

Opportunities Ontario: Provincial Nominee Program Overview



Temporary Foreign Worker Seminar
Windsor, ON

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What is Opportunities Ontario?

Opportunities Ontario: Provincial Nominee Program:

- is Ontario's immigration-selection program
- selects, or 'nominates', foreign nationals with an approved job offer for permanent residence to the Federal government
- **helps Ontario employers** hire the skilled workers they need, but are having difficulty finding, by assisting with the immigration of foreign workers and international students
- **supports investment** to the province by assisting with the immigration of key employees required by investors
- **retains the best and brightest international students** by qualifying PhD and Master's graduates of Ontario universities without requiring a job offer

Ontario nominees receive priority (i.e. faster) processing for federal permanent residence visas.

Why should Ontario businesses participate?

It is about competing and succeeding in the global marketplace

If the Ontario company needs to:

Retain workers who are in Canada on a work permit.	✓
Attract executives/professionals/skilled trades people from overseas.	✓
Hire international student graduates of a Canadian post-secondary institution.	✓

The company can use Opportunities Ontario

We are here to support Ontario businesses

- Employers drive the application process
- Employers determine the positions they need filled and recruit candidates for each position
- Employer application is free and applying is easy
- Employers can request multiple positions with one application

Eligibility criteria for businesses

To participate in the program employers need to meet a few simple eligibility criteria

CRITERIA	GTA EMPLOYER	NON-GTA EMPLOYER
Gross revenue	\$1,000,000	\$500,000
Corporate existence	3 years	3 years
Employees (full-time)	5	3

GTA defined as: City of Toronto, Durham, Halton, Peel and York Regions

Who can businesses recruit?

Businesses can recruit foreign workers and international students

- **Foreign workers:**
 - can be in Canada on a Temporary Work Permit or be located overseas.
 - need only 2 years of experience in the intended occupation to qualify
 - need to be paid a ‘prevailing wage’
- **International students:**
 - need to have a degree or diploma from a publicly funded Canadian university or college
 - can be recruited for positions not related to their fields of study
 - qualify within 2 years of graduation or if enrolled in their last semester
 - need to be paid an ‘entry’ level wage

There is a processing fee for all nominee applications of \$1,500 or \$2,000

Which positions can businesses fill with foreign nationals?

Requested positions should

Number of requested positions

- Be permanent, full-time positions
- Be in a skilled occupation (managerial, requiring university education, college education or apprenticeship training)
- Be necessary for the company's operations
- Not affect the settlement of any labour dispute or adversely affect employment or training opportunities for Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Ontario

Number of positions businesses may request	Number of Full-time Employees (GTA EMPLOYER)	Number of Full-time Employees (NON-GTA EMPLOYER)
1	5	3
2	10	6
...
+1	+5	+3
20	100	60

If a company needs more than 20 positions, we are willing consider their business needs

International Student Category

- International students can qualify for Opportunities Ontario through their Canadian educational credential and either a job offer in the province or based on their human capital attributes.

CRITERIA	STUDENT WITH A JOB	STUDENT WITHOUT A JOB
Degree	Canadian University or college degree/diploma	Ontario PhD or Master's degree
Job Offer	Yes	No
Language Testing	No	Yes for Master's No for PhD
Settlement Funds	No	Yes for Master's No for PhD
Work Experience	No	No



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