

# Working in Québec after your studies

CSQ – QUÉBEC EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

POST-GRADUATION WORK PERMIT

PERMANENT RESIDENCE



The Student Life Office (BVE) team has developed checklists to guide you through the steps. This document is for graduates of a Université Laval program who would like to stay in Canada.

**It is provided for information purposes only. In no way should it be considered a replacement of the official documents published by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC, formerly CIC) and Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Diversité et de l'Inclusion (MIDI). We recommend that you read their websites carefully *before submitting your applications.***

[www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)

[www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca)

To stay in Québec to **work** after your studies, you must apply for the following immigration documents:

- 1- Post-graduation work permit
- 2- Québec Selection Certificate (CSQ) under the Québec Experience Program (PEQ)
- 3- Permanent residence in Canada

Some students, primarily those pursuing a PhD, may be eligible to apply for a Québec Selection Certificate (CSQ) under the regular skilled worker selection program before the end of their studies. Inquire for more information.

## POST-GRADUATION WORK PERMIT

The first step is to apply for a post-graduation work permit. This temporary status will replace your study permit and allow you to legally stay in Canada to work. If you completed a bachelor's, master's, or PhD program, the permit will generally be valid for three years. For all other diploma programs, the validity period will be equal to the length of your studies.

To be eligible, you must have fulfilled all the conditions of your study program, including language requirements, internships, dissertation defense, and final submission. Once you graduate, you have **90 days** to apply for the post-graduation work permit. You can apply for it online on the CIC site or directly at a Canadian border crossing, such as Armstrong. Consult the Student Life Office (BVE) document entitled *Applying for a study permit, work permit, or visa* for detailed instructions.

The post-graduation work permit makes you eligible for a number of Québec and Canadian social security programs, including health insurance offered by Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ). Start the application process early, because a waiting period of up to 3 months may apply.

**IMPORTANT:** Your insurance coverage with Desjardins ceases to be in effect the moment you graduate. You can be reimbursed for the months remaining on your Desjardins insurance policy by contacting the registrar at [assurances@reg.ulaval.ca](mailto:assurances@reg.ulaval.ca). You will need to take out private insurance until you are covered by RAMQ. You'll find a list of private insurers at [www.bve.ulaval.ca](http://www.bve.ulaval.ca) under "Living in Québec City."

If your post-graduation work permit expires before you have obtained permanent residence, you are eligible for a closed work permit if you have a CSQ and a job in Québec.

## QUÉBEC SELECTION CERTIFICATE (CSQ)

---

The Québec Experience Program (PEQ) for graduates is an accelerated selection program for skilled workers to have access to CSQ. It is open to anyone who obtains an eligible Québec diploma. Where applicable, a CSQ is also issued to the graduate's spouse or common law partner and dependent children appearing on the application.

A brief overview of the program is provided below. More detailed information can be found at [www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca), under *Immigrating to Québec > Foreign students* > Step 7.

### Eligibility conditions for graduates

*At the time you apply, you must:*

- Be at least 18 years old and planning to settle in Québec **to work**
- Have fulfilled the requirements of your stay as an international student
- Hold a PEQ-eligible Québec degree (**bachelor's, master's or PhD**). Your degree is not PEQ-eligible if you completed over 50% of the study program outside Québec
- Have intermediate oral proficiency in French. If you did your Québec study program in French and submit the diploma and academic transcripts to prove it, you automatically satisfy this requirement. Please note that if you submitted your thesis in English, you will need to demonstrate your French proficiency by other means.

*You are not eligible for the PEQ if:*

- You are on a scholarship that includes a clause stipulating a return to your country, unless you have already fulfilled this condition
- You have started a **new study program** in Québec

### When to apply

You must apply for the program **within 3 years** of earning your diploma. MIDI permits you to apply up to six months before the successful completion of your studies, but the CSQ can be issued to you only upon presentation of confirmation of graduation, so it's best to wait until you have completed your studies to apply.

### 2016 processing fees

The application fees for a Québec Selection Certificate (CSQ) are as follows:

- \$773 for the graduate
- \$166 for the spouse or common law partner accompanying the graduate and for each dependent child

### Accepted forms of payment

Credit card, certified cheque, Canada Post money order, or bank draft. Cheques, bank drafts, and money orders must be made payable to the *Ministre des Finances du Québec* and must include the name of the applicant printed on the reverse side.

