

PERMANENT IMMIGRATION OF POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS



UNIVERSITÉ
LAVAL

WARNING

Although this document has been written by an accredited immigration advisor, it does not constitute advice, only general information. Each fellow must evaluate his or her options according to his or her personal situation, using the official tools made available online by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and by the Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Francisation et de l'Intégration (MIFI).

PR in Quebec

- > Currently, you need to speak French, i.e. have a knowledge of spoken French equivalent to level 7 on the Quebec Scale of French Proficiency Levels. *Non-French-speaking fellows wishing to remain in Quebec will therefore need to learn French.*
- > Then obtain a Certificat de sélection du Québec (CSQ) from the Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Francisation et de l'Intégration (MIFI). Those who have obtained their doctorate from a Quebec university can apply for the CSQ from the Quebec Experience Program (PEQ) in the Graduates stream as well as the post-graduation work permit, and obtain consulting services from their institution's immigration advisors. *This document focuses on fellows who did not obtain their doctorate in Quebec.*
- > **Current CSQ fees** are \$895 for the principal applicant, \$192 for the accompanying spouse and \$192 for each dependent child. Processing time is 6 months or less.
- > There are two CSQ options:

1.

QUEBEC EXPERIENCE PROGRAM CSQ FOR TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS (CSQ-PEQ-TRAVAILLEURS)

- **Summary of criteria:** must be 18 years of age or older, intend to settle in Quebec as an employee, be in Quebec at the time of application, be financially independent and have worked legally in a National Occupational Classification *TEER 0, 1, 2 or 3 job a(postdoctoral fellowships are TEER 1), full-time (minimum 30 hours), for remuneration, for at least 24 of the 36 months preceding the application.* The accompanying spouse must have a knowledge of spoken French corresponding to level 4 of the Québec Scale.
- **Procedure:** complete, date and sign the forms indicated, scan supporting documents in color and PDF, create an Arrima account to submit everything, and keep a copy of what has been submitted.

2. REGULAR SKILLED WORKER PROGRAM CSQ (CSQ-PRTQ)

On November 29, 2024, the CSQ-PRTQ will be replaced by the Skilled Worker Selection Program (CSQ-PSTQ)

- **Procedure:** complete an expression of interest in Arrima, then receive an invitation to apply for the CSQ, then submit your CSQ application within 60 days of the invitation. *An invitation is never guaranteed.*
 - **Criteria for receiving an invitation:** criteria vary from one invitation exercise to the next, and may be based on market needs (trades in shortage, validated job offer¹ outside Montreal, etc.) and/or score. On the MIFI website, fellows can evaluate their score and thus their chance of receiving an invitation before submitting their expression of interest, and can view the criteria for previous invitation exercises.
 - **Criteria for a successful CSQ application:** these are those of the August 2, 2018 selection grid for the Skilled Worker Program, which gives a minimum number of points to accumulate based on the following criteria: level of education and field of training, work experience, age (from age 36, you start to lose points), knowledge of French and English, stays and family members in Quebec, points for the accompanying spouse, validated job offer*. At this first threshold, the minimum number of points is 43 for a single person and 52 for a couple. At the final threshold, where additional points may be awarded for dependent children and financial autonomy, the minimum number of points is 50 for a single person and 59 for a couple.
- > **Because of the random nature of the CSQ-PRTQ**, the CSQ-PEQ-travailleurs is more interesting, even if it can take longer to qualify.
- > How do i prove my remuneration as a scholarship recipient? Your university can provide you with an attestation of employment as a scholarship recipient postdoctoral fellow, on letterhead paper, detailing your job title, duration (start and end dates), place of work, number of hours per week, remuneration, main duties and responsibilities, with the employer's contact details and the handwritten signature of the person in charge. To this you can add proof of your scholarship and any other relevant documents such as proof of its payment (scholarship statement, bank statement, etc.), as well as your tax documents proving your annual income.
- > After obtaining the CSQ, you must apply for permanent residence (PR) in Canada, under the Quebec-selected Skilled Worker category. **Processing time is published at 9 months.**
- **Summary of criteria:** the applicant and each family member must have a valid CSQ, and must pass a medical examination. Background checks are also done.
 - **Procedure:** see the common information section on PR.

¹ Although a validated job offer (OEV) can help postdoctoral fellows at the CSQ-PRTQ level, it is not realistic for universities to make OEVs for postdoctoral fellowship positions due to the temporary nature of these fellowships, which in Quebec must be completed within 5 years of obtaining a doctorate, as well as the fact that their extension depends on the availability of research funds. An OEV for another position or another employer could be considered. In fact, the aim of the OEV is to have the position available by the time permanent residency is obtained.

PR in the rest of Canada

- > Fellows wishing to immigrate to Canada outside Quebec may consider applying for permanent residence under one of the two Express Entry Canada programs adapted to their TEER 1 level (NOC code 41200), either the Canadian Experience Class or the Federal Skilled Worker Program. The intention to settle outside Quebec is a criterion common to both programs.

 - > Express Entry Canada works in two stages:
 - You must first create a profile, then earn enough points to receive an invitation, then submit your PR request within 60 days of the invitation. Invitations are never guaranteed. On the IRCC website, fellows can evaluate their score and thus their chance of receiving an invitation before submitting their profile, and can view scores from previous invitation rounds.

 - You must then apply for permanent residence in one of the two appropriate programs for postdoctoral fellows;

 - 1. The criteria for the **Canadian Experience Class** are: to have worked legally in a National Occupational Classification TEER 0, 1, 2 or 3 job (postdoctoral fellowships are TEER 1), full-time, for remuneration, for at least 12 of the 36 months preceding the application. You must also meet language requirements in English or French, which vary according to the TEER level. For TEER 1, you must reach level 7 of the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) for English, or level 7 of the Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadien (NCLC) for French, in all 4 skills (written expression, written comprehension, oral comprehension and oral expression).

 - 2. The criteria for the **Federal Skilled Worker Program** are also in two stages. The first stage requires skilled work experience, language skills and education. In the second stage, you must have accumulated enough points based on the following criteria: age, education, work experience, valid job offer, language skills and adaptability.
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- > Processing time is **5-6 months**.

Common PR information

- > Current RP fees are \$1525 for the principal applicant, \$1525 for the accompanying spouse and \$260 for each dependent child.
- > The application for permanent residence is now online. There will be forms to fill out and documents to attach. Each form has specific instructions. The information requested is used to verify identity, family composition, travel history and all background information. Common-law partners will have an additional form to complete, as will persons intending to reside in Quebec. You will also need to enclose photographs in the indicated format, police certificates for people over 18 (for each country where they have resided for at least 6 consecutive months after the age of 18, but please pay attention to their validity for Canadian immigration) and, eventually, medical examinations.
- > Please note that once you have obtained your PR, you must wait for your permanent residence card before you can travel and return to Canada. In addition, to keep your PR status, you must meet the “residency obligation”, which is 730 days per 5-year period. For the first 5-year period, 730 days must be accumulated. Once this period has elapsed, you must ensure that you accumulate 730 days within the past 5 years. A permanent SIN can also be issued.