The ABCD Guide of Canadian Immigration

In this document, I will share my knowledge regarding the immigration process which I have been through myself. I will define some terms/concepts which are generally used for or during immigration process.

*Please note that I am NOT an immigration consultant. The following information is solely based on my own research findings and efforts.

1. IRCC

IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) is the immigration department of Canada which deals with the immigration matters of Canada. Their Website is https://www.canada.ca/en/services/immigration-citizenship.html.

2. COME TO CANADA WIZARD

It is an online wizard which gives you a basic idea that if you are eligible for Canadian immigration or not. In this wizard, you simply enter/provide the information regarding some questions to determine your eligibility. The link of COME TO CANADA is https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/come-canada-tool.html.

- Please note that the above tool only tells that whether you are eligible or not based on the information you provide. If you get a NO, it does not mean that you cannot immigrate at all. There may be other avenues which can be considered for immigration.
- Also before you use this previous wizard, it is better to know your NOC code and estimate of your qualification assessment (e.g., bachelor, masters) and English/French language Test scores (e.g., IELTS).

3. NOC

NOC (National Occupational Classification), **in the context of immigration**, is the list of occupations with their unique codes. These codes are divided into groups based on their importance and labor market status used by IRCC. Also, an IMPORTANT thing to know is that a NOC code defines and describes an occupation. For example, the 'NOC 2173' is NOC for *Software Engineers* and it has the list of duties/responsibilities which define a software engineer in Canada. Please check your NOC at https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/express-entry/eligibility/find-national-occupation-code.html.

4. ECA

ECA (Educational Credential Assessment) provides you that what is your level of education/qualification according to Canadian standards. There are several organizations which provide you the ECA services. Each organization has its own criteria and requirements to analyze

you degrees. This given link has the information of organizations chartered by the IRCC department which are allowed to provide ECA to potential immigrants http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=681&top=29.

5. CRS

CRS (Comprehensive Ranking System) is a points-based system used to assess and score a candidate's profile and rank the applicants in the potential candidates' pool. It has a set of parameters (e.g., age, education level, English/French language test scores, work experience, marital status) to calculate the CRS score of an applicant. In order to get an invitation from IRCC to apply for immigration, you need to have a certain CRS score. The CRS score is subject to change by the number of potential candidates in the pool, and number of people to be selected in each invitation round. Typically, the IRCC holds invitation draws after every 14 days.

- You can check the recent and previous invitation rounds' details: cutoff CRS scores, number of invitations issued and number of current candidates in the pool here: https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/express-entry/submit-profile/rounds-invitations.html
- You can understand the breakdown of CRS and its criteria here: https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/express-entry/eligibility/criteria-comprehensive-ranking-system/grid.html
- **You can also calculate/estimate you CRS score here:** http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/crs-tool.asp

6. EE Profile

EE (Express Entry) is one of the methods for immigrating to Canada. A candidate must make his/her EE Profile in the IRCC system. While creating your EE Profile, it is highly recommended that you have your valid Passport/travel documents, IELTS results, ECA documents, and NOC code sorted out.

- You can create an EE profile here: https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/account.html

7. ITA

ITA (Invitation To Apply) is the invitation request you receive from IRCC through your EE Profile account. It means that you have been selected based on your CRS score which is calculated on the basis of your EE Profile. You will get 60 days to accept the invitation and submit your documents in the IRCC system/EE Profile.

- **Please do not lie/fake in your EE Profile; it can have dire consequences for your immigration process and overall future aspects of immigration.**

8. APPLICATION PROCESSING

I will make a separate post for this section which will explain the process of submitting the documents for application processing after ITA and explain the following:

- AOR, Medical Exam, Bio-Metrics, Police Checks, Experience Letters, Proof of Funds, etc.
- What types of documents are required?
- How to manage and use these documents?
- What are the numbers of steps involved during your immigration process?
- Any possible issues or challenges

9. PPR

PPR is passport request. It is an email send to the primary applicant by your visa processing office through IRCC system as a confirmation that the processing of your permanent residence application is almost complete. Generally, you need to send the passports of all the persons included in the application with photos to the visa office mentioned in the email for stamping and the issuance of COPR (read the next point!).

10. COPR

COPR (Confirmation of Permanent Residence) is the confirmation that your application for immigration is successful. You will get your passport(s) and COPR documents (two copies) back from the visa office. It will have some basic details of you and other applicants (if any). When you will enter in Canada, one copy of COPR will be assessed and taken by the immigration officer and second will be returned to you. The immigration officer will activate your permanent residence after some processing. TAKE CARE OF YOUR COPR copy, you will need it in future.

- Please note that receiving COPR does NOT mean that you are a Canadian permanent resident yet. In order to become one, you have to land/enter in Canada and activate your permanent resident status.
- Also note that the COPR document has an expiry date same as your visa, so you have to enter in Canada by this date otherwise your immigration application will be CANCELLED and it will not be extended (read the next point!).

11. PR STATUS

PR (Permanent Resident) status is activated at the port of entry by an immigration officer. He/she validates your COPR documents, passport information; ask some basic questions and your address where you will be staying. After these formalities, your status of PR will be activated.

- Please note that the address you provide to the immigration officer is used for dispatching your PR CARD (Read the next point!). If you don't have any long term address, you can defer the PR CARD processing procedure. The immigration officer will ask you to complete the PR CARD processing at any Service Canada centers. Service Canada is somewhat equal to NADRA of Pakistan. You can go to a service center after getting a long term address or place to live, and apply for PR CARD. The card delivery time can vary and it is dependent on the center's workload.

12. PR CARD

After completing your successful landing in Canada and activating your permanent resident status, your PR CARD will be delivered to your address. After receiving it, you can enter and exit in Canada by using your card. Your card will have an expiry date as well and it is valid for 5 years.

- Please note that in order to become a citizen, you need to live in Canada for 3 years out of 5 years. In order to renew your PR card, you have to live in Canada for 2 years out of 5 years.