

Welcome to Canada



IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU ARRIVE IN CANADA



Moving to Canada may come with opportunities and challenges. It is important to begin preparing for the challenges you may face on arrival in Canada.

You will need to collect important documents, arrange where you will stay after arrival, get clothing for the weather, practice the language and other preparations.

Pre-arrival settlement service providers can help you. These organizations offer many programs and services to help newcomers prepare for life and work in Canada before they arrive. To find a pre-arrival service provider, consult: [Get help before arriving in Canada: About pre-arrival services](#) (web page is available in English and French).

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

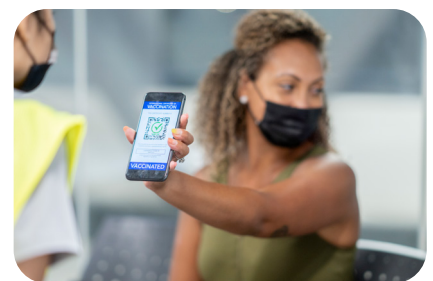
Collect all important original documents that belong to you and your family members. You may need to translate these documents into English or French depending on where you settle.

Common documents include:

- passports or travel documents
- all education diplomas and certificates
- English and/or French Language Proficiency scores
- official vaccination records
- medical records
- dental and eye records
- driver's licences
- birth and death certificates
- marriage or divorce certificates
- proof of work experience

To learn more about what documents to gather before arrival, consult: [Crossing the border: documents you need](#) (web page is available in English and French).

Prepare a list of the personal items you will be sending to Canada. To obtain the required form for completion, consult: [Personal Effects Accounting Document](#) (web page is available in English and French).



For more information on how to prepare for your arrival to Canada, consult: [Before you Arrive in Canada](#) (video is available in English and French).

PREPARE FOR IMMEDIATE NEEDS AFTER ARRIVAL

Prepare for your immediate needs after your arrive in Canada. You may need to:

- Find a place to stay for your first weeks: arrange to stay with family or friends, or book a hotel if needed.
- Buy clothes for the weather and temperature where you will be living at the time you will be arriving. You may need clothes to keep you warm when arriving in the fall, winter or spring, and light clothes in the summer.

LEARN ABOUT LAWS IN CANADA

Learn about Canadian laws and your rights and civic responsibilities as a resident of Canada. To learn more, consult: [Your rights and freedoms in Canada](#) (web page is available in English and French).

PRACTICE ENGLISH OR FRENCH

Canada's official languages are English and French. Become familiar with the language that is commonly spoken where you will be living and working.

French is the official language in Quebec, and it is also widely spoken in New Brunswick, parts of Ontario and Manitoba, and many other Francophone communities across the country. You may choose to focus on one language, depending on where you settle. Familiarize yourself with common words like hello, please, thank you, and excuse me.

Learn how to ask common questions that will help you find places or do basic tasks. To learn more about language training options for newcomers in Canada, consult: [Language Training Options for Newcomers to Canada](#) (video is available in English and French).

BEGIN THE FOREIGN CREDENTIAL RECOGNITION PROCESS

In Canada, some jobs are regulated, which means you will need a special licence or certificate before you can work in those jobs. It is better to start the process of having your credentials recognized as early as possible, to work in a regulated profession in Canada. You can start this process even before you leave your country. Depending on your field of work, this process can take months or even years, and could come with associated costs.

Find the settlement services you need in your community
(available in English and French):

