

Business Immigration

Canada is welcoming people with the business experience and the financial resources to help strengthen the Canadian economy.

Business immigration under the federal program includes the categories:

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i. Investors

The Immigrant Investor Program seeks to attract experienced business people to invest CAD\$400,000 into Canada's economy. Investors must:

- Show that they have business experience
- Have a minimum net worth of C\$800,000 that was obtained legally and
- Make a CAD\$400,000 investment.

The business experience required of applicant in the investor category is defined as:

- Managed a **qualifying business** and controlled a percentage of equity of the qualifying business for at least two years in the period beginning five years before the date of application
OR
- Managed the equivalent of at least five full-time employees per year in a business for at least two years in the period beginning five years before the date of application
OR
- A combination of one year of experience described in the first point and one year of experience described in the second point above.

Qualifying business means a business—other than a business operated primarily for the purpose of deriving investment income such as interest, dividends or capital gains—for which, during the year under consideration, there is documentary evidence of any two of the following:

- The percentage of equity multiplied by the number of full-time job equivalents is equal to or greater than two full-time job equivalents per year;

- The percentage of equity multiplied by the total annual sales is equal to or greater than \$500,000;
- The percentage of equity multiplied by the net income in the year is equal to or greater than \$50,000; and
- The percentage of equity multiplied by the net assets at the end of the year is equal to or greater than \$125,000.

Other criteria:

Obtain a minimum of 35 points in the selection grid .The pass mark is rather low. The count actually starts from 20 points, since 20 points are awarded for meeting the basic regulatory definition of “business experience”. Most applicants will manage to collect the other 15 points required.

Pass medical examination and background checks- mandatory requirements applicable to any immigration application.

The CAD\$400,000 investment is guaranteed by the Government of Canada and is returned after 5 years with 0% interest. Financing options are available through a number of financial institutions which have been approved by the government of Canada as facilitators of the immigrant investor program.

ii. Entrepreneurs

The Entrepreneur Program seeks to attract experienced business persons who will own and actively manage businesses in Canada that contribute to the economy and create jobs. Entrepreneurs must:

- Show that they have business experience
- Have a minimum net worth of C\$300,000 that was obtained legally and
- Respect the conditions for entrepreneurs after they arrive in Canada.

An entrepreneur who becomes a permanent resident must meet the following conditions:

- The entrepreneur must control a percentage of the equity of a **qualifying Canadian business** equal to or greater than 33 1/3 per cent;
- The entrepreneur must provide active and on-going management of the qualifying Canadian business; and
- The entrepreneur must create at least one incremental full-time job equivalent in the **qualifying Canadian business** for Canadian citizens or permanent residents, other than the entrepreneur and their family members.

Qualifying Canadian business means a business operated in Canada by an entrepreneur—other than a business operated primarily for the purpose of deriving investment income, such as interest, dividends or capital gains—for which there is in any year within the period of three years after the day the entrepreneur becomes a permanent resident documentary evidence of any two of the following:

- The percentage of equity multiplied by the number of full-time job equivalents is equal to or greater than two full-time job equivalents per year;
- The percentage of equity multiplied by the total annual sales is equal to or greater than \$250,000;
- The percentage of equity multiplied by the net income in the year is equal to or greater than \$25,000; and
- The percentage of equity multiplied by the net assets at the end of the year is equal to or greater than \$125,000.

The entrepreneur must meet the conditions for a period of at least one year within the period of three years after the day on which the entrepreneur becomes a permanent resident.

An entrepreneur who becomes a permanent resident must provide to an officer evidence of compliance with the conditions within the period of three years after the day on which the entrepreneur becomes a permanent resident.

iii. Self-Employed

The Self-Employed Persons Program seeks to attract applicants who have the intention and ability to become self-employed in Canada. Self-employed persons are required to have either:

- **Relevant experience** that will make a significant contribution to the cultural or athletic life of Canada or
- Experience in farm management and the intention and ability to purchase and manage a farm in Canada.

Relevant experience is defined as:

- Participation at a world-class level in cultural activities or athletics
- Farm management experience or
- Self-employment in cultural activities or athletics. Please consult the Related Links section at the bottom of this page for a list of activities that qualify. You will also find a link to definitions of terms that apply to self-employed persons.

Other criteria:

- Obtain a minimum of 35 points in the selection grid
- Pass medical examination and background checks