Objectives

The International Exchange Programs permit Canadian and foreign post-secondary students or young workers to work temporarily in each other's country. In doing so, they acquire new skills, exposure to the values of the host country and a better understanding and appreciation of other cultures, all of which strengthen relations between Canada and the participating countries.

Types of exchange

The International Exchange Programs are divided into two major components:

A — Student Exchange Programs
Provide work experience of six weeks' to three months' duration and are normally limited to the holiday months. The work offered is not necessarily career-oriented.

B — Young Worker Exchange
*   Programs*
Provide participants with an opportunity to expand their basic skills and current knowledge through working in a career-related occupation. The programs are normally of 4 to 12 months' duration.

General eligibility criteria

To be considered, an applicant must:

- be a Canadian citizen;
- be between 18 and 30 years of age;*
- possess an adequate knowledge of the language of the host country; and
- be in good health.

And to qualify for the Student Exchange Program, an applicant must:

- be a student registered at a university, institute of technology, community college or CEGEP; and
- meet the academic and other specific requirements of the exchange program under which he or she participates.

And to qualify for the Young Worker Exchange Program, an applicant must:

- be a graduate of a university or equivalent institution, or have a post-secondary diploma or certificate from an institute of technology or equivalent educational institution; and
- undertake a period of training in his or her own profession or trade.

Working conditions and travel arrangements

Working conditions and travel arrangements for either the Student Exchange Program or Young Worker Exchange Program are as follows:

* Age ceiling may vary with country and program.

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