Common Permanent Residency Pathways for International Students

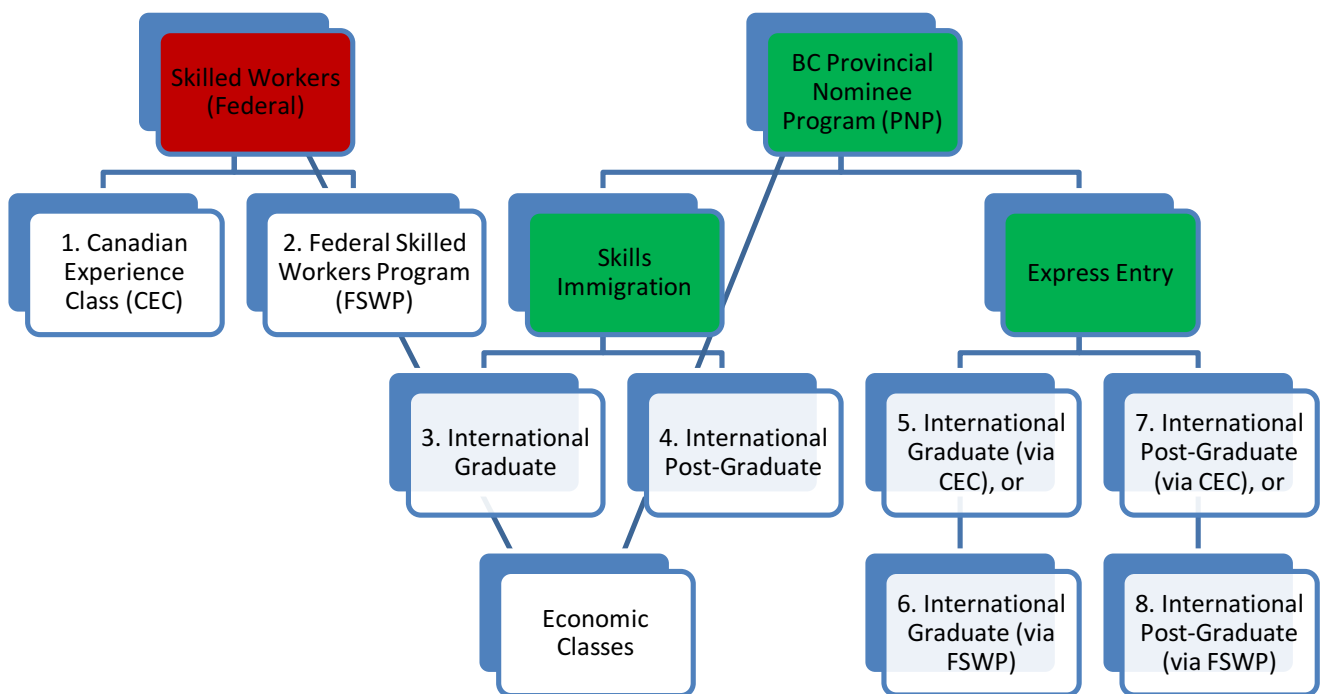## Can UBC International Student Advisors answer my permanent residency (PR) questions?

Unfortunately, no. At UBC, International Student Advisors (RCICs) offer a limited range of immigration advice to UBC international students at no cost. We are not PR experts, and because we want you to get the best advice possible we do not advise on PR. This document provides a basic overview of a few PR categories and tips to help you get started, but unfortunately we cannot answer any questions.

What is a Canadian permanent resident (PR)?

International students (and post-graduation work permit holders) are "temporary residents" in Canada. If you want to stay in Canada longer, you can apply to immigrate as a "permanent resident" (PR). PRs are eligible for most Canadian social benefits and can live, work, or study anywhere in Canada. They pay domestic tuition rates and are eligible to apply for Tri-Agency federal graduate student funding. They must follow certain rules to retain their PR status, such as live in Canada for at least two years every five-year period. PRs who meet additional requirements can eventually apply for Canadian citizenship after a minimum of four years as a PR.

How do international students become PRs?

Most international students become PRs after graduating from UBC through federal or provincial economic immigration programs which emphasize proven (or potential) success in the Canadian labour market as a "skilled" worker. Immigration policy changes quickly, so it is important to pay attention for updates. This document focuses on the eight most common pathways currently available to UBC students:

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Keep in mind that everyone's situation is unique. There are *many* additional immigration pathways not discussed in this document, each with different requirements, application procedures, and processing times.

