



Citizenship and
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et
Immigration Canada



International Experience Canada

OVERVIEW

Student Information Session

November 2015



Canada



What brings us here today:

- Provide general information on the International Experience Canada (IEC) program.
- Provide information on what you need to know to participate, and on what types of support are available to you.
- Share information on the benefits of acquiring international work and travel experience.





Background

- [International Experience Canada](#) (IEC) is a youth mobility program that provides Canadian and foreign participants , between 18-35, opportunities to develop a mutual understanding of other cultures through travel, life and work experiences abroad and in Canada. This cultural experience also enhances their personal and professional development, giving them a competitive edge in the job market.
- The initiative originated in 1951 as a reconciliatory cultural exchange between Canada and Germany following World War II. In 1967, following the success of the initiative, Canada proceeded to create an international travel and exchange program. More than 45 years later, Canada is still very committed to fostering cultural exchanges between young people.
- Today, Canada has Youth Mobility Agreements (YMAS) with **32 countries** (see Annex A for list of countries) under the IEC.





IEC: One program with many opportunities

- **IEC has three categories:**
 1. Working Holiday:
 - Open work permit that allows youth to work for any employer, anywhere in the host country.
 2. International Co-op (Internship) (students only - internships):
 - Employer-specific work permit that allows students to gain targeted work experience related to program of study.
 3. Young Professionals (career development):
 - Employer-specific work permit that allows youth to gain targeted experience related to profession or program of study.
- Work permits are valid for up to 24 months, depending on the country.
- Participants can participate in the IEC as many times as they like so long as they meet the age criteria and choose a different country or category each time they participate.

****Participants do not need to be actively studying or working in Canada to be eligible for the IEC****





How much does it cost? What kinds of support are available to you?

- **How much does it cost?**
 - Application fees vary by host country, from \$0 to approximately \$850.
 - Canada's IEC Participation Fee, which foreign participants pay, is \$150*.
 - Application fees for work permits under IEC YMA are less expensive and have more timely processing times than other work permits available in Canada and in the 32 partner countries.
 - **Recognized Organizations (ROs):**
 - Organizations that offer support services and advice to Canadian and foreign youth seeking to work and travel in Canada and abroad.
 - Services can include: assistance with travel arrangements, assistance in seeking and securing work placements, and pre-departure and post-arrival orientation sessions.
 - Services are for a fee, which is paid by youth who choose to use ROs.
- Note:** It is not mandatory for applicants to use the services of a RO; the decision is a personal choice.





Benefits to Youth, Canada, and Partner Countries of working and travelling abroad

- POSITIVE LABOUR MARKET IMPACTS.
 - FARE MUCH BETTER ON THE JOB MARKET.
- EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT CULTURES, MEET NEW PEOPLE.
- GAIN A LIFETIME OF EXPERIENCES!

Canadian businesses, educational institutions, and federal, provincial/territorial governments prioritize the importance of having a global perspective. As such, the current environment is an opportune time to take advantage of the IEC program!



Past IEC Participants from Canada!



Q: What made you choose Germany for your overseas experience?

A: I crossed the Atlantic without really knowing why. A friend from high school who I also traveled parts of Asia with opened a restaurant in Berlin and he told me it would be great if I could come over and help. That was enough of an incentive for me. Also, I wanted to pursue work on my own creative portfolio. That is what I started with, and many paths began to emerge as I let things take their course.

Here's the story of Duncan, who recently arrived in [#Berlin](#) under this program.

Q: What are your plans for the rest of your Working Holiday year in Germany?

A: Learning German, running a marathon in Cologne, spending quality time with people I love, swimming in Weißensee, making music, seeing shows, biking (thank you Matt Arnold for lending yours to me) and you know, living it day by day. I just picked up some part-time work at the Soho House too so between that and some freelance work I am keeping very busy. I heard somewhere once that a good half of the art of living is resilience... Berlin has a pulse and a rhythm. I wake up and thrive on the creative energy the city has at its disposal.

Q: How do you find living in Germany with only a basic knowledge of German – or after learning German after arriving?

A: It's really not that bad. I am a native English speaker which is valued here, in Berlin anyway, and I can get by with the basic German I do know. It's never been a serious issue for me. Now I am enrolled in a B2 course at die deutSCHule and I plan to continue learning German so I can enter a Studienkolleg and further my education in university in 2016.

Q: What would you like to tell other Canadians about this program? What advice would you have for them?

A: It's worth it... Come with an open heart and mind, hang out with locals, meet new people and make sure to get a bike! Chance encounters are what keep us going.

Past IEC Participants from Abroad!



Felix and Susanna went to Canada in 2012 through the International [#ExperienceCanada](#) program, and worked at a variety of businesses while exploring the country. These included a Vancouver brewery, a wine store, and a butcher. Even though they are back, they love [#Canada!](#)

Q: Why did you pick Canada?

A: We wanted to do a year abroad, and Canada was on the list. One night, late at night, we were watching the Olympics and Michael Bublé gave a tour of his favourite spots in Vancouver, and we decided: we have to go there! It had everything we wanted: a good beer scene, a football team to support (the Whitecaps), the ocean ...

Q: What moments stand out?

A: So many. The first time somebody thanked the bus driver was so strange. We had never seen that before, but it showed the super-friendliness of Canadians. These hipsters getting off, saying, "Thank you, driver." The beauty of the country, sunset on the beach in the heart of the city or seeing the wild west coast of Vancouver Island. And eating poutine!

Q: What advice do you have for others who are thinking about doing a working holiday?

A: Just do it! It is so easy and worthwhile!



How to Apply

- Information on how to apply and participate in the IEC program is available at www.canada.gc.ca/iec-eic.
- The website lists all 32 countries with which Canada has agreements with, and the IEC categories available in each.
- Also included are links to the websites of the 32 partner countries, where you can find step-by-step information on how to apply.

PLAN AHEAD!





Learn more about IEC

More information on International Experience Canada is available at:

<http://www.canada.ca/iec-eic>





Annex A: List of IEC's 32 Partner Countries

Australia	Greece	Norway
Austria	Hong Kong	Poland
Belgium	Ireland	Slovakia
Chile	Italy	Slovenia
Costa Rica	Japan	Spain
Croatia	Republic of Korea	Sweden
Czech Republic	Korea	Switzerland
Denmark	Latvia	Taiwan
Estonia	Lithuania	Ukraine
France	Mexico	United Kingdom
Germany	Netherlands	
	New Zealand	

