

# Canada

## Business visitors: FAQs



If planning on traveling to Canada for temporary business, it is important to remain compliant with the immigration laws of Canada. The purpose of the visitor's intended travel, duration of stay and citizenship will determine if and what type of visa is required. The information in this document is intended to serve as an informational resource about business visitor requirements in Canada.

### Who needs a business visitor visa for Canada?

A business visa is required for persons who wish to enter Canada for the purposes of temporary business. Business visitors are not permitted to engage in employment of any kind while in Canada.

For any activities other than those listed below, or if the person will receive payment from a Canadian source, or engage in any productive employment, a work permit is normally required.

### What activities are permitted as a business visitor?

Activities permitted typically include:

- Participating in meetings, conferences or trade fairs
- Buying Canadian products or services for a foreign entity
- Conducting or attending in-house training programs
- Overseeing the installation of equipment purchased outside Canada
- Performing after-sales activities, as long as the contract or warranty is part of an original sale or lease agreement

Activities not permitted typically include:

- Performing productive work
- Accepting paid or unpaid employment
- Working under the supervision of a host employer
- Attending school or study

These lists are subject to change and are not all-inclusive.

### Who is required to apply for a business visa?

The requirement of applying for a business visa at a Consulate abroad is dependent upon the visitor's nationality. Citizens of certain countries are visa-exempt, and therefore do not require a business visa application to be submitted and approved at a Consulate prior to travel to Canada.

### How long can a visitor stay in Canada on a business visa?

Generally, the maximum allowable stay on a business visa in Canada is six months.

### Is there a limit on the number of times a visitor may travel to Canada on a business visa in any given period?

A business visitor is able to enter Canada at any time within the validity of the visa; however, the stay cannot exceed six months.

### Can a visitor's spouse and children also come to Canada?

A business visitor's spouse and children can come to Canada as visitors, however, they must each apply for their own separate visa.

### Penalties related to non-compliance for the business visa category?

Engaging in unlawful work in Canada can result in serious consequences for both the employer and the business visitor, including:

- A fine of up to \$50,000, a term of imprisonment of up to two years, or both
- Employees are subject to inadmissibility and may be excluded from returning to Canada for six months
- Fines and imprisonment may be imposed upon the employee

*Disclaimer: The information contained in this document is provided for general information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice. If you have any further enquiries regarding the applicability of this information, please contact Crown's Regional Immigration Manager, Americas.*