

10 Myths About Canadian Immigration



These myths and truths are provided for educational purposes only and should not be interpreted as legal advice. This document is current as of May 1, 2024.

Immigration information and government policies are subject to change by both provincial and federal governments without notice. For the most current information, procedures, and applications, please refer to the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration (LSI) and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

Myth #1

What worked for my friend or family member, will also work for me.

Truth

Each situation must be assessed on its own merits. One program may not be suitable for some, and immigration requirements change. Increase your chances of success by getting customized advice from a reputable source.

Myth #2

International Students in Canada will become permanent residents.

Truth

To increase the chances of being granted permanent residence in Canada, there are many potential pathways for international graduates. Understanding the requirements in advance may strengthen your application for a long-term stay after your studies.

Myth #3

I can sponsor my brother or sister to join me in Canada.

Truth

There are only exceptional circumstances when a sibling can be sponsored to come to Canada. Sponsored spouses, partners and dependent children, or parents and grandparents, are the most frequently approved family members who join relatives in Canada.

Myth #4

Working beyond the prescribed hours a week as an international student during school periods is ok, if I do not get caught.

Truth

Working without authorization, such as working more time than your permitted hours, can jeopardize your future in Canada. The consequences of being caught far outweigh any potential benefits.



Myth #5

Submitting conflicting or contradictory information on my immigration files, or working with an unauthorized representative is not a big deal, the officers are not paying that much attention, or are not comparing what I said previously.

Truth

You are responsible for the information provided in your application, and it is critical to be truthful and consistent between applications. If you use a paid representative, they must be licensed to represent immigrants or to give advice. A finding of misrepresentation by an immigration officer, including using an unauthorized representative, could lead to a refusal of your application or even a five-year ban from Canada.

Myth #6

If my non-Canadian spouse does not speak strong English, they cannot join me in Canada.

Truth

There are no language requirements to be sponsored as a member of the family class. Language settlement services are available upon arrival in Canada.

Myth #7

My file is going to be processed within the posted processing times.

Truth

The posted processing times are provided as an approximate range. Certain circumstances could lead to longer processing times.

Myth #8

There is no hope for my file, I have not heard back, and processing times have been exceeded.

Truth

There are steps that can be taken to check on your file, including a webform inquiry (either yourself or with a representative).

Myth #9

I have no way of knowing what the immigration department has on file about me.

Truth

You can find out your application status by checking the website here:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugeescitizenship/services/application/check-status.html>

Myth #10

I've had a minor run in with the law, and I'm in Canada as a student, worker, visitor or permanent resident. This will not have any impact on my long-term future in Canada.

Truth

An arrest, charge, or conviction can create a significant issue with future approvals of work permits or residency applications. If you have questions about your specific case, seeking legal advice is the best way to understand your options.