- Federal programs: You may qualify for other federal programs such as the Self-employed Persons, Start-up Visa, Family Sponsorship (e.g. through a Canadian or PR spouse/common-law partner). For a complete list, see http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/eligibility.asp.
- Provincial nominee programs (PNPs): Canada allow provinces (and territories) to "nominate" individuals to the federal government for PR through PNPs. Applicants must intend to live in the province where they are nominated. Provinces typically have multiple PNP streams and categories. This guide discusses the six PNP categories designed for students in BC, but there are many other options; see https://www.welcomebc.ca/Immigrate-to-B-C/B-C-Provincial-Nominee-Program for all BC PNP categories. If you want to live outside BC, see http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/provincial/apply-who.asp for a complete list of PNPs in other provinces.
- Quebec: Quebec maintains its own separate economic immigration programs: http://www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/home.html.

Some people are "inadmissible" for reasons such as serious health problems or past criminal convictions, making PR difficult to obtain; see http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/inadmissibility/index.asp.

How long will it take?

Economic immigration applications processed within Canada typically take between six months to 2 years to complete; see "economic class" here: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/times/index.asp.

How much will it cost?

The total cost of applying independently (including costs of supplemental documents such as medical/language exams and police certificates) ranges from approximately $1,200 to $2,000.

What is Express Entry?

Express Entry is often mistaken as a *category* of permanent residence. However, it is not. It is an *application management system* used by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to manage certain economic PR programs. Express Entry applicants first (1) meet the requirements of a PR programs managed through Express Entry, and then (2) create an online Express Entry profile. The system assesses each applicant's profile based on IRCC's Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) and assigns a number of points to their application accordingly. After points are assigned, the application is placed in the Express Entry "pool." Only top ranked applicants are periodically "drawn" from the Express Entry pool and invited to apply for PR.

- How express entry works: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/express-entry/
- Comprehensive Ranking System: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/tools/perm/express/crs.asp
- Rounds of invitations - http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/express-entry/rounds.asp

> **Quick Tip** Complete the CRS self-assessment questionnaire to see how many points you could score based on your circumstances; see http://www.cic.gc.ca/ctc-vac/getting-started.asp

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What is "skilled" work?

The National Occupational Classification (NOC) classifies jobs in Canada. Jobs classified as A, B, or 0 are generally considered "skilled" for which the skill level is based on the nature of education and training required. See http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/English/NOC/2011/Welcome.aspx.
To determine the skill level of your job, search the NOC for the job title with "main duties" that most closely match your job's duties. You can then determine the job's skill level (e.g. A, B, C, D, or 0) within the NOC Matrix. The NOC can be challenging to navigate; if you are unsure, consider seeking professional advice.

> The second digit of the NOC code represents the Skill Level for all occupations, with the exception of Management whose first digit is determined by 0. For example, NOC 4012 is skill level A. See NOC Tutorial: http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/English/NOC/2011/Tutorial.aspx

What is "full time" work?

For PR purposes, full time work is generally defined by IRCC as 30 hours a week. Keep in mind that if you work more than these hours, IRCC will only take into account a 30 hour week to meet the requirement.

> See a list of terms and definitions related to permanent residence here: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/tools/perm/definitions.asp?letterNum=6

Where can I get help with PR?

Start by carefully reading www.cic.gc.ca and www.welcomebc.ca for full program details. Some students apply for PR by themselves after extensive research and careful preparation. Others pay for professional advice from authorized immigration representatives, either "consultations" (one-time meetings) or "full representation" (where a representative submits your application for PR on your behalf).

Paid authorized immigration representatives can legally offer Canadian immigration advice. They advise and act on issues concerning Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB), and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). Authorized representative do not have special access to immigration-related programs and services. They are accountable to their regulatory body and required to abide by strict ethical and professional rules designed to protect consumers. See http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/representative/verify-rep.asp.

Authorized representatives include:

- Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultants (RCICs) who are members in good standing of the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (ICCRC): https://www.iccrc-crcic.ca
- Lawyers who are members in good standing of a Canadian provincial or territorial law society
- Certain paralegals and notaries

How can I find an authorized immigration representative?

Unfortunately, international student advisors cannot refer you to specific authorized representatives.

- Find an RCIC here: http://secure.iccrc-crcic.ca/search-new/EN
- The Lawyer Referral Service is operated by the Canadian Bar Association (British Columbia Branch). If you call and explain your situation, they will give you the contact information of a lawyer who meets your needs.

