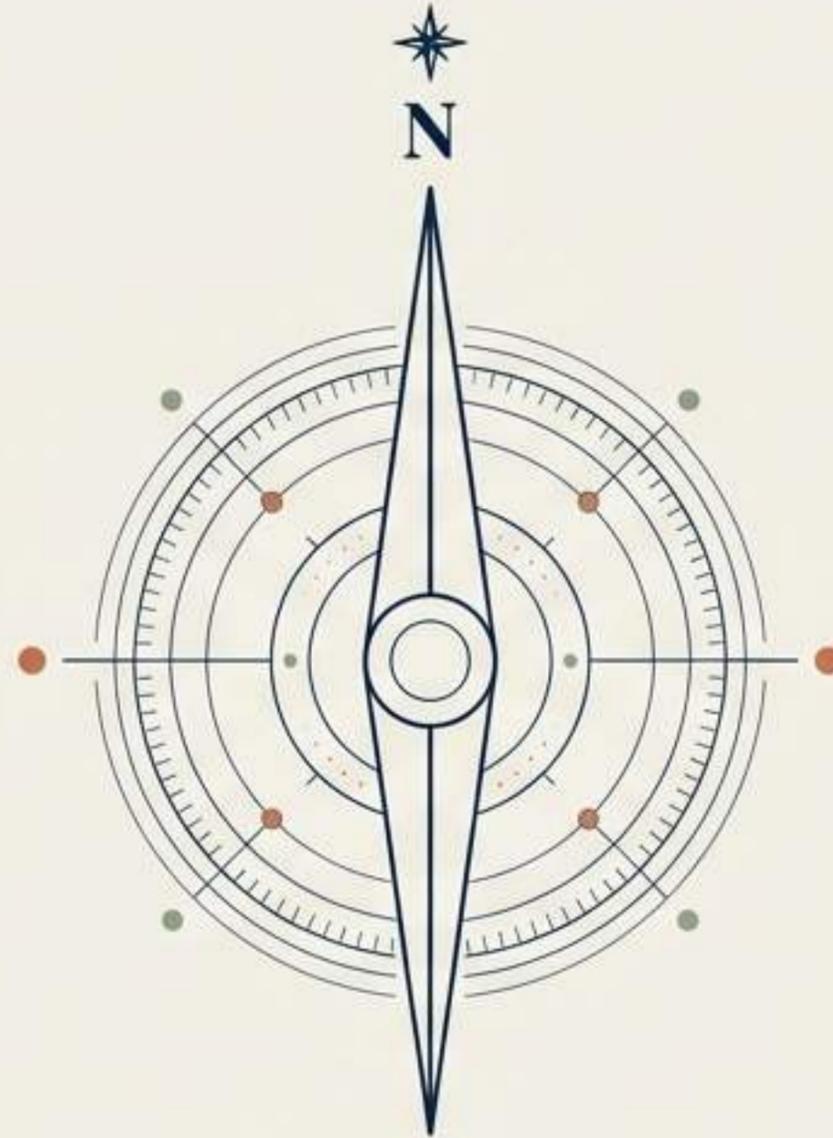


Navigating the Canadian Open Work Permit

A 2026 Guide to Eligibility, Process, and Compliance

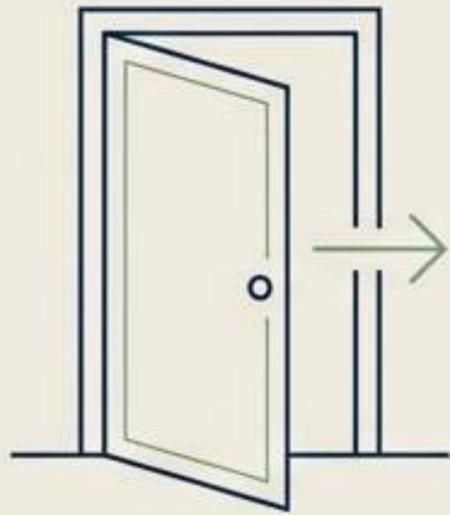


PREPARED BY DARA IMMIGRATION SERVICES (DIS)

www.Daraimmigration.Com



The Bottom Line Up Front



The Value

Work for any employer in any location (exceptions apply). No job offer or Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) required.



