

# IMMIGRATION SUPPORT FOR LOCATING IN BURLINGTON

ONTARIO, CANADA

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
**Burlington**

## **ABOUT BURLINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Burlington Economic Development has a mandate to enhance the growth prospects of our existing companies and bring new high-value firms to the community. Our focus is on growing the economic base to sustain our competitive and prosperous community. Burlington Economic Development is the first point of contact for companies seeking to invest or expand in Burlington.



# OVERVIEW OF THE GLOBAL SKILLS STRATEGY

Burlington Economic Development is a referral partner for the Dedicated Service Channel (DSC) and Global Talent Stream (GTS) programs under the Global Skills Strategy (GSS) administered by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and Economic and Social Development Canada (ESDC) respectively.

## WHAT IS THE GLOBAL SKILLS STRATEGY?

Initiated by the federal government, the purpose of the GSS is to attract and expedite the entry of global, highly skilled and qualified talent to support Canadian companies to grow and scale up. The GSS offers dedicated and expedited service delivery through IRCC and ESDC with the help of designated referral partners. The GSS helps companies who are making significant contributions to the Canadian economy through investments and/or job creation to bring in the highly skilled and specialized talent they need to succeed.

## THE GSS HAS THE FOLLOWING FOUR PILLARS:

1. Dedicated Service Channel (IRCC – referral based)
2. Short-term work permit exemptions (IRCC – not referral based)
3. Expedited work permit processing (2 weeks) (IRCC – not referral based)
4. Global Talent Stream under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (ESDC –partially referral based)

## WHO CAN BE REFERRED TO THE GLOBAL TALENT STREAM AND DEDICATED SERVICE CHANNEL PROGRAMS?

- Innovative international companies seeking to expand globally and grow their business by transferring employees with specialized knowledge to Burlington.
- Innovative Burlington companies who are unable to recruit talent locally and are looking to hire highly skilled and specialized employees from abroad to fill positions requiring skills that are in short supply in Canada.

\*Please refer to the eligibility criteria in the subsequent pages for more information.

## DEDICATED SERVICE CHANNEL

The DSC was created to provide employers making significant investments in Canada and top academics with a dedicated client service channel led by IRCC to facilitate their immigration needs.

### WHAT SERVICES ARE OFFERED TO EMPLOYERS?

The DSC gives eligible employers access to an Account Manager who will guide them through the immigration process to help meet their specific foreign talent needs.

- Support employers in navigating through the various immigration streams.
- Help clarify and provide guidance on the application process.
- Provide specific information, when employers are authorized, to clarify the status of individual cases.
- Liaise with internal partners when necessary to ensure any issues in processing of applications are addressed.

### WHAT SERVICES ARE NOT OFFERED TO EMPLOYERS?

- Processing and/or expediting applications.
- Influencing the outcomes of a particular application.
- Providing case specific information without the proper authorization from the employee in question.
- Exemptions from Labour Market Impact Assessment, application processes and fees.

### WHO CAN BE REFERRED TO THE DEDICATED SERVICE CHANNEL?

Companies must be making significant investments (monetary and/or job-creating) that will result in substantial improvements to the Canadian labour market or economy to be referred to IRCC's Dedicated Service Channel. IRCC defines a "significant investment" as a new endeavour in an existing firm's operations, or the entrance of a firm that is beginning operations in Canada that will result in a substantial improvement to the Canadian, provincial/territorial, regional or local labour market or economy, without displacing jobs for Canadians.

To be referred to the DSC, companies must also be within [one](#) of the following referral categories:

- [Category A](#): High value investment by a foreign or multinational company in Canada.
- [Category B](#): High potential and high growth by a start-up company for which the recruitment of highly-skilled foreign talent is anticipated to positively impact the company's growth; OR by a company with proven market acceptance and the capacity for accelerated growth that will have a significant impact on the Canadian economy.
- [Category C](#): Innovative by a firm operating in Canada, focused on innovation, willing to grow and seeking to scale up (same criteria as ESDC's Global Talent Stream).

Please connect with Maham Siddiqui at Burlington Economic Development by emailing [Maham.Siddiqui@burlington.ca](mailto:Maham.Siddiqui@burlington.ca) for more information or if you think this program would be beneficial for your company.

# GLOBAL TALENT STREAM

The GTS offers timely, responsive and predictable client-focused service to help you access highly-skilled global talent to expand your workforce here in Canada and to be competitive on a global scale. This program falls under the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Program at ESDC. To be eligible for the program, you must fall under one of the two following categories:

## CATEGORY A

### ELIGIBILITY AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- An employer in Canada must be referred by a Designated Partner to use Category A of the GTS because it is innovative and seeking to scale-up and grow.
- An employer in Canada must have identified a specific foreign talent to fill a unique and specialized position that will help their company scale-up and grow, with for example:
  - Advanced knowledge of the industry;
  - Advanced degree in an area of specialization of interest to the employer and/or min.5 years of experience in a field of specialized experience; and
  - A highly paid position with a salary of \$80,000 or more.
- Limited number of unique and specialized individuals per employer.
- The employer using Category A must commit to creating jobs for Canadians as the mandatory benefit in their Labour Market Benefits Plan.

\*see program website for additional criteria for employers seeking to hire through multiple (i.e. more than 2) referrals.

## CATEGORY B

### ELIGIBILITY AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- An employer in Canada does not need to be referred by a Designated Partner to use Category B of the GTS.
- An employer in Canada must be seeking to fill high-skilled occupations on the Global Talent Occupations List, including:
  - Computer and information systems managers-Computer engineers;
  - Information systems analysts and consultants;
  - Database analysts and data administrators;
  - Software engineers and designers.
- No limit to the number of applications or positions requested per employer.
- The employer using Category B must commit to increasing skills and training investments for Canadian workers as the mandatory benefit in their Labour Market Benefits Plan.

\*see program website for full list of occupations, including wage, skills and years of experience requirements.

Once it has been determined that your company falls under one of Categories A or B, you may submit an application to the GTS, to be processed in 10 business days 80% of the time. You are required to work with ESDC to develop a Labour Market Benefits Plan that demonstrates your commitment to at least one mandatory benefit and two complementary benefits that will have lasting, positive impacts on the Canadian labour market.

## GLOBAL TALENT STREAM PROCESS

### 1 COMPLETE AND SUBMIT APPLICATION FORM

For Category A: ensure that your referral has been accepted by ESDC before submitting an application.

For Category B: submit your application directly to ESDC without a referral.

### 2 LABOUR MARKET BENEFITS PLAN

- Job creation (mandatory for Category A)
- Investments in skills/training (mandatory for Category B)
- Complementary benefits:
  - Increase in workplace diversity
  - Knowledge transfer
  - Enhanced company performance
  - Best company practices

### 3 NEXT STEPS

- Issuance of positive LMIA decision
- Apply for work permit, to be processed by IRCC in two weeks, 80% of the time (if IRCC program requirements are met).

# CONNECT WITH US

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## Burlington Economic Development

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