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Participating lawyers offer a 30 minute consultation for $25 plus tax. After the initial consultation, you can negotiate fees with the lawyer if you choose to seek additional services.
- o Call 604-687-3221 or 1-800-663-1919
- o Visit http://www.cbabc.org/For-the-Public/Lawyer-Referral-Service
- o For out-of-province/country requests, email lawyerreferral@cbabc.org

When choosing a representative on your own, consider asking for information about their experience, knowledge, training, references, and/or client testimonials. Not all representatives are knowledgeable about international student issues. See more tips from IRCC here: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/representative/rep-choose.asp.

	Degree required?	1 year full-time (30 hours/week) or part time equivalent skilled work experience equaling 1560 hours required?	English/French skills required?	Job offer required?	Additional factors needed to get "selected"?	Additional Considerations?
1. Canadian Experience Class (CEC)	No. However, necessary to gain skilled work experience	Yes, must be: ▪ Within the last 3 years, and ▪ Gained in Canada Note: Self-employment or work experience gained while engaged in full-time study is not eligible	Yes. ▪ Skill level A or 0 work - CLB 7 ▪ Skill level B work - CLB 5	No	Yes, must score enough points under the Comprehensive Ranking System to be selected from the Express Entry pool	Yes, must intend to reside in a province or territory other than Quebec
2. Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP)	No. However, necessary to gain skilled work experience and points within the FSWP points grid.	Yes, must be: ▪ Within the last 10 years, and ▪ Gained in or outside Canada, and ▪ Continuous, and ▪ In the same job	Yes, CLB 7	No	Yes, must score enough points under the Comprehensive Ranking System to be selected from the Express Entry pool	Yes, must: ▪ Score at least 67 points within the FSWP points grid (based on English/French skills, education, work experience, age, arranged employment in Canada, and "adaptability"), and ▪ Intend to live outside Quebec

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	Degree required?	1 year full-time (30 hours/week) or part time equivalent skilled work experience equaling 1560 hours required?	English/French skills required?	Job offer required?	Additional factors needed to get "selected"?	Additional Considerations?
3. BC PNP Skills Immigration - International Graduate	Yes, Canadian degree, diploma, or certificate (within past 2 years)	No	No, if job is skill level O, A or B Yes, if job is skill level C or D	Yes, must be: ▪ Full-time, and ▪ Indeterminate, and ▪ Skill level A, B, or O OR skill levels C and D with possible with employer career development plan	Yes, must score enough points related to economic and human capital factors to be selected from the BC PNP Skills Immigration Registration System	Yes, wage of job offered must be competitive within BC wage rates, and must intend to reside in BC
4. BC PNP Skills Immigration - International Post-Graduate	Yes, BC master's or doctoral degree in natural, applied or health sciences (within past 2 years) – see BC PNP Program Guide (Appendix 1) for eligible programs	No	No	No	Yes, must score enough points related to economic and human capital factors to be selected from the BC PNP Skills Immigration Registration System	Yes, must show evidence to reside in BC
5. Express Entry BC - International Post-Graduate (by qualifying for CEC)	Yes, BC master's or doctoral degree in natural, applied or health sciences (within past 2 years) – see BC PNP Program Guide (Appendix 1) for eligible programs	Yes, must be: ▪ Within the last 3 years, and ▪ Gained in Canada Note: Self-employment or work experience gained while engaged in full-time study is not eligible	Yes. ▪ Skill level A or O work - CLB 7 ▪ Skill level B work - CLB 5	No	No	Yes, must show evidence to reside in BC
6. Express Entry BC - International Post-Graduate (by qualifying for FSWP)	Yes, BC master's or doctoral degree in natural, applied or health sciences (within past 2 years) – see BC PNP Program Guide (Appendix 1) for eligible programs	Yes, must be: ▪ Within the last 10 years, and ▪ Gained in or outside Canada, and ▪ Continuous, and ▪ In the same job	Yes, CLB 7	No	No	Yes, must: ▪ Score at least 67 points within the FSWP points grid, and ▪ Show evidence to reside in BC