The Shift

As of late 2025, rules have tightened to align with housing capacity. "Open" does not mean "Easy" anymore.



The Risk

Generic applications ignoring new TEER or Field of Study requirements now lead to automatic refusals.

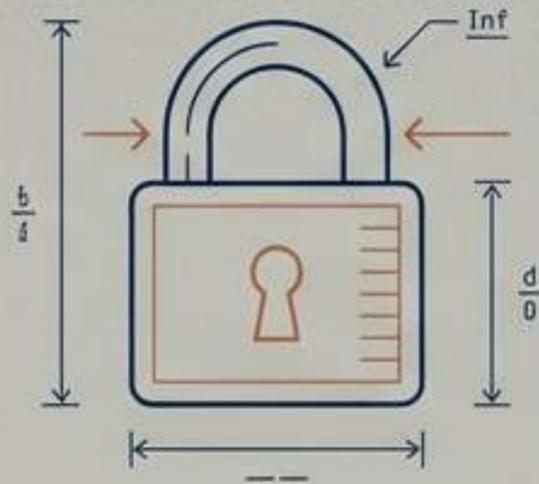


The Cost

Total government fees are typically \$255 CAD. Processing times vary by country.

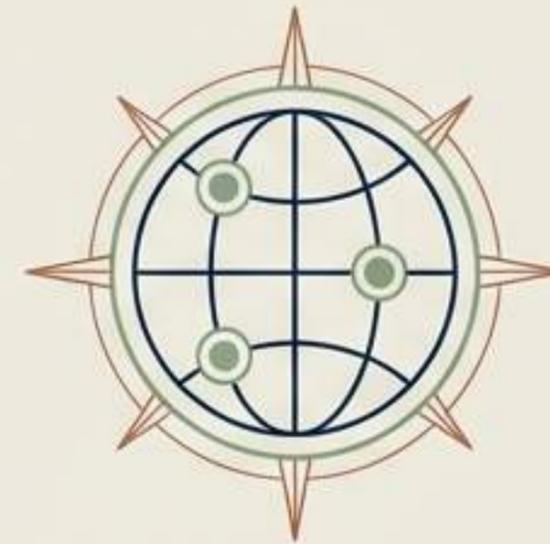
What is an Open Work Permit?

The Ultimate Freedom for International Talent



Employer-Specific (Closed)

- Tied to one specific employer.
- Employer must pay \$1,000 LMIA fee.
- Risk: If you lose the job, you lose your status.



Open Work Permit

- Work for multiple employers.
- Switch jobs freely (Part-time or Full-time).
- No LMIA required.
- Experience in TEER 0, 1, 2, or 3 counts toward Permanent Residence (CEC).

The 2026 Reality: Stricter Rules

POLICY ALERT: Eligibility is no longer guaranteed by mere presence in Canada.

Spousal Restrictions



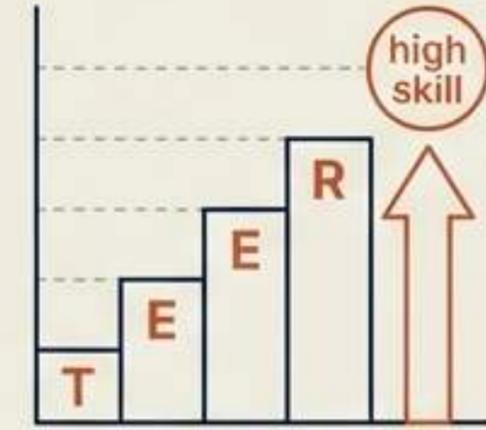
Spouses of college students and low-wage workers are generally no longer eligible. Linked to housing capacity.