### Processing times

Complete applications are processed within **20 business days**.

## Université Laval documents to include with your application package

The documents you must enclose with your application as proof of graduation are:

Document	Where to get it	Cost
Final transcript (showing final grade)	Registrar's Office Pavillon Jean-Charles-Bonenfant, Room 2440	\$9
Certification of degree	Secretary General's Office Pavillon Jean-Charles-Bonenfant, Room 2183 Online at <a href="http://www.ulaval.ca/diplomes">www.ulaval.ca/diplomes</a>	\$10

These 2 documents are available as of the following dates:

Undergraduate students (3 graduations/year)	
Students completing their studies...	...may pick them up
in the fall	After February 28
in the winter	After May 31
in the summer	After October 31

Graduate students (12 graduations/year)	
Students completing their studies (final submission)...	...may pick them up
On or before the 22nd of the month	After the 3rd of the following month
On or after the 23rd of the month	After the 3rd in 2 months

Examples for graduate students:

If you graduate on April 20, your documents will be available on May 3.

If you graduate on April 25, your documents will be available on June 3.

## APPLYING FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN CANADA

There are a number of Canadian immigration programs. But if you want to live in Québec province, you must apply under the **Québec-selected skilled worker** program. Information is available at

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/quebec-apply-application.asp>.

### A few guidelines:

- Complete all sections of the forms. If a section does not apply to your situation, write "not applicable" or "N/A." Do not leave any sections empty.
- If you need extra space to answer the questions in a section, make photocopies of the section and include the sheets in your application package.
- Any documents submitted in a language other than French or English must be accompanied by:
  - ✓ A French or English translation **and**
  - ✓ A sworn statement by the translator **and**
  - ✓ A certified true copy of the original document
- Send your application package by registered mail or Xpresspost to:

#### **Citizenship and Immigration Canada**

Québec-selected Skilled Worker Program  
Centralized Intake Office  
49 Dorchester Street  
Sydney, Nova Scotia  
B1P 5Z2

## Application processing

- If your application package is found to be complete, you will receive a letter informing you of:
  - ✓ Your case number
  - ✓ Basic instructions for communicating with the CIC office handling your application
  - ✓ A brief synopsis of the next steps in the application review process
- Do not try to contact CIC or submit any documents before you have received the confirmation of receipt
- Once CIC has received your application, notify them of any:
  - ✓ Change of mailing address, telephone number, or email
  - ✓ Change in marital status (marriage, divorce, etc.)
  - ✓ Birth of a child outside Canada

## Medical requirements

- You and your family members—whether traveling with you or not—must undergo a medical exam to be able to enter Canada. **CIC will send you detailed instructions**, including medical exam forms and a list of physicians in your area who are **authorized** to perform medical exams for immigration cases. **Do not undergo a medical exam before submitting your application.** The list of approved physicians is available at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/pp-md/pp-list.aspx>.

## Police certificate

- You must submit a valid police certificate or background check for every country **other than Canada** that you or your family members have lived in for **six consecutive months** or more since the age of 18. The certificate must be issued after the last time you lived in that country.
- Detailed, up-to-date information on **how to get a police certificate** from every country is available at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/security/police-cert/intro.asp>.

## Processing fees

The processing fee is \$550 for the principal applicant, his or her spouse, and each dependent child age 19 or older. It is \$150 for dependent children under age 19. These fees must be included with your application.

If your application is approved, the **right of permanent residence fees** will be requested by the case processing centre. They are \$490 for the principal applicant and his or her spouse.

## Processing times

The average processing time is 16 months. Processing times are updated on the CIC website at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/times/perm/skilled-que.asp>.

## Contact information:

**Bureau de la vie étudiante**  
Pavillon Alphonse-Desjardins  
2325, rue de l'Université, Room 2344  
Université Laval  
Québec City, QC G1V 0A6

**Office hours:** Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Walk-in consultations schedule:** Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Phone:** 418-656-2765

**Email:** [etudiantsetrangers@bve.ulaval.ca](mailto:etudiantsetrangers@bve.ulaval.ca)

[www.ulaval.ca/immigration](http://www.ulaval.ca/immigration)