

Staying in Québec after your Studies

QUÉBEC EXPERIENCE PROGRAM (PEQ)

POST-GRADUATION WORK PERMIT

PERMANENT RESIDENCE



The Student Life Office (BVE) has put together some quick reference notes to help you through the process. This document is intended for graduates of Université Laval study programs who would like to stay in Canada.

This document is provided for information purposes only. It is in no way intended to replace official documents from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Diversité et de l'Inclusion (MIDI). We recommend that you have a close look at their websites *before submitting your applications.*

www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship.html

www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/home.html

To stay in Québec as a **worker** after graduation, you must obtain the following immigration documents:

- 1- Post-graduation work permit
- 2- Québec Selection Certificate (CSQ)
- 3- Canadian permanent residence

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 and work in Canada. If you completed a Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD, the permit will usually be valid for three years. For all other diploma programs, the permit will be valid for however long your studies were.

To be eligible, you must have met all of the requirements of your study program. These include, if applicable, language requirements, internships, thesis submission, and thesis defence. Once you graduate, you have **90 days** to apply for your post-graduation work permit. Your study permit must be valid when you apply. You can apply online at the IRCC website or in person at a land port of entry into Canada. See the Student Life Office (BVE) document *Renewing your Study Permit, Work Permit, or Visa from within Canada* for more information about applying online.

The post-graduation work permit gives you free access to the health insurance offered by Régie d'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ). As soon as you get your permit, go in person to the RAMQ office in Québec City to get this health insurance. The address is 787, Boulevard Lebourgneuf. Don't delay because, when you first apply to RAMQ, there is a maximum three-month long waiting period before coverage kicks in.

Please note that your health insurance coverage with Desjardins will no longer be valid once you graduate. The Registrar's Office will send you an email about this with the exact date the coverage ends. You will automatically receive a refund for the cancelled months. You must take out private insurance while you wait for your RAMQ coverage. A list of private insurers is available at www.bve.ulaval.ca/en/international-students/living-in-quebec-city/private-healthcare/.

APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT SELECTION – QUÉBEC EXPERIENCE PROGRAM (PEQ)

The Québec Experience Program (PEQ) is an accelerated and streamlined permanent selection program for skilled workers that allows you to obtain a Québec Selection Certificate (CSQ). It has two components: one for graduates who obtained an eligible Québec diploma and one for temporary workers. Spouses of students may be eligible under certain conditions in the PEQ for workers. We recommend you to look into it.

When an application is approved, a CSQ may also be issued to the applicant's spouse, common-law partner, and children included in the application.

Conditions to meet as a graduate

When you submit your application, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old and intend to settle in Québec **to hold a job**.
- Have respected the conditions of your stay as an international student.
- Hold a PEQ-eligible Québec diploma (**Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD**). Your Québec diploma 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 study program entirely in French in Québec, you automatically meet this requirement. Be aware that if you submitted your thesis in English, you must demonstrate your level of French by other means.

You are not eligible for the PEQ for graduates if:

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

Université Laval documents to include with your application to show you graduated

Document	Where to Get it	Cost
Final transcript (relevé de notes final) – showing you completed your program	Registrar's Office In person: Pavillon Jean-Charles-Bonenfant, Room 2440 Online: www.reg.ulaval.ca	\$9
Certification of diploma (attestation de diplôme)	Order online at www.ulaval.ca/diplomes Choose how you will get it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick it up in person at Le Point in the Alphonse-Desjardins • By regular mail • By Xpresspost (additional fees apply) 	\$11 for 3 copies

These two documents are available as of the following dates:

Undergraduate Students (3 Graduations per Year)		Graduate Students (12 Graduations per Year)	
Students completing their studies in may order them:	Students completing their studies (final submission stage) may order them:
the fall semester	after February 28	on or before the 22 nd of the month	after the 2 nd of the following month
the winter semester	after May 31	on or after the 23 rd of the month	after the 2 nd of the month, in two months' time
the summer semester	after October 31		

Please note that, if you have any overdue balances on your Université Laval student account (tuition fees, unpaid rent, etc.), no official documents confirming the completion of your studies will be issued to you.