PGWP Tightening



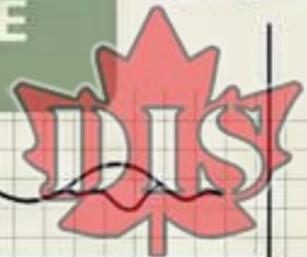
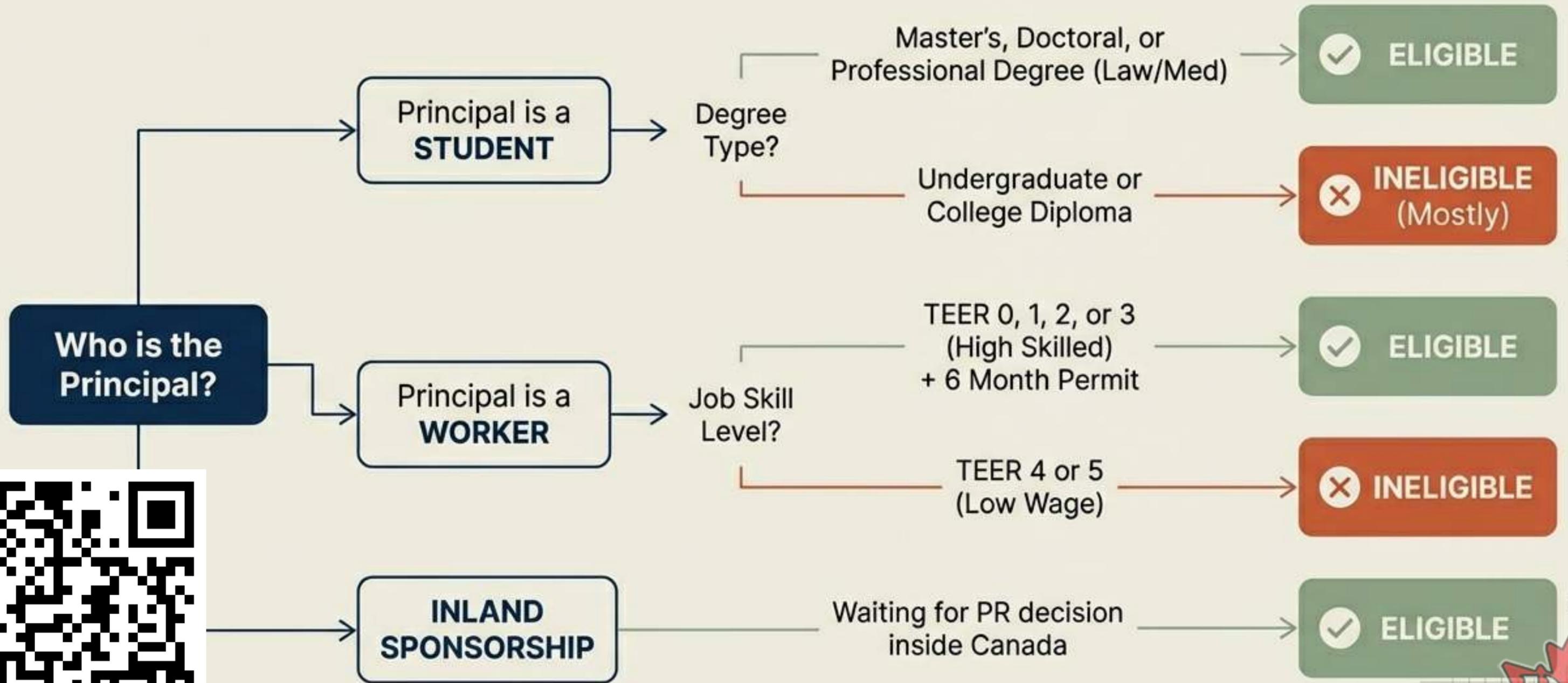
Post-Graduation Work Permits for college grads are now strictly linked to "labour shortage" fields.

Skill Requirements



Heavy reliance on new TEER levels (Training, Education, Experience and Responsibilities).

Eligibility Basket 1: Spouses & Partners



Eligibility Basket 2: Graduates (PGWP)

Linking education to labour market needs.



The University Track

Degree: Bachelor's, Master's, PhD.

Eligibility: Generally eligible regardless of field.

Master's graduates are explicitly exempt from shortage lists.



The College Track

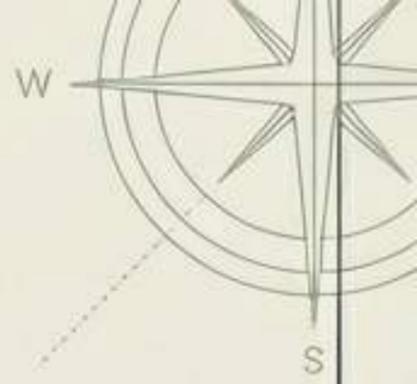
Conditional Eligibility

Degree: College Diploma / Certificate.

Condition: Must graduate from a "Labour Shortage" field.

