



Permanent Residence Options for Post Doctoral Fellows in Quebec

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Contents

- Who am I?
- Disclaimer:
 - this is not legal advice but a general presentation of the main current options to apply for permanent residence in Quebec, as of December 7, 2020; Immigration rules and their interpretation is subject to change without notice
 - Each case must be assessed on an individual basis
- Presentation of the main options to apply for permanent residence in the case of temporary foreign workers (such as post doctoral fellows) currently residing and working in Quebec
- Procedure
- While the application for permanent residence is processed – renewal of work permit
- Citizenship
- Questions

Why Apply for Permanent Residence?

- Same rights as Canadian citizens (except for the right to vote and passport)
- Valid status for each family member
- Unlimited validity, but must respect residency obligations – PR cards are valid for 5 years at a time
- Mandatory step towards Canadian citizenship
- No work permit / visa renewal
- Increased professional mobility

Permanent Residence

- Different Programs across Canada which don't apply to Quebec immigrants
 - Express Entry – all provinces except Quebec
 - Provincial Nominee programs
- Quebec selects its own economic immigrants under several available programs:
 - **Skilled workers**
 - Business people (self employed, entrepreneurs, investors)
- Family reunification regardless of the province of destination – spouses or common-law partners of Canadian citizens or permanent residents

Permanent Residence Application Process – Skilled Workers

Provincial Part (Selection)

- Apply for Quebec Certificate of Selection (CSQ) - 2 main options:
 - ⑩ Regular Skilled Workers Program (ARRIMA)
 - ⑩ Quebec Experience Program (PEQ)
- End result - Obtain CSQ

Federal Part (Admission)

- Apply for Permanent Residence with the federal government
 - Processing times
 - Maintain temporary worker status in Canada
 - Obtain PR status

PERMANENT RESIDENCE

Step 1: Apply for Quebec Certificate of Selection (CSQ) Option 1: Regular Skilled Workers Program - ARRIMA

- **Points based system:** http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/resource/cr/l-0.2.1R4_FR_001_001.pdf?langCont=fr&digest=A348F70F3F9301ECE1D7CD65D9201CDC
 - **Employability factors:**
 - Level of education
 - Field of education: <https://www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/publications/fr/divers/liste-formation.pdf>
 - Work experience
 - Age
 - Language ability (French & English)
 - Living / working experience in Quebec
 - Family in Quebec
 - Spouse's attributes, if applicable
 - Permanent job offer
 - **Selection factors**
 - Children
 - Financial autonomy

PERMANENT RESIDENCE

Step 1: Apply for Quebec Certificate of Selection (CSQ)

Option 1: Regular Skilled Workers Program - ARRIMA

- Complete a Declaration of Interest in ARRIMA
- Be invited to apply for a Quebec Certificate of Selection
- Submit the electronic application
- Receive a personalized checklist
- Submit requested documents
 - If MIFI not satisfied – intent to reject your application + 120 days to provide what is missing
 - Otherwise:
- Be invited for the Quebec Values Test
- Outcome:
 - Receive CSQ
 - Receive an intent to refuse your application if the selection criteria is not satisfied – 120 days to respond
 - Receive CSQ; or
 - Refusal of the application

PERMANENT RESIDENCE

Step 1: Apply for Quebec Certificate of Selection (CSQ) Option 1: Regular Skilled Workers Program

- Very Strict Document Requirements. Examples:
 - Points obtained only if proof submitted (ex. language tests)
 - Certified true copies: <http://www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/forms/search-title/list-authorities.html>
 - If a document must be translated – first certify true the copy and then have this copy translated
 - Diplomas + transcripts starting with secondary studies (high school) – except if it's **general** high school
 - Proof of the legality of the work experience: proof of social security contributions or proof of payment of income tax – no longer systematically required, but must be available

PERMANENT RESIDENCE

Step 1: Apply for Quebec Certificate of Selection (CSQ)

Option 1: Regular Skilled Workers Program

- Section 58 of the Québec Immigration Act:
 - The Minister may select a foreign national in the economic class, except under the Québec experience program, who does not meet a condition or selection criterion if the Minister is of the opinion that the foreign national can successfully settle in Québec.
 - Despite the first paragraph, the Minister may not make a selection decision for a foreign national that does not obtain a cutoff score provided for in the Regulation respecting the weighting applicable to the selection of foreign nationals ([chapter I-0.2.1, r. 4](#)) in the awarding of the points in respect of the factors and criteria provided for in the Selection grid for the economic class in Schedule A, except if the foreign national has an exceptional profile or an expertise unique for Québec.

