

How To Become a Canadian Citizen

You can apply for citizenship if you:

- are at least 18
- have been a legal permanent resident of Canada for three out of the previous four years
- can communicate in English or French
- have knowledge of Canada and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship

It takes eight months to a year from application to citizenship ceremony. The fee is \$200 for everyone aged 18 and over and \$100 for children (non-refundable).

You will be sent a study book, [*Discover Canada: the Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship*](#). Once the citizenship judge in your area decides you meet the qualifications, you will receive a letter telling you to go for a test. Children under 18 don't have to write the test.

WHO CANNOT BECOME A CANADIAN CITIZEN:

In general, you cannot become a Canadian citizen if:

- you are in prison, on parole or on probation;
- in the past four years, you were in prison, on parole or on probation for a year or more;
- you were convicted of an indictable offence or crime, or an offence under the *Citizenship Act* in the three years preceding your application;
- you are currently charged with an indictable offence or crime, or an offence under the *Citizenship Act*;
- you are under a removal order (instructed by Canadian officials to leave Canada);
- you are under investigation for, are charged with, or have been convicted of a war crime or a crime against humanity; or
- your Canadian citizenship has been taken away (revoked) in the past five years.

THE CANADA QUIZ:

The actual citizenship test is a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. The questions in the test are about the privileges of citizenship, history, politics, economics and geography. A pass mark of 12 out of 20 is required. In addition, there are four mandatory questions the applicant must answer on the test. The applicant must pass three out of the four mandatory questions (concerning voting, citizenship responsibilities and elections).

FAILURE:

If you did not pass the test, you will be asked to attend an oral interview with a citizenship judge. If you fail the interview, you can appeal to the Federal Court or start from the beginning and apply to take the test again. If you pass the interview, you will attend a ceremony to take your Oath of Citizenship.