

# UNLOCK YOUR FUTURE: HOW NEWCOMERS CAN SECURE AN APPRENTICESHIP IN CANADA'S SKILLED TRADES

Embarking on a career in Canada's skilled trades offers newcomers a pathway to stable and rewarding employment and even to *permanent residency*. The first step is getting an apprenticeship which combines paid on-the-job training with classroom instruction to allow you to earn while you learn and leading to the ultimate goal of Red Seal certification allowing you to practice your trade nationwide.

## PATHWAYS TO APPRENTICESHIP FOR NEWCOMERS

Newcomers to Canada can access various programs and services designed to help them transition into the skilled trades. Many provinces and territories offer bridging programs, career counseling, and credential recognition services to assist internationally trained workers in gaining Canadian qualifications. Some key pathways include:

- ▶ **Bridging Programs:** Designed for internationally trained workers, these programs help newcomers meet Canadian industry standards and obtain certifications.
- ▶ **Work Experience Programs:** Some provinces offer hands-on experience programs that allow newcomers to gain local work experience in the trades.

- ▶ **Credential Recognition Services:** Organizations such as the [\*Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials \(CICIC\)\*](#) help newcomers assess and validate their previous training and experience.
- ▶ **Settlement Agencies and Support Networks:** Many immigrant-serving organizations offer career counseling, mentorship, and job placement support to help newcomers find opportunities in the skilled trades.

These steps are especially important to pursue as newcomers who have few professional contacts and networks in Canada.

# STEPS TO SECURE AN APPRENTICESHIP

- 1. Identify Your Trade:** Explore various trades to find one that matches your interests and experience. Resources like [careersintrades.ca](https://careersintrades.ca) offer comprehensive information on different trades.
- 2. Assess Certification Requirements:** Determine if your chosen trade requires certification in your province or territory. Some trades are compulsory and mandate certification, while others are voluntary but obtaining certification can enhance employment prospects. Begin by understanding the regional apprenticeship authority requirements.
- 3. Engage in Pre-Apprenticeship Programs:** These programs provide foundational training and are especially beneficial for newcomers. Search online for regional programs.
- 4. Secure an Apprenticeship:** Apprenticeships combine on-the-job training with classroom instruction. You'll need to find an employer willing to hire and train you as an apprentice. This is the most difficult step for newcomers who have few professional contacts and networks in Canada and who do not speak English well enough to secure an employer. Make sure to use all the support services available so you have confidence networking at industry events, job fairs, and engage with community organizations to connect with potential employers. Create an online presence on LinkedIn that highlights your training and transferable skills. Use job search platforms and websites to find employers seeking apprentices.
- 5. Register Your Apprenticeship:** Once an employer agrees to hire you as an apprentice, register the apprenticeship with the relevant provincial or territorial authority.
- 6. Access Financial Support through grants and loans:** Explore financial assistance options available regionally or federally.



## Permanent Residency and Skilled Trades Resources

[Federal Skilled Trades Program:](#) Government of Canada website that explains the Federal Skilled Trades Program for skilled workers who want to become permanent residents based on being qualified in a skilled trade.