PERMANENT RESIDENCE

Step 1: Apply for Quebec Certificate of Selection (CSQ)

Option 1: Regular Skilled Workers Program

The regular Skilled Workers Program (ARRIMA):

- Fairly long & unpredictable process
- Point-based system
- Not certain to receive an invitation to apply
- Several steps
- Strict document requirements

Alternative: the Quebec Experience Program (PEQ)

- Easier
- In general - faster
- Not a points-based system

PERMANENT RESIDENCE

Step 1: Apply for Quebec Certificate of Selection (CSQ)

Option 2: PEQ – Quebec Experience Program - Workers

- Main conditions if valid worker status on July 21, 2020:
 - Valid Temporary Worker Status at the time the application is submitted
 - At least 12 months of fulltime experience in Quebec in a NOC 0, A, or B position during the 24 months preceding the submission of the application
 - Be actively employed in such position at the time the application is submitted
 - Intermediate advanced level of French (Level 7 or higher) for the main applicant only
 - French can be demonstrated with certain classes, among other means
 - Pass the Quebec Values Test

PERMANENT RESIDENCE

Step 1: Apply for Quebec Certificate of Selection (CSQ)

Option 2: PEQ – Quebec Experience Program - Workers

- Main conditions if no valid worker status on July 21, 2020:
 - Valid Temporary Worker Status at the time the application is submitted
 - At least 24 months of fulltime experience in Quebec in a NOC 0, A, or B position during the 24 months preceding the submission of the application
 - Be actively employed in such position at the time the application is submitted
 - Intermediate advanced level of French (Level 7 or higher for the main applicant & Level 4 or higher for the accompanying spouse)
 - Classes no longer accepted as proof of French
 - Pass the Quebec Values Test

PERMANENT RESIDENCE

Step 1: Apply for Quebec Certificate of Selection (CSQ)

Option 2: PEQ – Quebec Experience Program

- French requirement:
 - Admission with a professional order in Quebec
 - Demonstrate at least 3 years of fulltime postsecondary studies taught entirely in French
 - Standardized test:
 - ❑ Test d'évaluation du français adapté pour le Québec (TEFAQQ);
 - ❑ Test de connaissance du français pour le Québec (TCF-Québec);
 - ❑ Test d'évaluation du français (TEF);
 - ❑ Test d'évaluation du français pour le Canada (TEF Canada)
 - ❑ Test de connaissance du français (TCF)
 - ❑ Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELFF)
 - ❑ Diplôme approfondi de langue française (DALF)

PERMANENT RESIDENCE

Step 2: Apply for permanent residence with the federal government

- Once the CSQ is obtained, either through ARRIMA or through PEQ:
 - CSQ is valid for 2 years
 - Apply for Permanent Residence with the federal government
- Important: Nor the CSQ nor the application for permanent residence grant any rights or any implied status
- While the application for permanent residence is processed – always maintain legal status in Canada
- The CSQ holder generally qualifies to renew their work permit under exemption A75 (no LMIA required)

While the Application for Permanent Residence is Processed

- Applicants must maintain valid temporary status if they remain in Canada
- It is possible to apply either to renew the work permit with the same employer or for positions with other employers
- Apply for work permit under exemption A75 (CSQ holders) – main conditions:
 - Have an employment offer for a position based in Quebec
 - Have a valid work permit
 - Have a valid CSQ or, if CSQ expired, have applied for permanent residence with the federal government

PERMANENT RESIDENCE

Step 1: Apply for Quebec Certificate of Selection (CSQ)

- Important to remember:
 - The above concerns skilled workers, not business people
 - If the worker is the owner of the company that employs them:
 - PEQ does not apply – look into alternative programs (entrepreneur, self-employed or investor)
 - The renewal of the work permit must take this into account as A75 (CSQ holder) does not apply to self-employed applicants, investors or to entrepreneurs

PERMANENT RESIDENCE

Step 2: Apply for permanent residence with the federal government

- The federal government verifies:
 - SECURITY
 - Police certificates for all family members of age, either included in the application or not
 - MISREPRESENTATION
 - HEALTH
 - Medical examinations for each family member either included in the application or not

PERMANENT RESIDENCE

Step 2: Apply for permanent residence with the federal government

- FINAL STEPS:
 - Send photos and passport (or copy of passport if a visa is not required)
 - Validate status
 - At the border
 - By booking an appointment with Immigration
 - Over the phone
 - During COVID – simple email confirming PR status
 - Issuance of Permanent Residence card which must be used whenever travelling abroad and renewed every 5 years

Canadian Citizenship

- To simplify - after 3 years as a permanent residence or after 2 years of permanent residence combined with 2 years of temporary residence (i.e. as a temporary worker)
- Advantages:
 - Right to vote
 - Canadian passport
 - No residency obligation or PR card to renew every 5 years
 - Status granted, in principle, for life



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