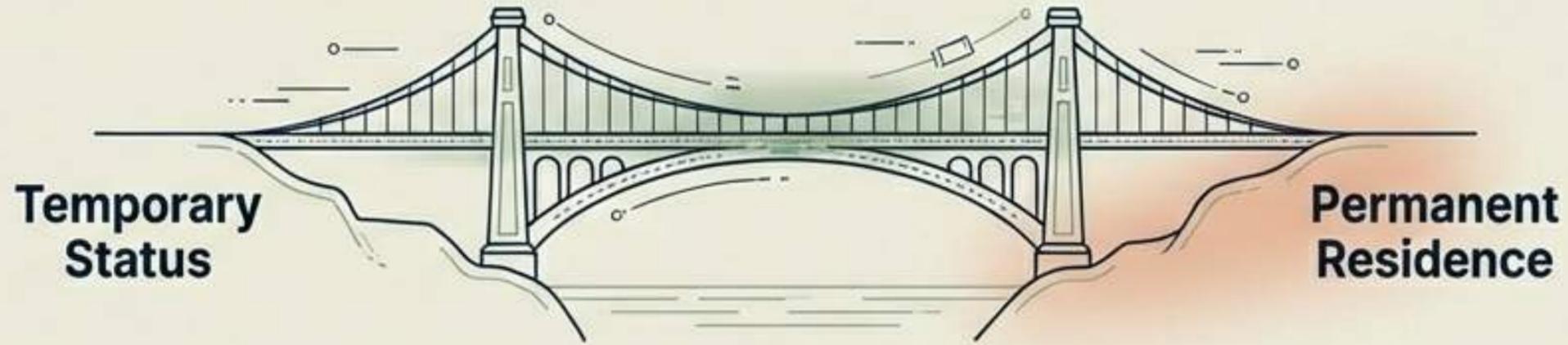
Eligible Fields: Healthcare, Trades, STEM.

Warning: General Arts/Humanities diplomas likely result in refusal.



Eligibility Baskets 3 & 4

3. Bridging Open Work Permit (BOWP)

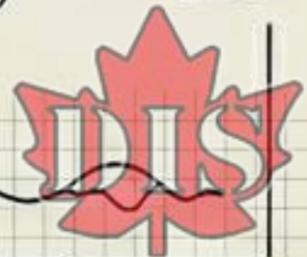


For workers with expiring status who have submitted a valid PR application (e.g., Express Entry).
Purpose: Bridges the gap until PR approval.

4. International Experience Canada (IEC)

For citizens of partner countries (Australia, UK, France, Japan, etc.).

Working Holiday Category allows travel and work without a specific job offer.



The 'Anchor' Concept

Your Application

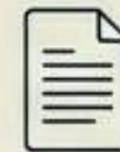
Your Justification

Rule: You need a specific reason to apply. You cannot apply in a vacuum.

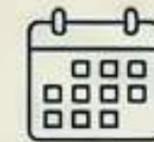
The Chain of Proof:



