

From: Cobus Kriek cobus@matrixvisa.com
Subject: Response from Ontario Provincial Nominee Program dated 2 Aug 2017
Date: December 11, 2017 at 2:28 PM
To:



On Aug 2, 2017, at 10:23 AM, Hastie, Suzanne (MCI)

Dear Mr. Kriek:

Thank you for your enquiry. I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Minister.

Ontario is always seeking ways to maximize its opportunities in immigration selection within the broader immigration system. This is why we continually work with the federal government for a greater role in immigration selection and to find new permanent pathways for talent already here. As you know, Ontario received an allocation of 6,000 nominations from the federal government, 2,500 of which are assigned to Express Entry streams.

The Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP) has three streams that work in conjunction with the federal Express Entry system: Ontario's Express Entry French-Speaking Skilled Worker Stream; Ontario's Express Entry Human Capital Priorities Stream; and Ontario's Express Entry Skilled Trades Stream.

Each stream has different criteria, and only the Human Capital Priorities Stream has a minimum Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) score as a requirement. The new Skilled Trades Stream targets candidates who have at least 12 months of skilled work experience in a skilled trades occupation in Minor Group 633 or Major Group 72, 73, or 82 of the National Occupational Classification. The categories are as follows:

- o Minor Group 633: butchers and bakers,
- o Major Group 72: industrial, electrical and construction trades,
- o Major Group 73: maintenance and equipment operation trades,
- o Major Group 82: supervisors and technical jobs in natural resources, agriculture and related production.

The OINP conducts regular searches in the Express Entry pool for candidates who may meet the criteria of each Express Entry stream. These candidates are then sent a Notification of Interest, which invites them to submit an application to the OINP. When searches are conducted, the program targets candidates who meet the criteria of each stream (not just the CRS score). For example, the search parameters for the French-Speaking Skilled Worker Stream include candidates with a minimum Bachelor's degree or higher, 1 year of work experience in NOC 0, A or B occupation, and a language proficiency of CLB 7 or higher in French, and a CLB 6 or higher in English.

Due to the constraints of the provincial/territorial portal that is used to search the Express Entry pool, the program has limitations on the number of candidates that will appear in a given search. **For this reason, the program's searches may be capped and only candidates with the most recent Express Entry profiles will be found.** Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is currently working on enhancements to the portal, which will allow provinces and territories to conduct larger and more tailored searches.

Our goal is to build a workforce that can fill the technology and knowledge-based jobs of today and tomorrow. Our stream targets individuals with skilled work experience, higher levels of education, and official language ability. These are the characteristics that help candidates to succeed in Ontario's labour market and support the government of Ontario's priority of growing the province's highly skilled workforce. In 2016, Ontario's nominees had employment in almost 250 different occupations. While you correctly point out that Ontario recently created a new stream for skilled trades, on June 28, 2017, the OINP issued targeted Notifications of Interest to candidates that qualified for the Express Entry Human Capital Priorities stream and who had work experience in the Information and Communications Technology sector.

The OINP also has six other streams outside of Express Entry that qualified foreign nationals may apply to. These include:

- o Entrepreneur Stream,
- o Corporate Stream,
- o Employer Job Offer Stream: Foreign Workers,
- o Employer job Offer Stream: International Students,
- o Masters Graduate Stream, and
- o PhD Graduate Stream.

The amended Employer Job Offer streams reopened on May 31, 2017 with a new streamlined application approach for international students and foreign workers with a job offer. The nominee, instead of the employer, now leads the application process and is responsible for preparing their application. Less documentation is required upfront from the employer. Each year the federal government determines how many individuals Ontario can nominate for permanent residence. Ontario's 2017 nomination allocation is 6,000.

I hope that this answers your question. Please feel free to contact me if there is anything that can be clarified further.

Regards,

Sue Hastie
Director
Business Immigration and Selection Branch
Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration