Of course, the more points you have, the better. The maximum is 1200, with 600 of those points coming from your ability to snag a PNP or a job offer with a very hard to get [Labour Market Impact Assessment](#) (see also [here](#)). For CEC applicants, the maximum is 600, but someone who has no work experience in Canada who is only eligible for FSW can only get up to 520 points.
6. Finally, wait for your invitation to apply (ITA). But in the interim you will need to do the following:
  - Have your application fee (C\$550 each for principal applicant and spouse) and right of permanent resident fee (C\$490 each for principal applicant and spouse) ready (see [fees](#)).
  - Identify how you will provide [proof of funds](#).
  - Check out what is required for the [police certificates](#).

- Find out how long it takes to get a date for the [medical exam](#).
- Contact previous and current employers about them providing job letters. You must have at least 12 months of full-time, or an equal amount in part-time, skilled work experience. Full-time work means at least 30 hours of paid work per week. Work experience while you were a full-time student does not count. For the exact document requirements (also for the other documents), see [here](#).
- Research cities in the province(s) where you want to live.

If at any point you feel like you need professional support, make sure to use the services of a registered, regulated immigration consultant (check registrations [here](#)) or an immigration lawyer (find one [here](#)). If you take advice from somebody else, you are not protected by Errors and Omissions insurance, i.e., if your illegal consultant screws up, you can be deemed inadmissible to Canada for five years (says [the Law](#)). So, don't.