1. Relation: Marriage certificate or Statutory Declaration.

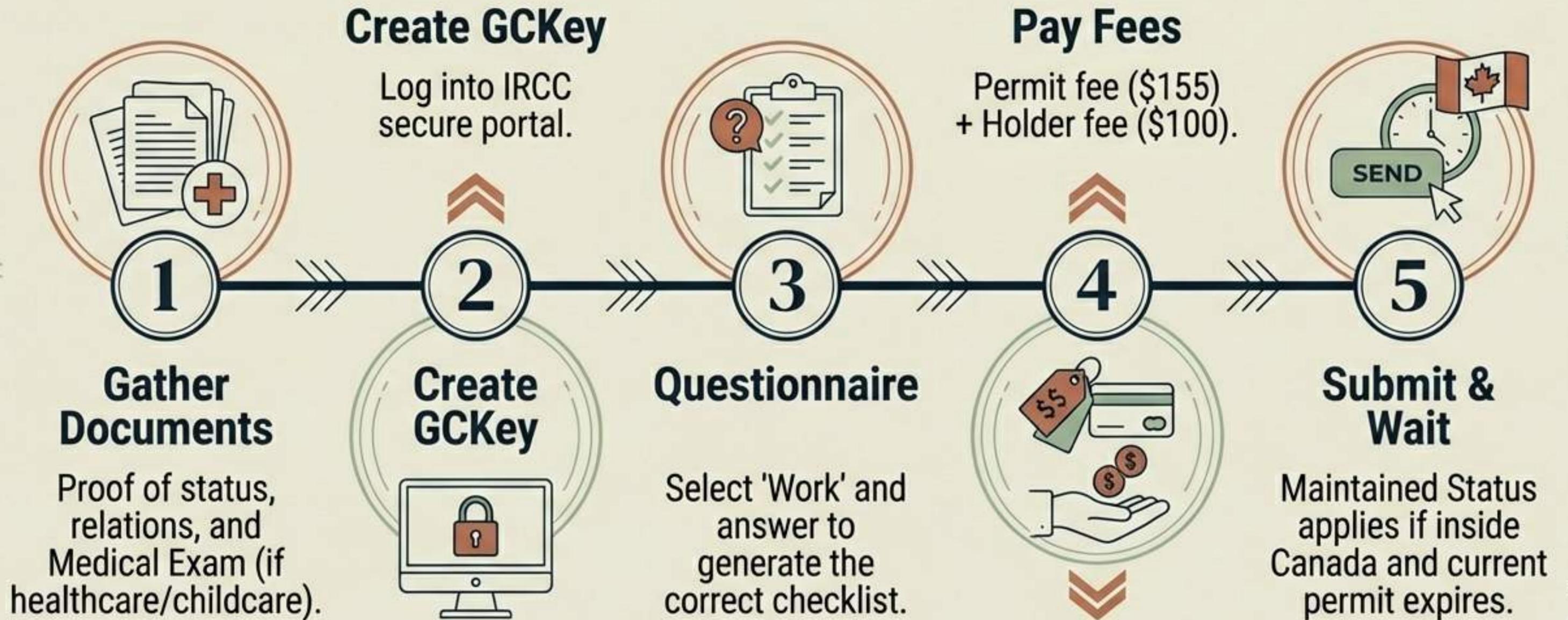


2. Principal's Status: Copy of spouse's study/work permit.



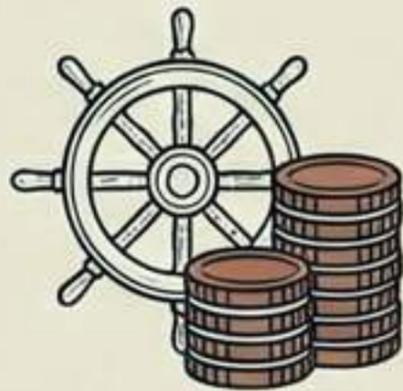
3. Activity: Recent paystubs or enrollment letters to prove the 'Anchor' is compliant.

The Application Roadmap

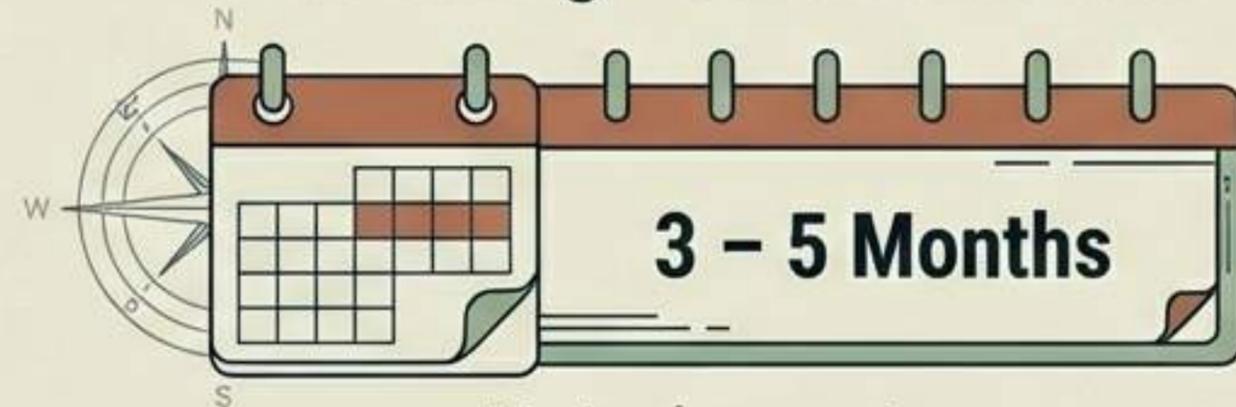


Investment: Costs & Timelines

Work Permit Processing Fee	\$155 CAD
Open Permit Holder Fee	\$100 CAD
Biometrics (if required)	\$85 CAD
<hr/>	
TOTAL GOVERNMENT FEE	\$255 CAD