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	Degree required?	1 year full-time (30 hours/week) or part time equivalent skilled work experience equaling 1560 hours required?	English/French skills required?	Job offer required?	Additional factors needed to get "selected"?	Additional Considerations?
7. Express Entry BC - International Graduate (by qualifying for CEC)	Yes, Canadian degree, diploma, or certificate (within past 2 years)	Yes, must be: ▪ Within the last 3 years, and ▪ Gained in Canada Note: Self-employment or work experience gained while engaged in full-time study is not eligible	Yes. ▪ Skill level A or 0 work - CLB 7 ▪ Skill level B work - CLB 5	Yes, must be: ▪ Full-time, and ▪ Indeterminate, and ▪ Skill level A, B, or 0 OR skill levels C and D with possible with employer career development plan	No	Yes, wage of job offered must be competitive within BC wage rates, and must intend to reside in BC
8. Express Entry BC - International Graduate (by qualifying for FSWP)	Yes, Canadian degree, diploma, or certificate (within past 2 years)	Yes, must be: ▪ Within the last 10 years, and ▪ Gained in or outside Canada, and ▪ Continuous, and ▪ In the same job	Yes, CLB 7	Yes, must be: ▪ Full-time, and ▪ Indeterminate, and ▪ Skill level A, B, or 0 OR skill levels C and D with possible with employer career development plan	No	Yes, must: ▪ Score at least 67 points within the FSWP points grid, and ▪ Show evidence to reside in BC, and ▪ Wage of job offered must be competitive within BC wage rates for the occupation

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Federal Programs: Express Entry

1. Canadian Experience Class (CEC)

CEC is a __federal__ immigration program assessed through Express Entry. Most students who apply through CEC (1) apply for a post-graduation work permit (PGWP) within 90 days of completing their program at UBC, (2) gain the required skilled work experience by using the PGWP, and (3) apply for CEC. You can only apply for one PGWP in your lifetime.

	Step	Link (if applicable)
1	Meet the minimum requirements	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/cec/apply-who.asp
2	Gather documents e.g. language exam results, an Educational Credential Assessment (if necessary), etc.	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/profile.asp
3	Make an online Express Entry profile	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/e-services/mycic.asp
4	Wait to see if you are selected from the Express Entry pool; if you are not selected within one year, your profile will expire; you can submit another Express Entry profile	
5	If you are selected from the Express Entry pool, you will receive an Invitation to Apply	
6	*Within 90 days*, submit a complete application for permanent residence (tip: due to the 90 day time limit, consider gathering necessary documents in advance)	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/invitations.asp

2. Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP)

The FSWP is a __federal__ immigration program assessed through Express Entry. Most students who apply through the FSWP have skilled work experience before starting their UBC program. Students can only apply through the FSWP if they meet all the conditions set out in the minimum requirements __and__ they have enough points in the "FSWP Grid."

	Step	Link (if applicable)
1	Meet the minimum requirements	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/apply-who.asp
2	Make sure you have at least 67 (out of a possible 100) points	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/apply-factors.asp
3	Gather documents e.g. language exam results, an Educational Credential Assessment (if necessary), etc.	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/profile.asp
4	Make an online Express Entry profile	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/e-services/mycic.asp
5	Wait to see if you are selected from the Express Entry pool; if you are not selected within one year, your profile will expire; you can submit another Express Entry profile	
6	If you are selected from the Express Entry pool, you will receive an Invitation to Apply	
7	*Within 90 days*, submit a complete application for permanent residence (tip: due to the 90 day time limit, consider gathering necessary documents in advance)	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/invitations.asp

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BC Provincial Nominee: Skills Immigration

*BC PNP Skills Immigration is a **Provincial** Nominee Program (PNP) stream containing multiple categories. Applications are assessed through the BC PNP Online system. Most students who apply through a PNP (1) apply for a post-graduation work permit (PGWP) within 90 days of completing their UBC program, (2) apply for PR via the PNP as soon as they qualify, then (3) use the PGWP to work in Canada while waiting for their application to be processed.*

3. BC PNP Skills Immigration - International Graduate

	Step	Link (if applicable)
1	Meet the minimum requirements	http://www.welcomebc.ca/Immigrate/About-the-BC-PNP/About-the-BC-PNP.aspx
2	Make a BCPNP Online profile and register with the BC PNP Skills Immigration Registration system	https://www.pnpapplication.gov.bc.ca/user/sign-in
3	Wait to see if you are selected from the BC PNP selection pool; if you are not selected within one year, you can create and submit a new registration using your existing BC PNP Online profile	
4	If you are selected from the BC PNP selection pool, you will receive an Invitation to Apply	
5	*Within 30 days*, submit a complete application via BCPNP Online	
6	If your application is approved, you will receive a BC PNP nomination	
7	Within 6 months, apply for permanent residence as instructed by the BC PNP; you may also be eligible to apply for a work permit at this time while you wait for your permanent residence application to be processed	