Applying

You have **36 months after graduation** to take advantage of this program. Please note that, when you apply, you must submit photocopies of all study permits that you were issued for your studies.

2019 processing fees

The processing fees payable to review a Québec Selection Certificate (CSQ) application are the following:

- \$798 for a graduate
- \$171 for an accompanying spouse or common-law partner and for each dependent child

Accepted payment methods

Credit card, certified cheque, Canada Post money order, and bank draft. Cheques, bank drafts, and money orders must be made payable to the *Ministre des Finances du Québec*. Cash payments, personal cheques, and traveller's cheques are not accepted.

Processing time

Complete applications will be processed within **20 working days**.

Validity

The Québec Selection Certificate (CSQ) is valid for 2 years. So you have 2 years to apply for permanent residence (you can then get permanent residence even if your CSQ has expired). However, we suggest that you apply for this as soon as possible.

For more information, go to: <http://www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/immigrate-settle/students/stay-quebec/application-csq/students-peq/index.html>

APPLYING FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN CANADA

There are several programs for immigrating to Canada. However, if you want to live in the province of Québec, you must choose the economic class program called **Quebec-selected skilled workers**. The link to this program is:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/application-forms-guides/application-package-quebec-selected-skilled-workers.html>

A few recommendations

- Complete all sections of the forms. If a section does not apply to you, write "Not Applicable" or "N/A." Do not leave any sections empty.
- If you need more space to answer the questions in a section, make copies of the section and include these sheets with your application.
- All documents that are not in English or French must be accompanied by:
 - ✓ the English or French translation; **and**
 - ✓ a sworn statement by the translator; **and**
 - ✓ a certified copy of the original document.

Police certificate

- You must submit a valid police certificate or a certified criminal record check for each country, **other than Canada**, in which you or your family members have lived six or more consecutive months since the age of 18. The certificate must have been issued after your last period of residence in the country in question, and it is normally valid for one year.
- Accurate and up-to-date information on how to get a police certificate from every country is available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/medical-police/police->

Processing your application

- Within 4 to 8 months, you will receive a confirmation of receipt of your application with your file number and instructions for communicating with the IRCC office processing your application.
- Do not try to contact IRCC or send any other documents until you have received your confirmation of receipt and file number.
- Once IRCC has received your application, notify IRCC 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 (children and spouse)—regardless of whether they are travelling with you or not—must pass a medical exam in order to become permanent residents. The medical exam forms **and specific instructions will be sent to you after your case file has been opened. We do not advise you to have this medical exam before you submit your application.** The list of authorized doctors is available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/pp-md/pp-list.aspx>

Biometrics

Biometrics must be collected as part of an application for permanent residence, even if you have already given them to get a study or work permit. Instructions about this will be provided to you after your case file has been opened.

Processing fees

The processing fee is \$550 for the principal applicant and their spouse. It is \$150 for dependent children. A fee of \$85 is charged for biometrics for people 15 years of age and older (with a maximum of \$170 per family). These fees are to be paid when you send in your application.

If your application is successful, you will need to pay **the right of permanent residence fee**. It is \$490 for the principal applicant and their spouse. You can choose to pay this fee at the beginning of your application or at the toward the end.

Processing times

Processing times are available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/check-processing-times.html>

Bureau de la vie étudiante
Pavillon Alphonse-Desjardins
2325, rue de l'Université, Room 2344
Université Laval, Québec City
www.bve.ulaval.ca/en/

Office hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Scheduled appointment hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (closed at lunchtime)
Phone: 418-656-2765
Email: etudiantsetrangers@bve.ulaval.ca

www.ulaval.ca/en/international/international-students/immigration.html