

INDEPENDENT SKILLED WORKERS

Independent skilled workers are assessed on a Point system, with a maximum of 100 points assessed for 6 factors: Age, Education, Skilled Work Experience, Language Abilities (English and French), a Job Offer in Canada, and Adaptability factors. Details are as follows:

Categories	Max Points	Comments	Your Points
Age	10	21-49. Lose 2 points for each year over or under that range	
Education	25	High school	5
		UNIVERSITY	
		High school + 1 year university degree (total 13 years)	15
		High school + 2 year university degree (total 14 years)	20
		High school + 2 or more university degrees (total 15 years)	22
		Masters or doctorate (total 17 years)	25
		NON-UNIVERSITY	
		1 year diploma, trade cert or apprenticeship (total 12 years)	12
		1 year diploma, trade cert or apprenticeship (total 13 years)	15
		2 year diploma, trade cert or apprenticeship (total 14 years)	20
3 year diploma, trade cert or apprenticeship (total 15 years)	22		
Language	Up to 16 points for 1st official language	1 st official language (English or French) High proficiency: 4 points each Moderate proficiency: 2 points each Basic proficiency: 1 or 2 points each	
		Up to 8 points for 2nd official language	
		2 nd official language: (English or French) High proficiency: 2 points each Moderate proficiency: 2 points Basic proficiency: 1 or 2 points	
		Speaking Listening Reading Writing	
Skilled Work Experience in the past 10 years	21	1 year:	15
		2 years:	17
		3 years:	19
		4 + years	21
Arranged Employment	10	People with approved Job Offers or work permits in Canada	
Adaptability	10	Spouse's education: College, Bachelors or Masters level	3-5
		Arranged Employment factor bonus	5
		2 years previous study in Canada by self or spouse	5
		1 year previous work in Canada by self or spouse	5
		Relative in Canada (parent, grandparent, child, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew)	5
TOTAL	100		

When introduced in June 2002, the pass mark was set at 75 points; in September 2003, due to a drop in the number of applications, and a number of political factors, the government lowered the pass mark to 67 points. This can change at any time, however.

Even if you do not meet the required number of points, you may still be able to qualify for immigration based upon a “substituted evaluation”, if you can establish that you would be able to become successfully economically established in Canada.

At Lowe & Company, we will work with you to present your application in the best possible light, and argue for the best fit into the immigration regulations. We may ask for more detailed reference letters; character references; do research into your school background; advise you on job opportunities and Work Permits in Canada; or prepare your case for a substituted evaluation if you cannot meet the pass mark.

The information on CanadaVisaLaw.com's Web Site has been prepared so you may learn more about the services we offer. These materials do not constitute legal advice, and are not intended to provide specific advice about your particular situation. Because the law constantly changes and is subject to varying interpretations, we urge you to contact us regarding any specific problem you may have, and we advise you not to take, or refrain from taking, any action based upon materials in this Web Site without consulting legal counsel.