



Moving from Europe to Canada: 10-step checklist

For people in the UK, Ireland and the rest of Europe who are starting to plan a move to Canada. Tick each step as you go.

1

☐ Pick the pathway that fits you

- **Working holiday (IEC):** for ages 18 to 35 (18 to 30 in some countries), if your country has an arrangement with Canada.
- **Express Entry:** for skilled workers: Federal Skilled Worker, Federal Skilled Trades and Canadian Experience Class.
- **Provincial Nominee Programs**, such as Ontario's OINP, and **employer-supported work permits**.

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☐ Under 35? Check the working holiday

The UK, Ireland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria and many other countries have IEC arrangements. The 2026 season is closed; you can create a profile when the pools reopen for the 2027 season.

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☐ Book an approved language test, even if English is your first language

Express Entry accepts: **CELP-IP-General**, **IELTS General Training** and **PTE Core** (English), and **TEF Canada** and **TCF Canada** (French). Results must be less than 2 years old when you create your profile and when you apply.

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☐ Speak French? Use it

Express Entry has a **French-language proficiency** category. French speakers who will work outside Quebec can also look at the **Francophone Mobility** work permit.

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☐ Get your degree assessed (ECA)

If you studied outside Canada, Express Entry needs an Educational Credential Assessment from an organization designated by IRCC (for example World Education Services). It must be less than 5 years old.

6

☐ Check if your job is regulated in Canada

Many jobs, such as nurses, doctors, engineers, teachers and electricians, need a licence from the regulator in the province where you will work. Start that process early: it can take longer than the immigration file. Express Entry also has categories for jobs such as healthcare.

7

☐ Plan your proof of funds

Federal Skilled Worker and Federal Skilled Trades applicants must show enough money to settle. You don't need it if you apply under the Canadian Experience Class, or if you are authorized to work in Canada and have a valid job offer. The amounts are updated each year: check the official table on canada.ca.

8

☐ Collect police certificates early

For permanent residence you need them for yourself and family members aged 18 or older, from every country you stayed in for **6 months in a row or longer in the last 10 years**. If you have lived in several European countries, request them early.

9

☐ Prepare for arrival

- Check your province's public health coverage rules and consider private insurance for your first weeks.
 - Check whether your driving licence can be exchanged in your province.
 - Plan housing for your first months and your Social Insurance Number (SIN) application.
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☐ Get advice only from a licensed professional

Check that any consultant is on the College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants (CICC) public register. No one can guarantee a visa or permanent residence. Treat anyone who promises one as a red flag.

Want a plan for your own situation?

Book a consultation with a licensed consultant. We help people from the UK and Europe compare their options and build a step-by-step plan.