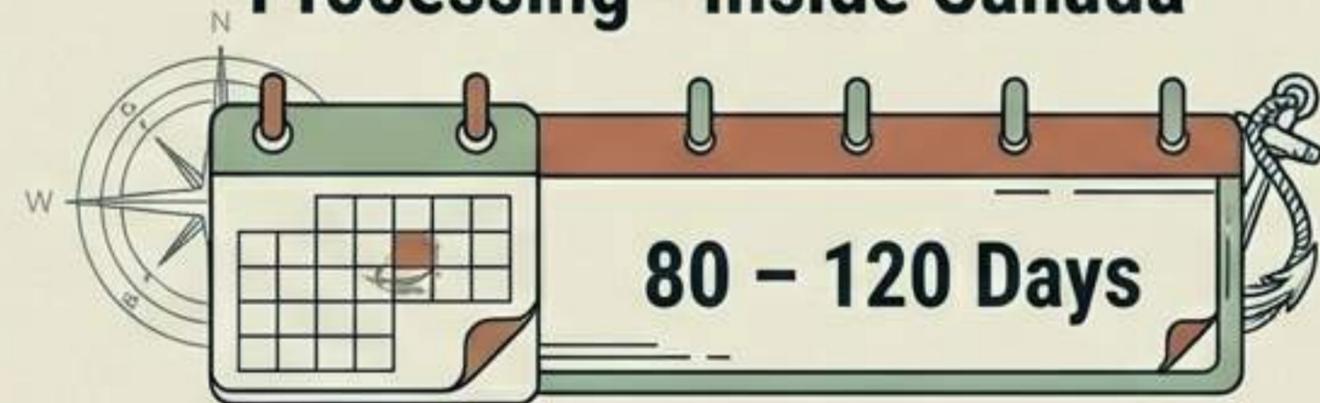


Processing - Outside Canada

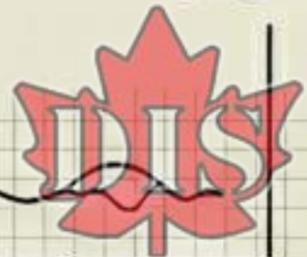


Varies by country.

Processing - Inside Canada



For extensions and spousal permits.



Risk Management: Common Refusals

	Ineligible Principal Applicant
<p>Scenario: Spouse works in retail or food service (TEER 4/5).</p> <p>Result: Refusal. Principal must be High-Skilled (TEER 0-3).</p>	

	Relationship Genuineness
<p>Scenario: Recent marriage, no photos, no history.</p> <p>Result: Refusal. IRCC suspects "Marriage of Convenience".</p>	

	Field of Study Mismatch
<p>Scenario: PGWP applicant studied "General Arts" (Non-Shortage) at a College.</p> <p>Result: Refusal.</p>	



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I work anywhere?

A: Yes, except for “ineligible” non-compliant employers or “erotic services” (strip clubs/massage parlors).

Q: Can I extend my permit?

A: Spousal: Yes, if the principal has status.
PGWP/IEC: Generally no, these are one-time permits.



Q: Do I need an LMIA?

A: No. No employer needs to pay the \$1,000 fee.

Q: Can I apply at the border?

A: Only if you are from a visa-exempt country (e.g., USA, UK). Visa-required nationals must apply online.



Why Navigate with Dara Immigration Services?



The Compass:

The rules have shifted. What worked in 2024 likely will not work in 2026.



The Expertise:

- We identify the correct stream based on the latest TEER rules.
- We review 'Anchor' eligibility to prevent immediate refusal.
- We ensure applications are legally sound.

Call to Action: Don't gamble with your ability to earn an income.



Secure Your Pathway to Work in Canada



DIS
Dara Immigration
Services Inc.



Contact DIS Today

Cell./WhatsApp: 001-778-2392444
Telegram: @Dara_immigration
Email: daraimmigration@gmail.com
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