4. BC PNP Skills Immigration - International Post-Graduate

	Step	Link (if applicable)
1	Meet the minimum requirements	http://www.welcomebc.ca/Immigrate/About-the-BC-PNP/About-the-BC-PNP.aspx
2	Make a BCPNP Online profile and register with the BC PNP Skills Immigration Registration system	https://www.pnpapplication.gov.bc.ca/user/sign-in
3	Wait to see if you are selected from the BC PNP selection pool; if you are not selected within one year, you can create and submit a new registration using your existing BC PNP Online profile	
4	If you are selected from the BC PNP selection pool, you will receive an Invitation to Apply	
5	*Within 30 days*, submit a complete application via BCPNP Online	
6	If your application is approved, you will receive a BC PNP nomination	
7	Within 6 months, apply for permanent residence as instructed by the BC PNP; you may also be eligible to apply for a work permit at this time while you wait for your permanent residence application to be processed	

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BC Provincial Nominee: Express Entry BC

BC PNP Express Entry BC is also a __Provincial__ Nominee Program (PNP) stream containing multiple categories, but applications are assessed through Express Entry __and__ the BC PNP Online system.

5. Express Entry BC - International Graduate (via the Canadian Experience Class)

	Step	Link (if applicable)
1	Meet the minimum requirements for the Canadian Experience Class AND the BC PNP International Graduate category	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/cec/apply-who.asp AND http://www.welcomebc.ca/Immigrate/About-the-BC-PNP/About-the-BC-PNP.aspx
2	Gather documents e.g. language exam results, an Educational Credential Assessment (if necessary), etc.	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/profile.asp
3	Make an online Express Entry profile and get: ▪ an Express Entry profile number ▪ a Job Seeker Validation Code	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/e-services/mycic.asp
4	Submit a complete application via BC PNP Online and follow subsequent instructions from the BC PNP	https://www.pnpapplication.gov.bc.ca/user/sign-in

6. Express Entry BC - International Graduate (via the Federal Skilled Worker Program)

	Step	Link (if applicable)
1	Meet the minimum requirements for the Federal Skilled Worker Program AND the BC PNP International Graduate category	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/apply-who.asp AND http://www.welcomebc.ca/Immigrate/About-the-BC-PNP/About-the-BC-PNP.aspx
2	Check if you have at least 67 (out of a possible 100) points	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/apply-factors.asp
3	Gather documents e.g. language exam results, an Educational Credential Assessment (if necessary), etc.	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/profile.asp
4	Make an online Express Entry profile and get: ▪ an Express Entry profile number ▪ a Job Seeker Validation Code	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/e-services/mycic.asp
5	Submit a complete application via BC PNP Online and follow subsequent instructions from the BC PNP	https://www.pnpapplication.gov.bc.ca/user/sign-in

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7. Express Entry BC - International Post-Graduate (via the Canadian Experience Class)

	Step	Link (if applicable)
1	Meet the minimum requirements for the Canadian Experience Class AND the BC PNP International Post-Graduate category	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/cec/apply-who.asp AND http://www.welcomebc.ca/Immigrate/About-the-BC-PNP/About-the-BC-PNP.aspx
2	Gather documents e.g. language exam results, an Educational Credential Assessment (if necessary), etc.	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/profile.asp
3	Make an online Express Entry profile and get: ▪ an Express Entry profile number ▪ a Job Seeker Validation Code	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/e-services/mycic.asp
4	Submit a complete application via BC PNP Online and follow subsequent instructions from the BC PNP	https://www.pnpapplication.gov.bc.ca/user/sign-in

8. Express Entry BC - International Post-Graduate (via the Federal Skilled Worker Program)

	Step	Link (if applicable)
1	Meet the minimum requirements for the Federal Skilled Worker Program AND the BC PNP International Post-Graduate category	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/apply-who.asp AND http://www.welcomebc.ca/Immigrate/About-the-BC-PNP/About-the-BC-PNP.aspx
2	Check if you have at least 67 (out of a possible 100) points	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/apply-factors.asp
3	Gather documents e.g. language exam results, an Educational Credential Assessment (if necessary), etc.	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/profile.asp
4	Make an online Express Entry profile and get: ▪ an Express Entry profile number ▪ a Job Seeker Validation Code	http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/e-services/mycic.asp
5	Submit a complete application via BC PNP Online and follow subsequent instructions from the BC PNP	https://www.pnpapplication.gov.bc.ca/user/sign-in

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