

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: 2016 IEC season

Q1: What has changed for the program in 2016?

A1: This year, the Government of Canada is implementing two changes to the way we process International Experience Canada applications.

- First, a new system is being launched, making for a more simple application process. Clients will no longer need to first apply through the “Kompass” system for a Conditional Acceptance Letter (CAL), and then apply to the “MyCIC” system for a work permit. Instead, clients will now apply directly to MyCIC.
- Second, the program is moving from a “first come, first served model” to a “pool/invitation” model. This means that clients will no longer need to race to apply (before quota is filled), as invitations to apply for a work permit will occur regularly. This gives *all clients* interested in a Working Holiday experience an equal chance of being invited.

Q2: What is the difference between “clients”, “candidates”, “applicants” and “participants”?

A2:

- Before submitting their profile to a pool(s), interested youth are called “clients”.
- After a client submits their profile to a pool(s), they become a “candidate”.
- After a candidate submits their application for a work permit, they become an “applicant”.
- After a Letter of Introduction (LOI) has been issued, an applicant becomes a “participant”.

Q3: When will the IEC program open for 2016?

A3: Invitations to apply for a work permit will start soon after the bilateral quotas are confirmed by the Government of Canada and partner countries and territories. This process is currently underway.

Nevertheless, interested clients can now start using the *Come to Canada* tool to see if they are eligible to apply for IEC. If they are eligible, they can create and submit an online profile through MyCIC. In order to ease the flow of traffic on the website, we recommend that clients only begin to submit profiles at the date indicated on our [website](#)¹ for their country or territory. No one will be disadvantaged by waiting until that time.

¹ At the time that this document is shared, this link may not yet be available. If so, be advised that it will become available shortly.

Eligible clients who submit a profile will be placed into one or more pool(s) of eligible candidates for their country or territory. When bilateral quotas are confirmed and the normal administrative process is completed, the Department will announce, five days in advance, when the first round of invitations will take place. Rounds of invitations will take place continuously during the year.

At the end of the season for each country/territory and category, the Government of Canada will announce, five days in advance, when the last round of invitations will take place provided there is quota space remaining.

Q4: What is a pool?

A4: A pool is a group of candidates who have created and submitted their profile to an IEC program category. Candidates are permitted to submit their profile to as many pools as they are eligible.

Clients must only submit one profile to the IEC pool(s). They can choose to submit their profile to any of the pools they are eligible for that are available in their country or territory. For example, with a client's one profile, they could be eligible to submit that profile to both the Working Holiday pool and the Young Professionals pool at the same time.

Throughout the season, the Department will regularly invite candidates from these pools to apply for a work permit, as long as quota is available for their country or territory and program category. Candidates must receive an invitation to apply from the Department before they can submit an application for a work permit under the IEC program.

The Department will create a pool for each IEC country or territory and their program categories, which may include *Working Holiday*, *International Co-op (Internship)* and *Young Professionals* streams. All profiles in the pools are valid for the season for which they were created and expire at the end of the season. New pools will be created prior to launching a new season.

Q5: How will the Department proceed to choose candidates from the pools and invite them to apply for a work permit?

A5: Rounds of invitations will take place regularly throughout the season and in numbers that are in line with demand until **the quota is reached**.

Candidates with an eligible profile in more than one pool can decline the invitation(s) they receive and still be eligible to be invited through another category. With the new e-application system, IEC will prioritize inviting candidates from the pools in this order:

1. *International Co-op (Internship)*,

2. *Young Professionals*,
3. *Working Holiday*.

Candidates who receive an invitation to apply for a work permit will be notified via their MyCIC account. Once a candidate has been notified, they will have 10 days to take action and start their work permit applications or to refuse the invitation. If they start their work permit application, they will have 20 days to submit a complete work permit application. If a candidate declines the invitation to apply, their profile will go back into the pool and they may receive an invitation to apply in another round of invitations. Their profile will also remain valid in any other pools the candidate may have submitted their profile to. If a candidate does not respond to the invitation to apply, their entire profile will be deleted from all pools in which it has been submitted. They will receive correspondence notifying them of such.

International Co-op (Internship) and Young Professionals

Candidates with employer-specific job offers who have submitted a profile under the Young Professionals or International Co-op categories will be invited to apply for a work permit on a regular basis, and then will be processed based on the date their completed application was submitted. All candidates in these pools will receive an invitation to apply for a work permit so long as quota remains for their country or territory.

Working Holiday

The Department will randomly select *Working Holiday* candidates from the pool to apply for an open work permit. Completing an IEC online profile and entering a *Working Holiday* pool **does not guarantee** that a candidate will get an invitation to apply for a work permit.

Q6: Why is the Department randomly selecting *Working Holiday* candidates from the pools?

A6: The popularity of the IEC among many foreign nationals has resulted in quota spaces being filled in the matter of minutes. In previous years, clients who were unable to apply once quota spaces opened for their country or territory could not participate in that year. Through the new e-application invitation model, a greater number of clients from countries or territories where demand is high will have a chance to participate under the *Working Holiday* category, as they will have more time to submit their profiles. However, it **does not guarantee** that all candidates with an eligible profile in *Working Holiday* pools will be invited to apply for a work permit.

Q7: How long can candidates expect to be in a pool before they will receive an invitation to apply for a work permit?

A7: The length of time that candidates can expect to be in the pool will vary significantly depending on the demand in their country or territory, and category of choice. For some categories where demand surpasses the available space, particularly the *Working Holiday*

category, some candidates in the pool may never receive an invitation to apply for a work permit.

IEC will prioritize inviting candidates from the two employer specific streams. They will be the first ones to be invited to apply at each round of invitations. This should ensure that they will receive their work permit prior to their employment start date.

Q8: How will candidates know that they have been invited to apply?

A8: Candidates who receive an invitation to apply for a work permit will be notified via their MyCIC account.

Q9: How much does it cost to participate in International Experience Canada?

A9: Candidates in all categories must pay the IEC participation fee of \$150 CAD.

There are no fees to be paid when submitting a profile to the IEC pool(s). Fees have to be paid only when candidates have started a work permit application after they received an invitation to apply for a work permit through MyCIC.

Working Holiday participants must also pay an open work permit holder fee of \$100 CAD when submitting a work permit application through MyCIC.

Young Professionals and International Co-op (Internship) participants do not have to pay any other fees, but their Canadian employer will need to:

- complete and submit an offer of employment directly to Citizenship and Immigration Canada via the [employer portal](#); and
- pay the employer compliance fee of \$230 CAD (also via the [employer portal](#))

The employer must pay the fee and submit the offer of employment **before** candidates can submit their work permit application through MyCIC (before the expiration of the 20 days)

These fees are all refundable if applicants cancel their application **before** the Department issues a Letter of Introduction, or if an application is refused.