

CANADA IMMIGRATION LANGUAGE LEVELS

Applicants applying for Permanent Residence to Canada and for Canadian Citizenship, are required to prove language skills by taking a language test approved by Canada immigration authority – Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

PERMANENT RESIDENCE

There are two English language tests offered by third parties that are recognized by Canadian authorities: **CELP**IP and **IELTS**.

There is only one French language test recognized by Canadian authorities: **TEF Canada**.

Points are awarded for language abilities when applying for permanent residence, under the Express Entry system or under provincial programs. The scores required depend on the different programs under which a candidate is applying.

To measure the language levels, the immigration authorities use the *Canadian Language Benchmarks* (CLB) for English and the *Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens* (NCLC) for French.

Below you will find charts which convert scores received under third party language examinations into the corresponding language level.

Federal skilled worker program

You must obtain a minimum level of CLB or NCLC **7** for your first official language in all four language areas. To receive points for your second official language, you must meet the minimum level of CLB or NCLC **5** in all four language areas.

CELP

IP – General test

First official language (24 points maximum)

CLB level	Speaking	Listening	Reading	Writing	Points per ability
7	7	7	7	7	4
8	8	8	8	8	5
9	9	9	9	9	6
10 +	10	10	10	10	6

Second official language (4 points if you meet the minimum threshold in all four language abilities)

CLB level	Speaking	Listening	Reading	Writing	Total points
5 +	5-12	5-12	5-12	5-12	4

IELTS General training

First official language (24 points maximum)

CLB level	Speaking	Listening	Reading	Writing	Points per ability
7	6.0	6.0-7.0	6.0	6.0	4
8	6.5	7.5	6.5	6.5	5
9	7.0	8.0	7.0	7.0	6
10 +	7.5-9.0	8.5-9.0	7.5-9.0	7.5-9.0	6

Second official language (4 points if you meet the minimum threshold in all four language abilities)

CLB level	Speaking	Listening	Reading	Writing	Total points
5 +	5.0 +	5.0 +	4.0 +	5.0 +	4

TEF Canada (Test d'évaluation de français)

First official language (24 points maximum)

NCLC level	Speaking	Listening	Reading	Writing	Points per ability
7	310-348	249-279	207-232	310-348	4
8	349-370	280-297	233-247	349-370	5
9 +	371 +	398 +	348 +	371 +	6

Second official language (4 points if you meet the minimum threshold in all four language abilities)

NCLC level	Speaking	Listening	Reading	Writing	Total points
5 +	226 +	181 +	151 +	226 +	4

Federal skilled trades program

You must obtain a minimum level of:

- CLB or NCLC **5** in speaking and listening abilities, and
- CLB or NCLC **4** in reading and writing abilities.

CELPIP General test

CLB level	Speaking	Listening	Reading	Writing
4	4	4	4	4
5 +	5 +	5 +	5 +	5 +

IELTS General training

CLB level	Speaking	Listening	Reading	Writing
4	4.0-4.5	4.4	3.5	40.-4.5
5 +	5.0 +	5.0 +	4.0 +	5.0 +

TEF Canada

NCLC level	Speaking	Listening	Reading	Writing
4	181-225	145-180	121-150	181-225
5 +	226 +	181 +	151 +	226 +

Canadian Experience Class

The skills you need for this program will depend on the job classification under Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC):

- NOC 0 or A: CLB / NCLC 7 +
- NOC B: CLB / NCLC 5 and 6

CELPIP General test

NOC	CLB level	Speaking	Listening	Reading	Writing
B	5	5	5	5	5
B	6	6	6	6	6
0 & A	7 +	7 +	7 +	7 +	7 +

IELTS General training

NOC	CLB level	Speaking	Listening	Reading	Writing
B	5	5.0	5.0	4.0-4.5	5.0
B	6	5.5	5.5	5.0-5.5	5.5
0 & A	7 +	6.0 +	6.0 +	6.0 +	6.0 +

TEF Canada

NOC	NCLC level	Speaking	Listening	Reading	Writing
B	5	226-270	181-216	151-180	226-270
B	6	271-309	217-248	181-206	271-309
0 & A	7 +	310+	249+	201+	310+

CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

All applicants for Canadian citizenship aged 18-54 must submit proof that they have adequate knowledge of English or French.

If you decide to submit a third-party language test, the results must be equal to **CLB / NCLC level 4 or higher** in **speaking and listening** abilities.

The federal authorities also accept expired test results if they were done for immigration or citizenship purposes.

Accepted third-party tests include:

CELPIP General test AND CELPIP General LS test

- if you took the test **after April 1st 2014**, you must have a score of **level 4 or higher** in listening and speaking.
- If you took the test **before April 1st 2014**, you must have a score of **2H or higher** in listening and speaking.

IELTS General training

- **4.0 or higher in speaking** and **4.5 or higher in listening**.
- If the test was done before November 28th 2008, a level 4 or higher in listening is accepted

TEF, TEFAQ (Test d'Évaluation du Français adapté au Québec) or TEF pour la naturalisation

- If taken **after July 1st 2012**, your score must be **Niveau B1 or higher** in *Compréhension de l'oral* and *Expression orale*;
- If taken **before July 1st 2012**, your score must be **Niveau 3 or higher** in *Compréhension de l'oral* and *Expression orale*.
 - **Note:** if you took the TEF test before July 1st, 2012, you need a level 3 for *expression orale* only. This applies only to the TEF and not the TEFAQ or TEF pour la naturalisation.

The following tests are also accepted if they were submitted in the past for immigration purposes to Quebec (**note:** these tests align with the *échelle québécoise* and not officially with CLB/NCLC 4):

- Diplôme approfondi de langue française (DALF) – All test results
- Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF) – Level B1 or higher
- Test de connaissance du français (TCF) – Niveau B1 or higher
- Test de connaissance du français pour le Québec (TCFQ) – Niveau B1 or higher