Welcome to Canada

The Government of Canada funds settlement service provider organizations to help you in all aspects of finding work in Canada, even before you arrive. They are there to help you find a job in Canada that matches your skills and interests. Getting work experience may be challenging and take some time, but these organizations will help guide you.

PREPARE TO WORK IN CANADA

Before you arrive, research the types of skills and work experience required for the jobs that interest you.

Some jobs (like doctors, nurses, engineers, electricians and plumbers) are regulated or controlled by provincial, territorial and sometimes federal laws. You will need to apply for and have a professional licence before you can work in those fields in Canada.

You can start the process of having your credentials assessed and recognized before you come to Canada. You will need a certified translation (English or French) of documents related to your education, training and work experience to help explain your international qualifications.

If you cannot find work in your original profession, think about how your skills could apply to jobs in different or related careers, or if starting your own business is right for you.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

To work in Canada, you will need a Social Insurance Number (SIN). You can apply for a SIN through Service Canada when you arrive.

Many newcomers gain work experience, new skills and contacts in Canada through short-term or temporary work. Volunteering can also help you meet new people and find a job.

In Canada, it is against the law to treat people differently or not hire them because of their gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation or where they came from.
SKILLS
Communication skills, reliability, getting along with co-workers, learning quickly and adapting to the workplace culture are important in Canada. These are called “soft skills.”

LANGUAGE
Canada has 2 official languages, English and French. Knowing one or both is very important to working in Canada. Francophone organizations across Canada also offer employment services in French.

NETWORKING AND MEETING NEW PEOPLE
Meeting and developing relationships with new people is an important skill. This is called “networking,” and it can help you learn about job opportunities.

Look for professional networking websites online and create a profile. These websites will provide you with professional networking, career development and job search opportunities. Search for people who work at organizations you want to work for and introduce yourself.

Some organizations offer mentorship programs that match you with someone who works in your profession. Mentors can help you learn about the skills and experience you will need for the job you want.

APPLYING FOR JOBS
Resumes or curriculum vitae (CVs) are often used in Canada to apply for jobs. A resume lists your work experience, education and skills. The Government of Canada Job Bank website has a resume builder tool and tips on how to develop your skills. This website also lists a range of job opportunities in Canada.

PREPARING FOR JOB INTERVIEWS
It is a good idea to research and practise for different types of interviews. Start by learning about the organization. Be prepared to provide examples of your experience and education to show your knowledge and skills, and bring employment references with you. Prepare some questions about the job or organization that you can ask at the interview.

MORE INFORMATION
For more info about finding a job, including a video, visit canada.ca/newcomers-employment. To find newcomer settlement services in your area, visit canada.ca/find-newcomer-services.