



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Job readiness assessment through an individual needs assessment (evaluation of existing skills and education level in reference to Manitoba Labour Market)
- Explore career options and assist in development of an action plan (short and long term)
- Facilitate and monitor job search and possible career transition process
- Employer liaison and marketing
- Referrals for relevant on site and off site services and programs
- Information re: Credential Recognition process
- Resume preparation
- Occupation exploration
- Career transitions
- Workplace expectations
- Job Preparation Workshops (also conducted individually)
- Career Coaching

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can qualify for employment services at the international Centre?

- Permanent Residents/Landed Immigrants are automatically entitled to work legally in Canada.
- Refugee claimants and those who reside in Winnipeg who have a Social Insurance Number (SIN) starting with the number 9. You must also have valid employment authorization without any employment restrictions.
- Local university graduates who are in the process of becoming permanent residents.
- People who have been issued a Social Insurance Number that starts with the number 9. You will also need to show a valid employment authorization. This will indicate that the person is not restricted from working in a particular place.
- Newcomers who have a lower English level. Newcomers who have had an English language test from the Language Assessment Centre in Winnipeg and have been assessed at a language level of 5 or lower are eligible for employment services at the international Centre. Those newcomers who show a language level of 5 or higher will be referred to other employment agencies by the International Centre's Assessment services. (For more information regarding the English Language assessment process, please see the link provided below).

I am a practicing dentist in my country. Will my license and education be recognized?

Your profession is called a regulated profession and requires a special license which is issued by the appropriate licensing body. In Manitoba, it is illegal to work in or even use the title of certain regulated professions unless you have a license from a regulatory body. (See link below for a list of regulated professions).

It is important to be aware that the process of having credentials assessed and recognized can be a very long one. Initial assessments done by regulatory bodies can run into the hundreds of dollars and the required exams may cost thousands of dollars. This process can take several years or longer if you are not fluent in the English language.

I have a degree in Commerce. Would my degree be recognized in Manitoba?

Although your degree does not require you to have a license to work in Manitoba, it is important to be aware that all overseas credentials should be assessed according to Manitoba standards. This means that the subjects and courses taken in a particular profession or trade are compared with the subjects and courses that would be required for the same profession or trade in Manitoba. If the assessment finds that the overseas credentials are not accepted, which is often the case, then the individual has to decide whether to take additional courses, and/or exams that are required.

Usually, the first step in the assessment and recognition process is to make an appointment to have a free assessment service with the Province of Manitoba. Please note that this initial assessment service is only for those with post-secondary education, and the Academic Credentials report it produces is advisory only and based on academic instruction. It is designed to support and facilitate hiring or admission decisions made by employers, occupational regulatory bodies and educational institutions. The report cannot grant you Manitoba recognition of your degree. That would be up to the Manitoba Universities, such as the University of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba and Brandon University.

I am a tradesperson and have worked as an electrician. Would I have to go through the same process as for a professional?

Trades people must also be locally certified/licensed by the appropriate government department(s) who will also charge a fee. It is recommended that after you have arrived in Manitoba that you visit the Apprenticeship Branch, which operates under the department of Manitoba Competitiveness Training & Trade. (Please see link at end of this page). They can tell you about opportunities in your trade and how you can get your skills and experience recognized in Manitoba. While you can work in most trades without a Certificate of Qualification, employment opportunities are often better and wages are higher for trades people with this certificate.

Can I start to have my credentials assessed if I am still living overseas?

This is not possible because credentials assessment services are available only to landed immigrants. Also, each province has its own guidelines and criteria for assessment. So, the most effective way is to contact the local provincial authorities once you have arrived in that province.

Please keep in mind, that each province will only follow its own guidelines set up by each licensing and education body. No other assessments are accepted.

Can the International Centre help me to get my credentials assessed/recognized?

The International Centre is not involved in assessments or the credentials recognition process, but the agency can provide information and appropriate referrals. We will be happy to meet with you to assess your particular situation and provide accurate and up to date information regarding the assessment process.

Will the International Centre Employment Services give me a job?

Since we are not an employer, we are unable to hire people. Our services are concentrated on showing people how to look for work and to assist them with effective job search tools, such as resume and cover letter preparation, job search and interview preparation workshops, and on-going employment counselling and support. We also work with employers and will refer client resumes.

All services are free.

I would like to use a placement agency to help me find a job. Would that be a good idea?

Generally, a reputable placement agency will charge the employer if they find a job for you. If you find a placement agency that charges you a fee, it is your choice, but it is not recommended, since they will not guarantee that they will actually find you a job in return for your fee. As well, their fees can be in the thousands of dollars, so beware.

Additional Information:

When you are considering the possibility of continuing in your profession or trade, we suggest that you give careful consideration to the following:

a. Time: The process of assessing credentials is a lengthy one. Free advisory assessments offered through the Province of Manitoba, may take a few months to complete. It will take time to obtain an appointment, and a month or so afterward to receive an advisory assessment. For licensing bodies the time can be longer. If exams and/or university courses are required, the time for this can extend to one or two years or more depending on the requirements of the profession/trade.

b. Cost: Each licensing body will charge an initial assessment cost and if exams are required, the cost for these, depending upon the number of exams to be taken can add to thousands of dollars. There may also be additional costs if you are required to take some university courses. It is important to be aware that university education is not free. Many people in Canada will work and save money to go to school on a part-time basis. There are student loans available but these must be repaid with interest.

c. Language level: To be able to access your profession or trade you will be required to demonstrate that your ability to speak, listen, read and write in English is equal to your first language. **Newcomers who come with high levels of education and profession qualifications, will find that they will be unable to access their fields or even to write qualifying exams if their language levels in English are low.**

Professional and trades people who come with lower language levels will find that the only jobs open to them are entry level jobs such as cleaning, or dishwashing. **Being able to speak, listen, read and write in English is absolutely critical to being able to access** even an entry level job. Also, it is important to be aware that the ability to learn another language is different for each person and depends in large part on how motivated you are to learn and how often you practice.

d. Realities versus Expectations: It is very likely that your professional or trade qualifications will not be given full recognition. For example, practicing accountants may find that their credentials are assessed at a beginning or intermediate level. Secondary school teachers may find that their teaching degree is not recognized and that they would be required to go to university for several years. In some countries obtaining a degree takes 14 years, while in Canada people must go to school for a full 12 years to finish High School and then spend 3 – 4 years obtaining a first university degree for a total of 16 years.

Medical doctors face several years of re-training. An additional consideration is labour market demand. For example, a high demand for IT jobs could very quickly decline in today's global economy.

It is highly recommended that you take the time to research your profession/trade as thoroughly as possible to ensure your Canadian employment expectations are realistic.

It is also necessary if you are planning to have your documents assessed that you bring original documents such as transcripts, degrees, and a syllabus.

To find out more about the credential assessment process and the requirements for your particular profession/trade, as well as general labor market information, the following websites have been provided for you.

The following are official websites that will provide additional information regarding the credentials assessment and recognition process as well as employment services.

www.immigratemanitoba.com

www.manitoba.ca/tradecareers/

www.plarinManitoba.ca

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