Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 2, 2025 2:54:37 PM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Thu, 27 Mar 2025 16:45:17
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: TR: Post-doctoral fellow - CEC work experience - REP-A-2025-0778 -Due 8-Apr-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Good day,

[redacted] **Immigration Representatives Mailbox**

Please note that this mailbox is intended for general guidance and does not provide responses to case-specific inquiries but have provided the following information as guidance.. If you have case specific questions about a file, you are encouraged to submit the IRCC Web form.

Please see our response to your question:

Question : I would like to confirm that work done during a post-doctoral fellowship (after finishing PhD) counts as eligible work experience towards the one-year skilled work requirement in the Canadian Experience Class. It would be obtained either on a post-graduation work permit or using the post-doctoral fellowship-specific WP (C44 exemption: Post-doctoral fellows awarded a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) – [R205(c)(ii) – C44]– Canadian interest – International Mobility Program - Canada.ca).

Does this differ for a PhD candidate who is hired in a post-doc fellowship position prior to completion of their program (simultaneously holding a study permit and a post-doctoral fellowship WP)? Or does the general rule barring work acquired during full-time studies apply (Can I count student work experience toward the Express Entry work requirement?)?

Answer:

The work experience may be eligible provided the applicant:

- has authorization to work in Canada (with temporary resident status) and
- is not "engaged in full-time study".

For the purposes of the Canadian Experience Class (Class) and Canadian work experience (in the context of Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) points), "full-time studies" are not explicitly defined within the [redacted] definition that will apply is the one used by the post-secondary institution. Therefore, if the institution considers them to be a full-time student, the work experience is not eligible.

If the applicant is not considered a full-time student by the post-secondary institution, the work experience may count provided it is paid work and meets all other requirements. Work is defined in subsection 73(2) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations as "Despite the definition work in section 2, for the purposes of this Division, work means an activity for which wages are paid or commission is earned."

Please note that a stipend or allowance, where the primary purpose is to cover expenses, would not generally be considered a wage and therefore such experience would not count as work for permanent residence.

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Please be advised that the assessment of an application is based on a case-by-case basis, considering the particular circumstances in conjunction with the supporting documentation available to the officer. The onus is always on the applicant to provide sufficient documentation to satisfy an officer that they meet the requirements.

We trust that this information will assist you.

Sincerely,

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

From:
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 3:36 PM
To: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-[redacted]
Subject: Post-doctoral fellow - CEC work experience

Hi,

1) I would like to confirm that work done during a post-doctoral fellowship (after finishing PhD) counts as eligible work experience towards the one-year skilled work requirement in the Canadian Experience Class. It would be obtained either on a post-graduation work permit or using the post-doctoral fellowship-specific WP (C44 exemption: Post-doctoral fellows awarded a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) – [R205(c)(ii) – C44]– Canadian interest – International Mobility Program - Canada.ca)

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[redacted]

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