

Canada Visitor Visa (Temporary Resident Visa – TRV) Application Information

We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the information below prior to initiating your visa application.

IMPORTANT: All visitor visa applications must be submitted on-line unless you are eligible to submit by paper. If you require biometrics, they must be completed prior to submitting your application.

WHAT IS A VISITOR VISA APPLICATION

Most foreign nationals require a Visitor Visa (also known as a Temporary Resident Visa - TRV) to travel to Canada.

<https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>

A Visitor Visa is an official document that is affixed in your passport. It shows that you have met the immigration requirements to enter Canada.

ELIGIBILITY

The reason most visa applications are refused is due to a lack of **quality supporting information about the applicant**. The initial Visa Review Officer must be convinced the applicant is not a “flight risk”, which means they will not leave Canada after the conference.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/eligibility.html>

Basic requirements must be met to receive a visitor visa. You must:

- have a **valid travel document** such as a passport.
- be in good health.
- have no criminal or immigration-related convictions (please refer to the “Am I Inadmissible to Canada?” information provided by PAS)
- **convince an immigration officer that you have ties to your home country**. Provide evidence of a secure job, home, financial assets, or family that will take you back to your home country. A letter from your employer granting you permission to come to Canada (the letter needs to highlight your credentials, experience, etc.). Copies of agreements for your place of residence → mortgage/rental agreement, car loan, home utilities, which show you are financially obligated to stay in your country.
- **convince an immigration officer that you will leave Canada at the end of your visit**. Provide evidence that shows you have responsibilities to return to such as extended family members and friends, doctor’s appointments, etc.
- **have enough money for your stay**. Current bank statements showing a minimum \$20,000.00, the amount of money you will need depends on how long you will stay and if you will stay in a hotel, or with friends or relatives.

You may also be required to provide the results of a **medical examination**.

IMPORTANT: Check the **list of documents you need based on your current situation**.

If the host organization of the conference you are attending is from outside of Canada, participants are encouraged to apply through the IRCC Secure Network. This allows applicants to list the host organization and contact that has extended the invitation letter as their local contact for their visa application.

IMPORTANT: Check the supporting documents needed for a visitor visa applicant

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/supporting-documents.html>

Strong supporting documents are critically important to receive a positive visa application outcome. Review the eligibility section above and acquire documents to support the reason why you’re traveling to Canada. You will need multiple supporting documents to satisfy the visa officer.

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The main supporting documents are Letter of Invitation from the conference organizer, current bank statements, letter from employer, proof of land ownership/rental. Once you have all your supporting documents ready you can proceed with your biometrics, then your visa application. Your supporting documents will need to be attached to your application.

IMPORTANT: It may be beneficial to notarize your support documents to ensure they will be accepted by the visa review office.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR VISA APPLICATION

On-line

Most visa applications are completed on-line. Make yourself familiar with the application process to ensure you have provided the quality information required to ensure your application is approved. The application process can take longer than 6 months, so we encourage you to gather your supporting documents and submit your application online with as much lead time as possible.

[How to apply for a visitor visa - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/apply-visitor-visa/canada-ca.html)

Read the instruction guide for details on how to apply. Select your country/territory from the drop-down menu for instructions on how to prepare and submit your application to your local visa office.

[Guide 5256 - Applying for a visitor visa \(temporary resident visa\) - Canada.ca](https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigration/visas/apply-visitor-visa-temporary-resident-visa.html)

By Paper

IMPORTANT: You are invited to submit a paper application **only** if you meet one of the following criteria:

1. You cannot apply online because of a disability.
2. You are travelling with an identity or travel document that was issued to a refugee, a stateless person, or a non-citizen, otherwise you must apply online.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/apply-visitor-visa/paper-outside.html>

BIOMETRICS

For information on whether you must provide biometrics, please refer to these fast facts about Biometrics.

[Facts about biometrics - Canada.ca](https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigration/visas/biometrics-facts.html)

Step #1: Give your fingerprints and photo (biometrics)



If you are required to complete biometrics you will be issued a **Biometrics Instructions Letter (BIL)**.

IMPORTANT: Please schedule your appointment at a Biometrics Collection site. You must complete your biometrics before you can submit your visa application. Refer to the following link below to locate where you can give your biometrics.

<https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/where-to-give-biometrics.asp>

IMPORTANT: Only once you have completed your biometrics you can proceed with your application.

Step #2: Compile the documents that show you meet the criteria for a visitor visa

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/steps-apply-visitor-visa.html>

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STEPS TO APPLY ON-LINE

IMPORTANT: You **MUST** create a Government of Canada (GC) account

[Sign in to your IRCC secure account - Canada.ca](#)

When you apply for your visitor visa through your IRCC secure account, you will be prompted to either sign in using your GCKey user ID and password, or through a Sign-in partner. If you don't already have an account you can create one by clicking "Register" under the "Don't have an account?" section. Once you are signed in you will be prompted to answer a series of questions to determine your eligibility to apply for a visa. If you are eligible to apply for a visa, you will be prompted to complete the visa application form (IMM 5257).

IMPORTANT: Tag your visa application (Form IMM 5257) with the **Special Event Code** located in the Letter of Invitation you received by the conference organizer. In the "Details of Visit to Canada" section, select "Other". For question "1a) Purpose of my visit" enter the **Special Event Code** into the free text box in "1b) Other".

APPLICATION FEES

You must pay your visa application fees prior to submitting it for review.

<https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/fees/pay.asp>

Submitting your passport (only if your application has been approved).

To get your visa, follow the instructions the IRCC sends you.

IMPORTANT: If your visa application is approved you will receive a letter instructing you to submit your passport to the closest Visa Application Centre (VAC) through mail or courier. The VAC can also answer any questions you may have about the visa application process. Visit the link below to find the Visa Application Centre (VAC) nearest you.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/contact-ircc/offices/find-visa-application-centre.html>

IMPORTANT: You will not be able to enter Canada without having your visa affixed to your passport.

HOW THE IRCC PROCESSES YOUR APPLICATION

The IRCC will check your application to make sure you have all the documents you need. If it's incomplete, the IRCC will return your application without processing it. If they approve your application, they will send you instructions to submit your passport to them.

Check your application status:

[How to check your application status - Canada.ca](#)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/account.html>

VISA PROCESSING TIMES

[Processing times for visa applications](#) posted online are historical, meaning they're measured based on how long it took to process 80% of applications in the past 6-8 weeks. As a result, processing times maybe different than those posted online at the time of application submission. Participants are strongly encouraged to apply **as early as possible (minimum 6 months)** ahead of their departure date) to allow sufficient time for their application to be processed and if approved, subsequent visa issuance in their passport.

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ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION (eTA)

If you don't require a Visitor Visa, how do you confirm if you need an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)? Visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/eta.html>

An Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) is an entry requirement for visa-exempt foreign nationals travelling to Canada by air. An eTA is electronically linked to a traveller's passport. It is valid for **up to** five years or until the passport expires, whichever comes first. If you get a new passport, you need to get a new eTA.

Prepare for your travel to and arrival in Canada.

You may need to bring with you the documents you submitted with your visa application, or present additional documents to the border services officer on arrival in Canada.