

Q. What is the College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants?

A. The College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants, known as the College, is a statutory regulator with enhanced powers for licensing, oversight, investigation and enforcement for Canadian immigration and citizenship consultants in Canada and abroad.

Its federal mandate stems from the [*College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants Act*](#), which came into force on December 9, 2020. This federal statute provides the College with substantial powers to set standards and regulate immigration and citizenship consultants along with international student advisors. Its mandate includes:

- Licensing immigration and citizenship consultants providing services for immigration to Canada or for Canadian citizenship.
- Providing resources, ongoing education and development for Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultants (RCICs) and Regulated International Student Immigration Advisors (RISIAs).
- Ensuring simple access for immigrants and citizenship applicants to RCICs and RISIAs around the world, through an up-to-date Public Register of licensees.
- Disciplining RCICs and RISIAs who breach the Code of Professional Conduct.
- Undertaking public awareness to promote its role and the regulation of the profession to the public, the media and to stakeholder organizations across Canada and abroad.
- Working with the federal government to continually strengthen regulation in the public interest.

Q. What was ICCRC?

A. ICCRC was established in 2011 as Canada's national regulatory body overseeing regulated immigration and citizenship consultants and international student advisors. On November 23, 2021, ICCRC transitioned to the College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants.

Q. Why was the transition to the College necessary?

A. Established under the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*, ICCRC lacked certain statutory powers necessary to effectively regulate the broad-ranging immigration consultant industry. It was hampered by the lack of legal authority to conduct full investigations, enforce disciplinary orders through the courts, compel testimony, and pursue unauthorized practitioners.

This was recognized by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration, and in 2017, it recommended the creation of an independent, public interest regulator with full statutory authority to regulate in the public interest.

Q. What is an immigration consultant?

A. An immigration consultant provides immigration advice and services and can submit visa applications on behalf of a client for a fee or other consideration. Under Canadian law, only Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultants (RCICs) are authorized to provide immigration and citizenship consulting services to potential immigrants with their journey to Canada. RCICs must meet the College's licensing requirements, including the completion of entry-to-practice education, a licensing exam, ongoing education, and continuing professional development.

Q. What is an international student advisor?

A. A Regulated International Student Immigration Advisor (RISIA) provides immigration advice only in relation to authorizations to study in Canada and to enter and remain in Canada as a student. RISIAs must complete the International Students and Immigration Education Program (ISIEP) offered through the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE). They are only employed in the education sector by a Designated Learning Institution. They are not authorized to represent any person in connection with submissions of an expression of interest under subsection 10.1(3) of the [Immigration and Refugee Protection Act](#), proceedings or applications under that Act or proceedings or applications under the [Citizenship Act](#). For more information on the scope of practice of a RISIA, please refer to the *College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants Act*.

Q. How can I trust that an immigration consultant has the required skills and expertise?

A. RCICs and RISIAs are licensed professionals, required to adhere to educational, professional and ethical standards. These standards are mandated and enforced through the College's Code of Professional Conduct.

Each RCIC and RISIA is held accountable by the College. The College is a professional regulatory organization - a government-sanctioned oversight body with full legal authority to launch an investigation on any concerns related to the conduct or competence of its licensees. Any RCIC or RISIA will be subject to disciplinary or remedial measures if they breach the College's Code of Professional Conduct. The College has the power, at its discretion, to involve other law enforcement agencies.

The College's oversight and enforcement authority is intended to build trust and confidence in the profession and the role it plays as part of Canada's immigration system. As professionals helping people come to Canada, our licensees understand the responsibility they share, holding the future of so many in their hands.

Q. What are Immigration Practitioner Programs?

A. Immigration Practitioner Programs (IPPs) were the entry-to-practice education programs for RCICs required by ICCRC. The last enrolment of students was July 31, 2020, and learners have until December 2022 to complete the program.

As of August 1, 2020, the new competency-based Graduate Diploma Program replaced the IPPs and is the only pathway to sit the Entry-to-Practice Exam (EPE). Enrollment in the English program is through the Queen's University Faculty of Law and, for the French program, enrollment is through the Université de Montréal Faculté de droit.

Q. What qualifications do you need to become a licensed immigration consultant?

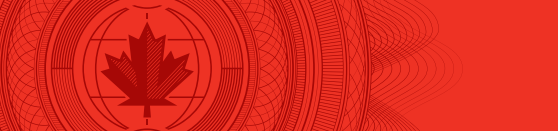
- A. To qualify to become a licensed immigration consultant, you must
- Be at least 18 years of age.
 - Be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada, or a person registered as an Indian under the *Indian Act*, R.S.C., 1985, c. 1-5, as amended.
 - Be a graduate from an accredited Immigration Practitioner Program or from a Graduate Diploma Program.
 - Achieve at least the minimum required score on an approved English or French language ability test.
 - Satisfy the Registrar of good character and good conduct
 - Successfully pass the EPE
 - Provide satisfactory police certificates
 - Not be insolvent or an undischarged bankrupt
 - Apply to become a licensee in accordance with the By-laws and pay the prescribed fee

Q. Will RCICs who qualified under ICCRC be transitioned to the College?

A. Yes, all RCICs were transitioned into the College as of the date of continuance. All RCICs, regardless of which entry-to-practice education stream they completed, must meet continuing standards of professional competence.

Q. Will RISIAs who qualified under ICCRC be transitioned to the College?

A. Yes, RISIAs became a class of licensee, rather than registrants, under the College.



Q. How many people immigrate to Canada annually?

A. According to Statistics Canada, annual immigration to Canada amounts to about 300,000 people - one of the highest rates per population of any country in the world.

Q. How many international students are studying in Canada?

A. On average, Canada's post-secondary institutions welcome approximately 100,000 international students each year according to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

Q. How many immigration consultants are licensed by the College?

A. There are approximately 8,000 RCICs and 300 RISIAs licensed by the College.

Q. Are immigration consultants operating outside the country subject to the College's regulation?

A. Individuals providing Canadian immigration/citizenship services abroad are subject to Canadian law even if they reside outside of Canada. There are approximately 200 RCICs who provide services abroad who are subject to regulation by the College.