

Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program

Recent changes make the program even simpler

Program overview

The Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program (AINP) nominates eligible people for permanent residence in Alberta. Nominees must have skills and abilities to fill job shortages in Alberta, and be able to provide for their families. The program is run by the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada through the department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. The Government of Canada makes the final decision on who can become a permanent resident.

Please contact the federal government if you or a family member wishes to apply for family reunification or are seeking to stay in Alberta on humanitarian or compassionate grounds.

Recent program changes

On June 14, the Government of Alberta made changes to the application, eligibility and processing aspects of the AINP to better serve workers who want to put roots down in Alberta and help our economy. Through these changes, we have a simpler, speedier and fairer AINP.

On November 1, 2018, government made two further changes to the requirements for people applying to the Alberta Opportunity Stream:

- Removed the income threshold requirement for people applying to the Alberta Opportunity Stream. If you submitted an application under the Alberta Opportunity Stream any time after June 14, the new criteria will be applied to your application.
- Adjusted the language requirements:
 - People working in National Occupational Classification (NOC) C and D jobs can continue to apply with a Canadian Language Benchmark score of 4 – there are **no longer any planned increases** to the language requirement for people working in National Occupational Classification C and D jobs.
 - People working in National Occupational Classification 0, A and B jobs can continue to apply with a Canadian Language Benchmark score of 4 until January 1, 2020. As of January 1, 2020, these candidates will be required to have a Canadian Language Benchmark score of 5. This change extends the transition time for the language requirement increase by about six months.
- These changes will make it easier for qualified individuals to apply for the program, and make sure Alberta can continue to fill job shortages with qualified workers when there are no Albertans or Canadians available to do the work.

Change		Benefit
Old Program	New Program	
Employer-Driven Stream Strategic Recruitment Stream (10+ different streams) Under the employer-driven stream, candidates needed their employers to support them.	Alberta Opportunity Stream (single stream) There is no need for an employer to be part of the application. Candidates can apply on their own without their employer needing to sign the application.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fewer streams results in a simpler program with one set of criteria. People only need to fill out one application form. A checklist is available to help candidates. Shorter wait times to learn about a decision on the application.
No Alberta Express Entry Stream.	Alberta Express Entry Stream.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People who have an Express Entry profile with the Government of Canada may be chosen by the Government of Alberta if they have ties to the province, and the skills to help grow and diversify Alberta's economy. International graduates from Canadian post-secondary institutions may also be asked to submit an expression of interest under this stream. This includes Alberta graduates and – for 2018 only – graduates from elsewhere in Canada. People selected by Alberta have an additional option for getting permanent residence, and can get permanent residence faster. People cannot apply to this stream. Selected individuals receive a Notification of Interest letter from Alberta.
Only skilled and select semi-skilled workers were eligible.	Program is open to more skill levels and occupations in Alberta with more flexibility for trades.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People working in a wider range of jobs, including jobs that ask for lower skill levels, may be considered for permanent residency. Having more occupations included in the AINP will help industry and employers develop their workforce, and support a diversified Alberta economy.
Long wait times due to high volume of applications, or high volumes of applications in a few sectors or occupations.	Program can limit the total number of applications received, or can place limits by sector and occupation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placing limits means that applications from all sectors can be processed in a timely way, instead of applications from one or a few sectors or occupations filling the program. This will ensure fair access and wait times for all applicants across all sectors/occupations.

Information for international graduates

- International graduates can apply to the program through the Alberta Opportunity Stream if they graduated from an approved Alberta post-secondary institution and are working on a Post-Graduation Work Permit. Candidates will need to:
 - a. Show they have at least six months of work experience in Alberta in an occupation related to their field of study (this is less than the requirement for other candidates).
 - b. Meet the same language requirements as other candidates.
- International graduates must have education and skills that are well-matched with skills shortages in Alberta in order to be eligible for the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program.
- To help international students find out whether their education and work experience is well-matched with current skills shortages in Alberta, the province keeps a list of post-secondary programs called the Alberta Opportunity Stream List of Alberta Advanced Education Approved Post-Secondary Credentials and a list of ineligible occupations, called the Refusal to Process List. These lists change on a regular basis.
- An international graduate whose occupation is on the Refusal to Process list of occupations will not be eligible to apply to the program. Students will also need to review a list of ineligible occupations called the Alberta Opportunity Stream Ineligible Occupations list that can be found with the other criteria for the Alberta Opportunity Stream.
- Students who complete a post-secondary program on the Alberta Opportunity Stream List of Alberta Advanced Education Approved Post-Secondary Credentials are eligible for the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program if their education program is on the list at the same time they are admitted and enrolled in their post-secondary program.
- Government has implemented a temporary transition period for the Alberta Opportunity Stream List of Alberta Advanced Education Approved Post-Secondary Credentials to allow students and post-secondary institutions time to adapt to this change. International students who are admitted and enrolled before October 1, 2018 in one-year entry-level certificate programs, and post-graduate certificate and diploma programs that are not on the Alberta Opportunity Stream List of Alberta Advanced Education Approved Post-Secondary Credentials will still be considered for the AINP as long as they meet all other requirements. Students who are admitted and enrolled on or after October 1, 2018 in one of the programs not on the Alberta Opportunity Stream List of Alberta Advanced Education Approved Post-Secondary Credentials will **not** be eligible to apply to the AINP with a Post-Graduation Work Permit.
- International graduates from Canadian post-secondary institutions may also be asked to submit an Expression of Interest under the Alberta Express Entry stream. This includes Alberta graduates and – for 2018 only – graduates from elsewhere in Canada.

Determining whether you are eligible to apply

Detailed information on eligibility is available on the AINP website. To be eligible to apply to the AINP, you must:

- Have valid temporary resident status in Canada that authorizes you to work in Canada.
- Have a valid, eligible work permit for an eligible occupation.
- Be working in an eligible occupation in Alberta that matches your previous work experience at the time your application is postmarked and at the time the AINP assesses your application.
- Meet language, education and work experience requirements.

After candidates have been nominated, the federal government will determine whether candidates are able to support themselves and their families over the long term.

For more information on eligibility visit Alberta.ca/AINP.aspx

For more information

Call the Immigrate to Alberta Information Service at 1-877-427-6419 or submit an email using the email form at www.AlbertaCanada.com/contact-us