

Work Permits for Professionals & Technicians under Canada's Free Trade Agreements

Course Summary: This course will provide an in-depth discussion of the available work permits for professionals and technicians under Canada's Free Trade Agreements. Similarities and distinctions between each agreement will be addressed, as well as practical considerations involving the place of application and work permit duration. The instructor will also provide tips relating to the preparation of a strong work permit application and what to include in the online offer to be submitted through the IRCC employer portal.

Course Outline:

1. The Initial client assessment

- Who will be the client – employee alone or also employer
- Work permit exemptions
- Permanent residence alternatives
- Timing of application
- Getting the right facts from employer and employee
 - Nationality of employee, education, past work experience and arrangement with employer

2. United States, Mexico and Chile

- NAFTA/USMCA and CCFTA generalities
- Valid employment arrangements
- List of professionals
- Trickier occupations
- Place of application
- Work permit duration

3. Peru and Colombia

- Eligibility of permanent residents
- Valid employment arrangements
 - Variations by treaty
- Definition of 'professional' and list of professionals not covered by the treaties

- Definition of ‘technician’ and list of technicians covered by the treaties
 - Variations by treaty
- Place of application
- Work permit duration

4. Korea

- Valid employment arrangements
- List of contractual service suppliers and independent professionals
- Place of application
- Work permit duration

5. Panama

- Eligibility of permanent residents
- Valid employment arrangements
- Educational qualifications
- List of speciality occupations
- Place of application
- Work permit duration

6. European nationals – CETA

- Valid employment arrangements
- Educational qualifications and work experience
- List of contractual service suppliers and independent professionals
- Place of application
- Work permit duration

7. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)

- Eligible countries
 - Eligibility of some permanent residents
- Valid employment arrangements
- Educational qualifications and work experience
- List of professionals and technicians by country
- Place of application
- Work permit duration

8. General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)

9. Tips and practical considerations

- Documenting legitimacy of employer
- Documenting employee's qualifications
- Documenting employment arrangement in Canada
- General tips for preparing work permit applications
- IRCC's Employer Portal and the online offer
- Cover letters/submissions
- Spousal work permits
- Children of work permit holders

10. Questions and answers